



Statement of the Iranian Writers' Association

Regarding Israel's Aggressive Attack on Iran

The death toll has now risen to hundreds, and smoke from the war is billowing from various parts of Tehran and other cities across Iran.

Israel, who for months have been slaughtering the people of Gaza and driving the survivors to death through famine and starvation, has now extended its warmongering and aggression—under the guise of the “New Middle East” plan—onto Iranian soil.

A people who has long resisted the repression and crimes of the Islamic Republic—who have lost their most beloved children in street killings, executions, prisons, and detention centers, and who have endured systemic poverty, corruption, and discrimination—are now also feeling the boot prints of a foreign enemy on their throats.

A war between a fascist regime built on occupation and genocide, and a government founded on the blood of dissidents and freedom seekers, not only devastates the lives of the people but also halts—if not reverses—years of struggle for freedom and equality. There is now grave concern that the achievements of the 2022 freedom movement, itself the culmination of multiple previous uprisings, may be erased amid this aggression, and that in its scorched-earth aftermath, extreme nationalism, militant religiosity, and neo-fascism will flourish.

Especially since for both sides—Israel and the Islamic Republic—war is a “blessing” and a source of nourishment.

Israel, whose leaders consider any living being a legitimate target, is now—with the help of mainstream media—rolling back the global wave of opposition to the genocide in Gaza. Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic, leaning on the founding doctrine of “shed blood so our rule may endure,” is paving the way for arrests and killings of its opponents. Online, its agents are openly promoting a new round of mass executions akin to those of 1988.

All this unfolds before the eyes of a world where two dominant media poles are swallowing independent voices: one side portraying a child-killing regime's blatant military aggression as heroic, and the other concealing the repressive face of the Islamic Republic under the banner of defending the homeland.

The people's joy at the death of their oppressors must not be mistaken for welcoming an invasion of their land and lives.

But how, under the suffocating grip of state censorship, the anxiety and danger of war, and media bombardment, can the people find and raise their true voice?

How can they mobilize their immense solidarity and strength to support one another?

How can they devise a way to halt this killing machine?

Neither the foreign aggressor nor the domestic oppressor has the right to usurp the people's agency and will in determining their own fate. It is every nation's right to resist an invasion of its land, just as it is every nation's right to reject a freedom-crushing regime.

The world's silence in the face of this aggression—under the pretext of Iran's tyrannical and reckless government—will only deepen the catastrophe.

The Iranian Writers' Association condemns Israel's blatant aggression against Iranian soil and calls upon freedom-seeking writers, intellectuals, and allied institutions in Iran and around the world to fulfill their true, enlightening roles.

They must break the media-imposed polarization and help amplify the independent voice of the people, and strengthen their struggle for freedom.

Iranian Writers' Association

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