



Cairo Institute
for Human Rights Studies
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'Homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

UN Human Rights Council: 61st Session

Urgent debate to discuss the recent military aggression launched by the Islamic Republic of Iran against Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates on 28 February 2026

Oral Intervention

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

25th March 2026

Delivered by: Mayssa Achek

From Tehran to Gaza... civilians are paying the price of conflicts among powers operating above international law

Mr. President,

The US-Israel attack against Iran is plunging the Middle East into a new and devastating cycle of violence. Once again, they instigate war in the region, with total impunity.

Iranian strikes killed at least 11 civilians and injured hundreds in GCC countries—mostly migrant workers—targeting residential buildings and civilian objects. These are clear violations of international law.

Yet, we cannot condemn one violation of violence while ignoring its context. Over a thousand people have been killed in Iran since 28 February. Israel and the United States have faced no meaningful accountability for serious breaches of international law, including the genocide in Gaza. These double standards fuel the cycle of violence.

Absent from this debate is also the suffering of Lebanese and Palestinian people. Israeli air strikes in Lebanon killed over a thousand people, in addition to the more than 300 people killed since the ceasefire. In Gaza, Israel continues its devastating military campaign, with repeated ceasefire violations and severe humanitarian aid restrictions.

Mr. President, civilian populations in the region are once again paying the highest price. From Tehran to Dubai, from Beirut to Gaza: people are trapped in an escalating war they did not choose, driven by powers that operate above international law.

This Council must demand all parties to the conflict end acts of military aggression and refrain from indiscriminate attacks against civilians. All States must immediately suspend arms transfers to parties violating international law and enforce ICC arrest warrants without exception.

Thank you.