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U.S. Congress Should also Vote Immediately on War Powers Resolution

(Washington, D.C., March 2, 2026) – The United States and Israel's unlawful military assault on Iran should immediately end, DAWN said today. In a **letter** sent today to the permanent missions of all UN member states in New York, DAWN called on governments to formally request an emergency special session of the UN General Assembly to declare the assault a war of aggression in violation of the UN Charter and



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leaving no choice of means, and no moment for deliberation. A weeks-long military buildup, combined with three rounds of talks that the Omani mediator **described** as a breakthrough the day before the attack, cannot satisfy that standard. No Chapter VII resolution **authorized** this war. The United States has initiated a war of aggression, which UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 **defines** as "a crime against international peace" and which the Nuremberg Tribunal, established by the United States itself, **called** "the supreme international crime."

"Let us be honest about what happened this weekend, because history will be rewritten quickly," said Sahar Aziz, DAWN Board Member and a Distinguished Professor at Rutgers Law School. "The United States and Israel unilaterally attacked a sovereign nation without legal justification under international law. Desiring regime change is not a lawful basis to start a war against another nation. If it were, then any country would be legally justified in attacking another merely because it opposes the government. Selective enforcement of international law makes the world much more dangerous."



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Strikes on Tehran have also caused civilian harm. On the second day of the campaign, **Gandhi Hospital** in northern Tehran was struck. Geneva Convention IV Article 18 **provides** that civilian hospitals "may in no circumstances be the object of attack." Footage of the attack **shows** nurses evacuating newborn babies from the destroyed facility. No military use of the hospital has been alleged.

"The civilian impact of US-Israel strikes should not be dismissed as mere collateral damage—the attacks themselves should be investigated as war crimes," said Shakir. "It is impossible to conceive of any justification for bombing a girls' school, a sports hall full of teenagers, or a hospital providing care to newborns—the fact this all took place on the first day of the campaign underscores the urgency to end this war."

DAWN also sent a separate letter today to the Hague Group, a global bloc **founded** in January 2025 to take "coordinated legal and diplomatic measures" in defense of



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authorization; pursuant to a national emergency created by an attack upon the United States, its territories, or its armed forces. None of these conditions have been met.

Despite the Trump administration's half-hearted attempt to invoke an imminent threat as justification for a preemptive strike, Iran had not attacked the United States. Pentagon briefers **acknowledged** to congressional staff on March 1, 2026 that Iran was not planning to strike US forces or bases in the region unless Israel attacked Iran first,

directly undercutting the White House's claim that Tehran posed an imminent threat. Hours before the strike, the United States was involved in direct negotiations with Iran and the mediator, the foreign minister of Oman, **described** a diplomatic breakthrough. There was no attack to respond to and no emergency that could not have been brought to Congress. Invoking yet another justification, Trump told **the Washington Post** on Saturday, February 28 that "freedom" for the Iranian people was his primary concern in launching this war.



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hostilities. Members of Congress should return to session immediately and vote in favor of H.Con.Res. 38 and S.J.Res. 104, as DAWN laid out in a letter it sent to all representatives and senators.

"Trump has dispensed with all constraints on executive power, launching a major war in the middle of the night without congressional authorization. Every member who votes against the Khanna-Massie War Powers Resolution is voting to give this president, and

every future president, the unilateral power to start wars without the American people's consent," Jarrar said, " Congress has the power to stop this war. The question is whether it has the will. History will record every vote."

TEHRAN, IRAN - MARCH 01: Smoke rises from the area after it was targeted in attacks as a series of explosions are heard in Tehran, Iran on March 01, 2026. The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) building after Iranian authorities said it was

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