

# Iran, at UN, insists will not submit to 'lawless aggression'

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● The Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran has said the war in the Middle East is likely to result in worsening institutionalised domestic repression of Iranian citizens.

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

Iran vowed at the United Nations on Monday that it would not submit to "lawless aggression", and said its citizens were in "grave danger" from US and Israeli strikes.

At the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, where countries were discussing the rights situation in Iran -- notably following its deadly crackdown on protesters in recent months -- Tehran said the focus instead should be on the Middle East war.

"The most urgent and fundamental human rights issue concerning Iran is the imminent threat to the lives of 90 million



United Nations (UN) members vote at a Security Council meeting to consider sanctions on Iran following Wednesday's UN resolution, which condemns Iran's attacks on neighboring countries as the conflict in the Middle East intensifies

people whose lives are in immediate and grave danger under the shadow of reckless military aggression," said Ali Bahreini, Iran's ambassador to the UN in Geneva.

He called it "an aggression that is carried out by some of the most lawless and unscrupulous actors on the international stage".

Bahreini said that if such "reckless militarism" was met with indifference, "Iran will most certainly not be the last country to suffer such treatment".

The ambassador said more than 1,300 people had been killed in Iran and more than 7,000 injured since the US-Is-

raeli strikes began.

"Under such circumstances, what exactly is Iran expected to do?" he asked, stating: "Iran is not a nation that submits to coercion, intimidation or lawless aggression."

## 'Wounded protesters arrested'

The six Gulf Cooperation Council countries, plus Jordan, condemned Iran's attacks on their territories, saying they endangered regional security and civilian lives, and "cannot be justified under any pretext".

The UN Human Rights Council was holding an interactive dialogue between nations and the council's special rapporteur on rights in Iran and its

fact-finding mission on the country.

Special rapporteur Mai Sato said Tehran's deadly crackdown on the nationwide protests that began on December 28, in which "over 7,000 deaths have been reported by civil society", followed a "pattern of persecution" that long predated the uprising.

"What was new and what has left a profound impression on me was the violation of medical neutrality," she said.

"Hospitals were raided. Wounded protesters arrested from their beds. Medical professionals assaulted and arrested. A state directive instructing hospitals to provide information on injured protesters.

"The result was a healthcare system in which the injured feared seeking treatment more than the injuries themselves, and the act of saving life criminalised."

She said that the US-Israeli strikes "remain unlawful, no matter the assumed or stated objectives of those strikes".

She said her mandate exists for the people of Iran, and whether perpetrators are Iranian or foreign, "the people harmed are the same".

The Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran has said the war in the Middle East is likely to result in worsening institutionalised domestic repression of Iranian citizens.

## Why Iranian drones are hard to stop

AFP | Paris, France

Cheap and deadly, Iranian-designed Shahed drones have inflicted major damage in the Middle East war, and have anti-jamming and other capabilities that make them difficult to stop.

### Offline navigation

Designed to explode on impact, Shahed drones connect to GPS to register their location shortly before or after takeoff, then typically turn off their receivers, said Thomas Withington, a researcher at Britain's Royal United Services Institute (RUSI).

The drones then travel long distances towards their target using gyroscopes that measure their speed, direction and position -- known as an "inertial navigation system".

"GPS is going to get jammed by whatever is protecting the target," Withington told AFP.

"If you look at a map of GPS jamming at the moment in the Middle East, you see that there's a lot of jamming... By not using the GPS, you avoid that."

The drones can then return to GPS just before impact for a more precise strike, or remain offline.

"It's not always necessarily very accurate, but it's as accurate as it needs to be," said Withington.

### Anti-jamming mechanisms

Russia has been making Sha-



Mark Wallace, CEO of the non-profit United Against Nuclear Iran, delivers remarks next to a Shahed 136 military drone during a press conference on Capitol Hill

hed-style drones to use in its war in Ukraine.

The US-based Institute for Science and International Security found in 2023 that those drones used "state-of-art antenna interference suppression" to remove enemy jamming signals while preserving the desired GPS signal.

Anti-jamming mechanisms were found in the wreckage of an Iranian-made drone that struck Cyprus in the opening days of the Middle East war, a European industry source told AFP.

"They have put (the Shahed) together using off-the-shelf parts, but it has... many of the capabilities that US military GPS equipment has," Todd Humphreys, a professor of aerospace engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, told AFP.

Defending against them now requires sophisticated electronic warfare equipment.

"The Shaheds have been upgraded," said Ukrainian air force spokesman Yuriy Ignat.

### Stealth materials

The Shahed is built from "lightweight radar-absorbing materials", such as plastic and fibreglass, a 2023 RUSI paper said.

Their small size and low altitude allow them to slip through aerial defence systems.

Other positioning systems? Some experts think Iran is using multiple positioning systems, making it easier for its drones to dodge jamming.

Serhii Beskrestnov, a technology adviser to the Ukrainian defence ministry, said Iran is using the BeiDou system, a Chinese rival to the US-devel-

oped GPS.

And the Russia-made version of Shaheds uses both BeiDou and the Russian equivalent, GLONASS, he said.

Others suspect Iran may be using LORAN, a radio navigation system developed during World War II.

LORAN, which does not require satellites, largely fell out of use when GPS emerged.

But Iran said in 2016 it was reviving the technology, which requires a network of large ground-based transmitters, though experts have not confirmed it is active today.

### Counter-strategies

Militaries have mainly defended against Shaheds by shooting them down with cannon fire, missiles and interceptor drones, with the United States and Israel also developing lasers.

But jamming can work, as Ukraine has shown, as can "spoofing", which involves hacking into the drone's navigation system to change its destination.

Ukraine used electronic warfare to neutralise 4,652 attack drones from mid-May to mid-July 2025 -- not far off the number it shot down in the same period, 6,041, according to AFP analysis of Ukrainian military data.

Its experts insist that electronic and conventional defences are often used in tandem against the drones.

## WIDE ANGLE

### Reporters of War: Digital Media Challenges



JOEL INDRUPATI

War-time journalism demands a particular kind of discipline. It requires restraint, verification, and a deep commitment to accuracy—qualities that are often neglected when events unfold rapidly and emotions run high.

Today's media environment makes that discipline harder than ever to maintain.

In an era of round-the-clock connectivity and 24x7 news channels, editors and journalists feel relentless pressure to stay ahead of the curve. The fear of being left behind drives many to share information as it happens, in real time.

However, when reporting becomes a race, speed is eagerly pursued, and verification is often neglected. And when verification is neglected, truth becomes the casualty.

The modern digital networks have made the challenge even greater. Images and videos now emerge from every corner of the world within seconds of an event. Cyberspace quickly fills with countless visuals, many captured on high-definition mobile phones by ordinary people who happen to be at the scene.

For journalists competing not only with rival news outlets but also with social media algorithms, the temptation to publish immediately is enormous. News must appear before it becomes stale—before platforms push it down users' feeds and user attention starts to shift elsewhere.

This urgency often leads to serious mistakes. Since the start of the latest war in West Asia on February 28, 2026, troubling examples have already emerged. A senior news editor shared videos on social media that were entirely incorrect: buildings in Bahrain were presented as buildings in Dubai, and an old video of a drone strike in Kyiv, Ukraine, in 2024 was circulated as a new attack in Manama, Bahrain, in 2026.

In another instance, a well-known television news anchor announced arrests that had never actually taken place. The information, apparently received from unnamed sources, was later debunked and quietly retracted.

At the same time, AI-generated images of drones and missiles have circulated online as though they depict real events.

What makes these incidents particularly concerning is that this misinformation did not originate from some anonymous social media users. It was shared by professional journalists and established news outlets—the very institutions we rely upon to verify facts before broadcasting them to the public.

Too often, sensationalism and speed appear to take precedence over accuracy. News is forwarded and amplified before its authenticity is confirmed.

In our digitally connected world, the consequences are serious. False information spreads at extraordinary speed. Before journalists have time to correct themselves, misleading posts may already have been shared thousands of times.

By then, the damage is done, and, even if corrected, the truth may never travel as far as the falsehood.

If journalists must really be respected as purveyors of truth, especially in times of war, they must exercise discipline and caution.

The responsibility of journalism is not merely to be first, but to be right.

News organizations may feel pressure to compete with rival channels, and to satisfy the relentless demands of the digital news cycle. Yet their highest responsibility is not to power, nor to algorithms, but to the public they serve.

In moments of conflict, when fear and uncertainty run high, misinformation can inflame tensions, deepen divisions, and distort reality.

Truth, verification, and restraint must remain the core principles of journalism. Speed may win attention for a moment, but credibility is what sustains trust over time. And in the end, it is credibility—not immediacy—that defines the true value of journalism.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

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