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Iran accuses US and Israel of genocide

Strikes have “deliberately” targeted over 600 educational facilities, including the school in Minab where more than 160 children were killed, according to Tehran

Published 2 Apr, 2026 09:12



An Iranian schoolboy salutes before portraits of children killed in the Minab airstrike, alongside images of late Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and his successor, Mojtaba Khamenei, Tehran, April 1, 2026. © Getty Images / Morteza Nikoubazl/NurPhoto

Iran has accused the US and Israel of genocide over the “deliberate” targeting of schools and education facilities in strikes on the country.

In a post on X on Wednesday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said more than 600 schools and educational facilities across Iran have been targeted in US-Israeli attacks over the past month, including the Shajareh Tayyebah School in [Minab](#) where more than 160 children were killed.

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"This is not an isolated act of cruelty – it is part of a systematic and brutal pattern of illegal warfare against Iran," he wrote. *"The term 'war crime' falls far short of adequately describing these atrocities. Given the explicit rhetoric of hostility toward Iranians (as a nation) expressed by US/Israeli officials, these crimes amount to genocide."*

The US-Israeli war on Iran began with massive strikes on urban centers on February 28, including the bombing of the Shajarah Tayyebah elementary school, which killed at least 175 people, more than 160 of them children. American and Israeli officials initially offered conflicting [denials](#) and explanations, with US President Donald Trump even suggesting the attack was *"done by Iran."*



Esmail Baqaei 
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This is not an isolated act of cruelty—it is part of a systematic and brutal pattern of illegal warfare against Iran.

In the past 33 days, aggressors have deliberately targeted over 600 schools and educational centers, including the Shajarah Tayyebah School in [#Minab](#) and the [Show more](#)

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However, the Pentagon has opened a probe, and reports claim investigators have already confirmed the US carried out the strike using *"outdated targeting data"* that misclassified the school as part of a nearby military compound.

On the same day as the Minab strike, a school and sports hall in the southern Iranian city of



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Lamerd were also hit, killing at least 21 people. A New York Times report, citing footage



analysis and weapons experts, said the attack was carried out by the US using the previously untested Precision Strike Missile (PrSM), which detonates above targets and disperses small tungsten pellets.

While the strike in Lamerd drew scant global attention, the atrocity in Minab has sparked condemnation. Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova accused the US and Israel of *“cruelty, cynicism, and dehumanization.”* Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez both declared solidarity with the victims of the *“massacre.”* However, the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the UN Security Council (UNSC) both failed to adopt formal resolutions condemning the atrocity.

The US and Israel have maintained an air offensive on Iran for over a month, killing more than 1,340 people, according to official data. Iran has retaliated with drone and missile strikes targeting Israel and US bases in the Middle East.

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Trump claimed on Wednesday the war is *“nearing completion,”* but threatened to intensify airstrikes over the next two to three weeks unless Iran’s leadership capitulates. Baqaei earlier said Tehran had received messages via intermediaries signaling US willingness to negotiate, but called the proposals *“unrealistic, illogical and excessive.”* Iranian officials insisted Tehran would end the conflict on its own terms and accused the US of sabotaging earlier negotiations.

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War on Iran is investment in children’s future – Trump

The US will be safer, stronger, and more prosperous than ever before once the conflict is over, the president has claimed

Published 2 Apr, 2026 08:16 | Updated 2 Apr, 2026 09:20



US President Donald Trump delivering an address to the nation. © Getty Images / Alex Brandon

US President Donald Trump has called the war on Iran an investment in the future of American children as he delivered his first address to the nation since the start of the conflict a month ago.

In his speech on Wednesday, Trump claimed that Washington was never looking for regime change in Tehran, with its goals being the destruction of Iran's navy and air force, and denying it the ability to create a nuclear weapon. *"These core strategic objectives are nearing completion,"* he insisted.

During the 32 days of fighting since the US and Israel launched their attack, Iran *"has been eviscerated and essentially is really no longer a threat... This is a true investment in your children and your grandchildren's future,"* Trump said.

The fighting would continue *"over the next two to three weeks"* until the US goals are *"fully achieved,"* he added.

Trump again warned the authorities in Tehran that *"if there is no deal, we are going to hit each and every one of their electric generating plants very hard and probably simultaneously."*



According to the president, after the conflict ends, the US *"will be safer, stronger, more prosperous, and greater than it has ever been before."*

Read more: Trump urges allies to 'go to Strait of Hormuz and just take it'

Republican Senator Ted Cruz applauded Trump's address, saying that the

president was *"exactly right tonight."*

The US military operation *"is an investment in the future of our children and our grandchildren. We are*

on the cusp of ending Iran's nuclear blackmail – that makes America much, much safer," he wrote on X.

Tehran has long insisted that its nuclear program is purely peaceful and not aimed at obtaining a weapon. Earlier this week, high-ranking Iranian MP Alaeddin Borujerdi said the country's parliament is looking into the possibility of withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, arguing that participation in the 1968 accord became pointless after the US-Israeli attack.

Iran has continued to strike Israel and US military facilities in the [Persian Gulf](#), while rejecting talks with Washington. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi insisted on Wednesday that the war will go on until *"the aggressor"* is punished and Tehran receives full compensation.

[READ MORE: Iran accuses US of genocide as Trump threatens new strikes \(VIDEOS, PHOTOS\)](#)

With the Strait of Hormuz effectively closed due to the fighting, the price of gas in the US went beyond \$4 per gallon this week, while Trump's approval ratings slipped below 40%.

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