

What we know about alleged strike on Iran school

AFP | Paris, France

A new investigation by the New York Times has shed more light on events surrounding a reported attack on a school in Iran at the start of the Middle East war.

Iran has accused Israel and the United States of conducting a strike on an elementary school in the southern city of Minab, which it said killed more than 150 people.

US President Donald Trump has blamed Iran, while the Pentagon has said it is investigating the incident.

AFP has been unable to access the location to independently verify the circumstances or the toll from any such incident.

Iranian authorities have to give explicit approval to foreign media organisations wishing to report outside Tehran.

Tomahawk

The New York Times has authenticated video uploaded by Iran's semi-official Mehr News showing a US Tomahawk cruise missile striking a structure described as a clinic inside a Revolutionary Guards' base next to

the school.

According to the Times, in this war, the only military using Tomahawks is the United States.

The footage showed dust and smoke rising from the direction of the school, indicating at least one earlier explosion.

"A body of evidence assembled by The Times -- including satellite imagery, social media posts and other verified videos -- indicates that the Shajarah Tayyebah elementary school building was severely damaged by a precision strike that occurred at the same time as attacks on the naval base," the paper said.

US Central Command has released footage of Tomahawk launches filmed on February 28, the day Minab was hit, while senior US officers briefed that early salvos included Navy Tomahawks across Iran's southern flank.

The Times had previously reported that US military statements indicating forces were attacking naval targets near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, where a Revolutionary Guards' base is located, "suggest they were most likely to have car-

ried out the strike".

Near strategic waterway

Earlier footage filmed from a parking lot showed black smoke billowing from a damaged building adorned with murals featuring drawings of crayons, children and an apple.

AFP has geolocated the clip to a building in Minab, though it has not been able to independently verify the nature of the site.

AFP has confirmed the building was located in close proximity to two sites controlled by the Revolutionary Guards.

The Shahid Absalan clinic, under the supervision of the Guards navy's medical command, lies 238 metres (780 feet) from the site, while the Seyed al-Shohada IRGC cultural complex is 286 metres away.

AFP could not independently verify the date the footage from the car park was filmed.

What Iran says

Iran has said more than 150 people were killed in what President Masoud Pezeshkian described as US-Israeli strikes on the

school.

According to state media, Iran held funerals for at least 165 people including students killed in the alleged attack.

State television carried images showing a large crowd of mourners weeping over what appeared to be bodies wrapped in white shrouds.

Other images released by state media showed individuals preparing coffins draped in the Iranian flag -- some bearing photographs of children.

Another aerial image showed excavators digging out at least 100 graves at an unidentified mass burial site.

AFP has been unable to independently verify the date the images were taken or access the location to verify the circumstances surrounding the events.

Trump blames Iran

President Trump has blamed Iran.

"We think it was done by Iran. Because they are very inaccurate, as you know, with their muni-

tions. They have no accuracy whatsoever," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One on Saturday.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio last week said the United States would not intentionally target a school.

"The United States would not deliberately target a school. Our objectives are missiles, both the ability to manufacture them and the ability to launch them," he told reporters.

The Pentagon is investigating the alleged incident, he added.

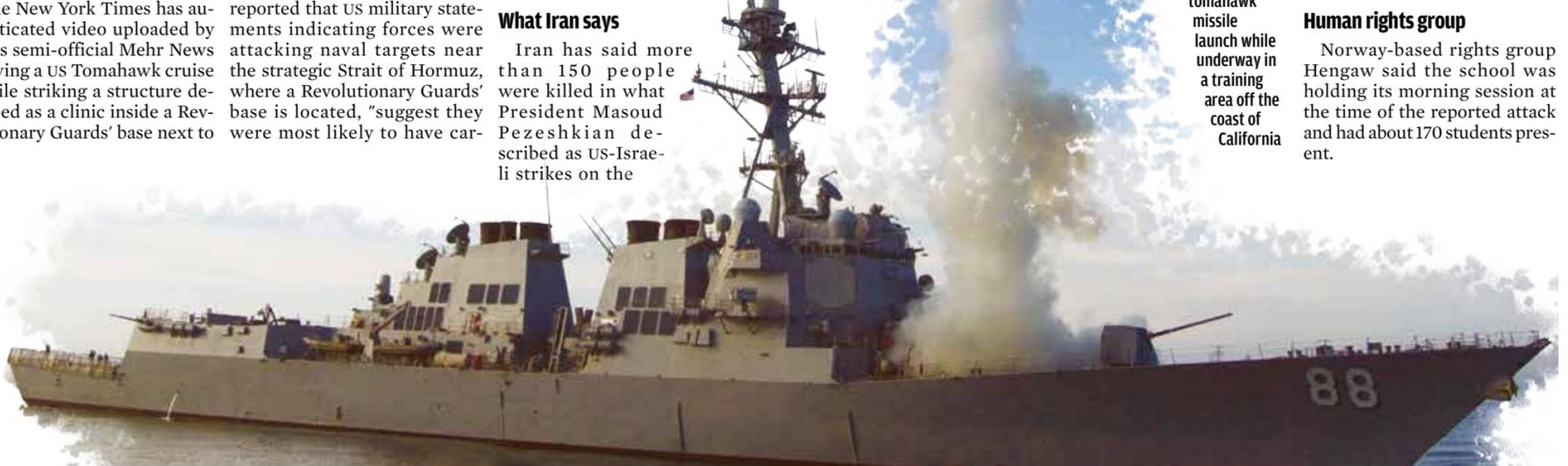
Israel not aware

Israel's military said it was not aware of any US or Israeli strike on a school.

"At this point not aware of an Israeli or an American strike there... We're operating in an extremely accurate manner," military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani told reporters.

Human rights group

Norway-based rights group Hengaw said the school was holding its morning session at the time of the reported attack and had about 170 students present.



Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 88) conduct an operational tomahawk missile launch while underway in a training area off the coast of California

Lebanese president lashes out at Hezbollah

Says open to negotiations with Israel

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun on Monday accused Hezbollah of working towards the "collapse" of the state, after the pro-Iran group launched an attack on Israel, expressing Beirut's readiness for "direct negotiations" with Israel.

Begun after Hezbollah launched rockets towards Israel a week ago, Israel's bombing campaign has killed at least 394 people and displaced more than half a million.

"Whoever launched those missiles wanted to bring about the collapse of the Lebanese state, plunging it into aggression and chaos... all for the sake of the Iranian regime's calculations and this is what we have thwarted so far and what we will continue working to bring down and foil," Aoun told top European officials in an online meeting.

He added that the party's rocket launches "were an al-



Lebanese President Joseph Aoun

most transparent trap and ambush for Lebanon, the Lebanese state, and the Lebanese people".

To stop the war, the Lebanese president proposed a four-point initiative and called on the international community to help implement it.

It included "establishing a full truce" with Israel, "logistical support" for the army to disarm Hezbollah, and "direct negotiations (with Israel) under international auspices".

Kuwait emir lambasts 'brutal' Iran attacks

Affirms right to self-defence

AFP | Kuwait City, Kuwait

Kuwait's emir yesterday condemned Iran's attacks on his country, where 12 people have been killed so far, as Tehran strikes out at the Gulf in response to US-Israeli attacks.

"Our country has been subjected to a brutal attack by a neighbouring Muslim country, which we consider a friend, even though we have not permitted the use of our land, airspace, or coasts for any military action against it, and we have repeatedly informed them of

this through our diplomatic channels," said Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah in a televised speech.

He also insisted on Kuwait's "full and inherent right to self-defence", speaking for the first time since Iran's attacks began on February 28.

Iran 'regime' cannot be changed 'through bombings alone': Macron

AFP | Aboard The French Aircraft Carrier Charles De Gaulle, Undefined

France's Emmanuel Macron said yesterday that "profound" changes to Iranian leadership could not occur "through

American-Israeli bombings alone", adding that war in the Middle East could continue for "several weeks".

"I don't think you can achieve profound regime change or changes in the political system through bombings alone,"

Macron said aboard France's Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier currently stationed in the Mediterranean. The war triggered by US-Israeli strikes on Iran, "in this intense phase", could last "several days, perhaps several weeks", he said.

Trump reviewing 'all credible options' on oil prices: White House

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump is reviewing "all credible options" for controlling oil prices amid the joint US-Israeli operation against Iran, the White House said yesterday, insisting that the current spike was "short-term."

Israel using white phosphorus in new Lebanon attacks

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Human Rights Watch yesterday accused Israel of "unlawfully" using white phosphorus over residential parts of a southern Lebanese town last week. "The Israeli military unlawfully used artillery-fired white phosphorus munitions over homes on March 3, 2026, in the southern Lebanese town of Yohmor," the New York-based rights group said in a report.