

[Statement]

Protest Against the U.S.-Israel aggression of Iran and Demand for Immediate Halt

March 2, 2026

Japan Asia-Africa-Latin America Solidarity Committee

On February 28, the United States and Israel launched airstrikes across various parts of Iran, initiating a full-scale war of aggression through a preemptive attack. In the initial strike, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei was killed. Not only military facilities but also civilian structures, including elementary schools, were targeted, resulting in over 200 civilian casualties on that day alone.

The Japan AALA strongly condemns this outrageous act by the two countries, which tramples on the UN Charter and international law, violates Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and takes countless lives while spreading war throughout the Middle East. We demand an immediate end to this aggression.

The United States has long used Iran's "nuclear development" as a pretext for military action. This time, President Trump explicitly stated that the goal of the war is regime change in Iran and the establishment of a puppet government. He ordered the Iranian military to "lay down their arms," warning that otherwise they would "surely face death," and called on opposition supporters to "seize control of your government," claiming, "This may be your only chance for generations." Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu also asserted that this war would overthrow the regime in Tehran and "break the chains of tyranny, bringing values of freedom and peace to Iran."

The two countries have continued genocidal crimes in Gaza for the past two years and are promoting the re-colonization of Palestine under the guise of “reconstruction.” In January, they launched a preemptive strike on Venezuela, abducted President Maduro and his wife, and began a campaign to “reclaim” the country’s oil resources. The renewed attack on Iran following these actions clearly reveals an imperialist war of aggression aimed at regime change and re-colonization

Former U.S. NATO Commander General Wesley Clark revealed that immediately after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the Netanyahu administration in Israel and imperialist strategists in the U.S. Department of Defense devised a plan to overthrow the governments of seven countries in West Asia and North Africa. The target list included Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Iran. The United States has already intervened militarily in six of these countries and overthrown their governments—leaving Iran as the final target.

We believe that the war policies of the United States and Israel not only blatantly violate the UN Charter and international law, which are based on the principles of self-determination and sovereign equality of peoples, but also aim to subjugate the AALA regions through force and the threat of force, re-colonize them, monopolize their resources, and rebuild the hegemony of the United States and the “Western” world.

The United States and Israel claim that Iran’s “nuclear development threat” justifies a preemptive strike under international law, but this is a multilayered deception of public opinion. Iran has repeatedly stated that its nuclear technology development is a sovereign right recognized under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and that it does not seek to develop nuclear weapons. In 2015, Iran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Western countries, pledging not to pursue nuclear weapons in exchange for the lifting of illegal unilateral sanctions. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed that Iran was complying with the agreement, which was also endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231. Nevertheless, the Trump administration unilaterally withdrew from this international agreement in 2018.

Even during the 12-day attack last June and again in the current situation, negotiations were underway between Iran and the United States toward a new agreement, and it was said that a deal was near. Yet, the U.S. launched a massive unilateral bombing campaign. It has been pointed out that the negotiations over “nuclear development” were merely a smokescreen for a surprise attack. When it comes to the issue of nuclear weapons, it is Israel’s possession of an estimated 200 nuclear warheads that must be called into question.

The Iranian government and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps have begun retaliatory attacks on U.S. military bases across the region, asserting that exercising the right to self-defense is a legitimate duty. As a result, facilities and individuals in several neighboring countries have been affected. Israel and the United States have declared they will continue their attacks until their objectives are achieved, while Iran has vowed to continue its retaliation. The conflict now threatens to engulf the entire Middle East. It is reported that the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of the world’s oil supply passes, has been effectively closed, raising concerns about the impact on the global economy.

The majority of the world—including the Global South and non-aligned nations such as China—have condemned the actions of Israel and the United States and are calling for an end to the attacks. Under the UN Charter, which prohibits wars of aggression, we fully support Iran’s sovereignty and right to self-determination. From our stance against colonialism and imperialism, we call on the global peace forces to unite in condemning the outrageous acts of these two countries and to rise up to stop the aggression.

In response to this situation, the Japanese government, the ruling party, and some opposition parties have expressed positions such as “understanding the actions of the United States” (LDP Secretary-General Suzuki), failing to condemn the acts of aggression and effectively condoning them alongside the G7 nations. This is extremely regrettable and inappropriate. While harshly criticizing Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, condoning the aggressive actions of the United States represents an unacceptable double standard.

The crisis in the Middle East is not a distant issue for Japan. The former Abe administration stated that a “blockade of the Strait of Hormuz” could constitute a “situation threatening Japan’s survival,” justifying the exercise of collective self-defense. If Japan is seen as complicit in U.S. military aggression, the Self-Defense Forces and Japanese vessels operating in the region could immediately become targets of attack. Such a situation must be avoided at all costs. We urge the Japanese government, as the only country to have suffered atomic bombings and as a nation with a pacifist constitution, to clearly state that aggression by any country is unacceptable.

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