



Islamic Republic of Iran

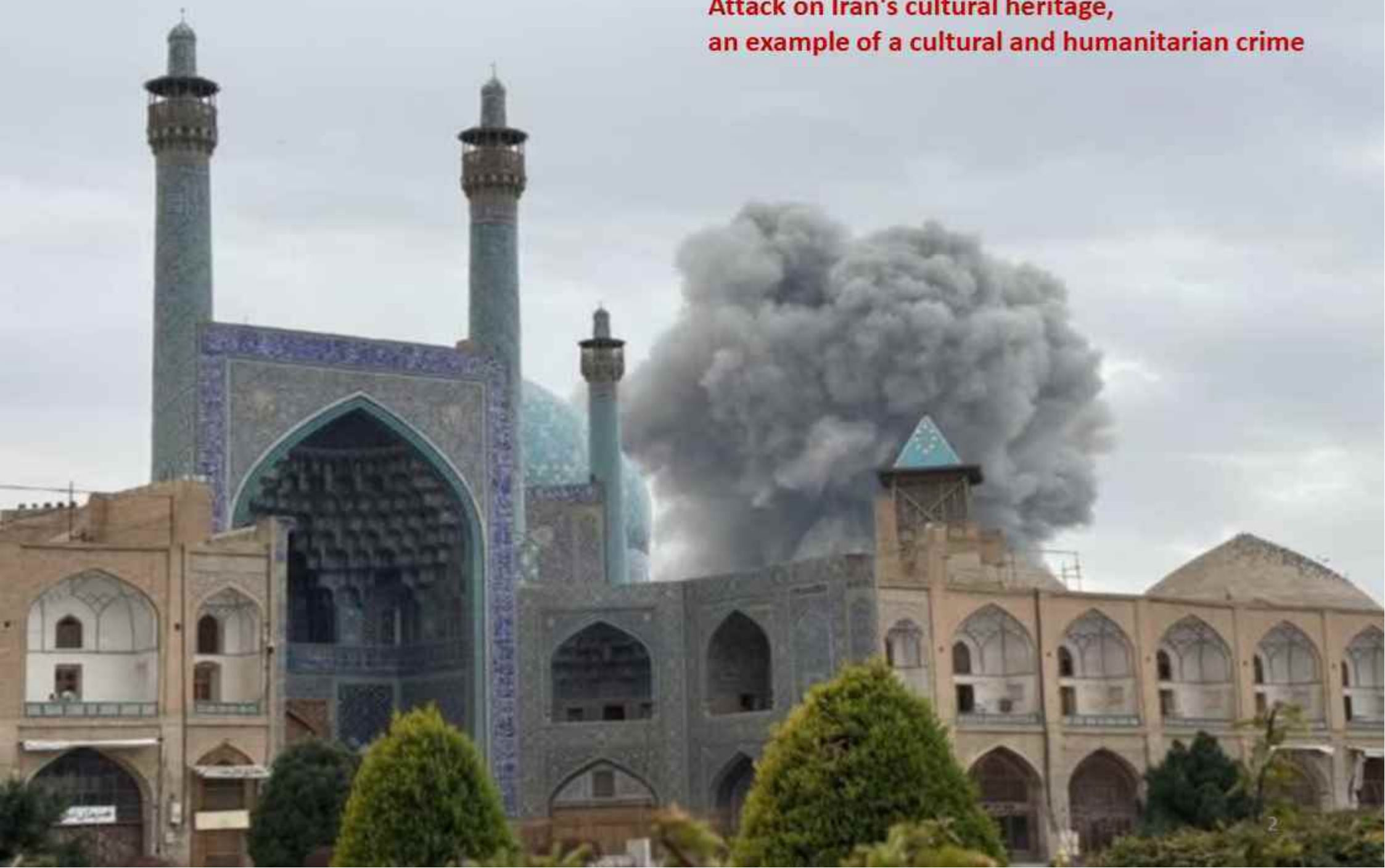
Ministry of Cultural Heritage,
Tourism and Handicrafts

A Wound on the Body of History and Culture

Report on the *Damages Inflicted Upon Cultural heritage and Museums in the Islamic Republic of Iran During the United States of America and the Zionist Regime Attacks*

From 28 Feb. 2026

**Attack on Iran's cultural heritage,
an example of a cultural and humanitarian crime**





**Destruction of Iran's cultural heritage,
in violation of international law**



Damage to 116 historical monuments and museums in the joint invasion of Iran by the United States and the Zionist regime



In the name of God

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□ Introduction:

In the course of the eventful history of civilizations, cultural heritage has never been merely a collection of stones, ceramics, or paintings; rather, it has always been a manifestation of the identity, memory, and collective spirit of a nation. However, in the cold days of the winter of 1404, when the skies of the capital trembled under the joint aerial aggression by the United States of America and the Zionist regime, it was these ancient structures and historical museums that first endured the weight of this hostility.

An act that did not remain confined to the destruction of structures; rather, it was a targeted effort to wound national sentiment and to destroy what can be called the “strongholds safeguarding collective memory.” The extensive explosions in the surroundings of Arg Square and Golestan Palace occurred with such intensity and scope that even prior protective measures were not able to fully protect the fragile physical structure of these buildings against the destructive waves.

These acts were not limited to the capital; rather, a wave of destruction spread across the historical and cultural cities of Iran. From the monuments and museums of Isfahan to Kurdistan, from West Azerbaijan to East Azerbaijan, from Lorestan to Ilam, Bushehr, and Kermanshah, it was as if the aggressor sought the simultaneous destruction of the “identity” of this nation throughout the geography of Iran. Although Golestan Palace and the Arg of Tehran were at the center of the events, other provinces were also severely affected.

This report is a documented account of the damages inflicted upon the museums and historical sites of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the joint military aggression by the United States of America and the Zionist regime in February and March 2026. In this document, while examining the physical dimensions of destruction in different provinces, the cultural and psychological consequences of these acts are also addressed, and it is shown that although the aggressor was able to destroy the skies and the walls in different provinces, it was not able to destroy the “spirit” of these buildings.

Report on the Damages Inflicted Upon Cultural heritage and Museums in the Islamic Republic of Iran During the United States of America and the Zionist Regime Attacks



This report is, in fact, a reminder for future historiography; that in the darkest moments, the people and officials of Iran, with prudence and effort, preserved their treasures and today stand determined to restore and revive these works. This text serves as an introduction to a report that not only seeks to record the extent of damages in different provinces, but also intends to carry the historical cry of these wounded monuments to the ears of the world and to condemn the cultural crime of the aggressor within the framework of international law.

The protection of cultural heritage during armed conflicts is not a matter of moral preference, but a binding legal obligation within the framework of international humanitarian law. These obligations are rooted in international conventions that were formed after the bitter experiences of wars; however, in this case, these laws were systematically and premeditatedly violated by the United States of America and the Zionist regime. These actions were neither accidental nor collateral damage; rather, they were selected, targeted, and based on a strategy of destroying cultural identity. From Kermanshah to Sanandaj, from Isfahan to Tabriz, and from Khorramabad to Bushehr, the signs of this clear violation of international law are visible everywhere.

According to the provisions of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, especially Articles 4 and 19, the protection of cultural property is mandatory even in situations of internal conflict. Likewise, the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, especially Article 6, obliges member states to respect world heritage.

In addition, United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017) explicitly considers the destruction of cultural heritage a criminal act. Therefore, all military actions against the cultural and historical sites of Iran constitute a clear violation of international obligations and a clear example of a crime against the heritage of humanity.

The 1954 Hague Convention explicitly states that museums, historical buildings, and cultural centers must not be targeted even in conditions of full-scale war. This is a red line. When sites such as Golestan Palace or Falak-ol-Aflak Castle are struck, it cannot be claimed that they were “military objectives.” These buildings have never been weapons factories, military bases, command centers, or any military objective.

However, this red line was not only crossed, but deliberately ignored. Because in the psychology of modern warfare, targeting museums conveys a message: that a nation’s history is denied, its identity is disregarded, and its erasure is intended.



Destruction of Iran's cultural heritage is a clear violation of international law

Cultural Property of Iran Under the Protection of International Law

1. The Hague Convention 1954 "Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict" and its Additional Protocols:

Iran has joined this convention, and the "Treaty for the Protection of Cultural Property in Time of War in Iran" was approved and concluded between Iran and The Hague in 1958. Iran has acceded to the Second Protocol of the 1954 Hague Convention (1999) by law of 1380.

Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Iran World Registration Under the Protective Cover of International Law

2. Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972):

Iran has acceded to this Convention with the law passed in 2005. Iran's 29 World Heritage Sites, including 114 historical, cultural and natural sites, are under the legal protection of this Convention.

3. Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003):

Iran has acceded to this Convention with the law passed in 2005. 27 elements of the intangible cultural heritage of Iran (national and multinational) registered are covered by the legal protection of this Convention.



International principles violated

1. The Hague Convention 1954 "Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict" and its Additional Protocols:

According to **Article 2** of this Convention, "protection" of cultural property includes its "safeguarding" and "respect". In this regard, Article 4 of the same Convention specifically addresses the "respect for cultural property", and Paragraph 1 of this article states: "4.1. The High Contracting Parties undertake to respect cultural property situated within their own territory as well as within the territory of other High Contracting Parties by refraining from any use of the property and its immediate surroundings or of the appliances in use for its protection for purposes which are likely to expose it to destruction or damage in the event of armed conflict; and by refraining from any act of hostility directed against such property."

This convention explicitly makes the protection of cultural property during war mandatory. Articles 4 and 5 of the Second Protocol (1999) state that no party is allowed to designate cultural sites as military targets, even if they are located near military objectives.

This convention establishes fundamental principles:

Principle of Distinction: A clear distinction must be made between military and civilian targets.

Principle of Proportionality: Damage to civilian property must not be excessive in relation to the anticipated military advantage.

Principle of Precaution: All possible measures must be taken to minimize damage to civilians and cultural institutions.

Violation:

Damage to Iran's museums and cultural heritage not only harms the historical, architectural, and artistic value of these unique works, but also goes against the principle of respecting cultural property.



International principles violated

2. Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972):

Article 6(3) explicitly states: *“3. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to take any deliberate measures which might damage directly or indirectly the cultural and natural heritage referred to in Articles 1 and 2 situated on the territory of other States Parties to this Convention”*;

Iran's 29 World Heritage Sites, including 114 historical, cultural and natural sites, are under the legal protection of this Convention.

Violation:

The damage inflicted on Iran's World Heritage Sites—including Golestan Palace, Chehel Sotoun Palace, Meidan Emam (Imam Square) in Isfahan, and other structures on UNESCO's Tentative List—not only harms the historical, architectural, and artistic value of these unique works but also threatens a shared treasure for all humanity.



Analysis of Violations		
Violation	Description	article violated
Failure of distinction	Direct targeting of museums without any military objective	Hague Convention 1954, Article 4
Violation of proportionality	Damage far exceeding any claimed military necessity	Second Protocol 1999, Article 5
Use of inappropriate weapons	Use of large-scale explosive weapons in historical urban environments	Urban Warfare Conventions
Attack on UNESCO-listed sites	Damage to globally recognized cultural heritage	UNESCO Convention 1972
Coordinated actions	Simultaneous targeting of 49 museums within a short time period	The principles of the humanitarian law of the four geneva conventions (1949), the hague convention (1954), the convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), convention of intolerance (1968), adjoint protocols 1977 and 1979



This report is not only a record of damages; it is also a legal document that can be presented before:

1. Proceedings at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for violations of humanitarian law;
2. to investigate violations of cultural heritage regulations by UNESCO authorities;
3. the UN Human Rights Council to record human rights violations by offending states; and
4. the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to pursue legal action against offending regimes.

Cultural and psychological consequences of attacks and damage to cultural heritage

The destruction of historical monuments is an attempt to destroy the collective memory of a nation.



- Creating fear through targeting symbolic sites
- Erasing national identity through destruction of cultural symbols
- Creating cultural shock to weaken resistance
- Spiritual damage to the intangible heritage of communities as a key pillar of social and cultural resilience

This action is similar to strategies observed in wars in Yugoslavia, Iraq, and Afghanistan.



Actions of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran:

1. Communicating frameworks and guidelines for preventive measures and rapid response;
2. Transferring movable cultural and historical property to secure warehouses and stabilizing and protecting immovable artifacts in museums and cultural and historical sites before the start of the war;
3. Installing the blue shield symbol on historical monuments and museums in order to distinguish them as civilian areas;
4. Increasing the safety factor of historical monuments and museums against direct and indirect military attacks;
5. Assessing and documenting damage to cultural heritage and museums;
6. Corresponding and announcing the situation to international institutions regarding war damage and threats to Iran's cultural heritage and museums;
7. Sending reports to competent international institutions, including UNESCO and international organizations, to investigate violations of laws committed in the attack on Iran's cultural heritage and museums.



Letter and status announcement to international institutions regarding war damage and threat to Iran's cultural heritage and museums

Letter from the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran to:

1. UNESCO Director General: Regarding the damage to Golestan Palace
2. Ministers for Culture of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia (ACHA) Member States
3. Ministers for Culture of the Ancient Civilizations Forum (ACF) Member States
4. Secretary-General of the UN Tourism
5. UNESCO Director General: In the case of other damaged World Heritage Sites
6. UNESCO Director General: Regarding damaged national monuments in Iran
7. Chairperson of the General Assembly of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage
8. Chairperson of the Council of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia (ACHA): To raise the issue of protecting Iranian cultural heritage



The status of damage to the cultural heritage and museums of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the military invasion of the United States of America and the Zionist regime

From 28 Feb. 2026



Damage and loss to 116 museums and historical-cultural monuments

In 16 provinces and 21 cities

Damage to
6 historical cities

Damage to
49 museums

Damage to
4 World Heritage Sites

Number of damaged monuments and museums in 16 provinces of Iran

Fars	Khuzestan	Guilan	Ilam	Sistan and Baluchestan	Mazandaran	West Azerbaijan	East Azerbaijan	Alborz	Qom	Bushehr	Kermanshah	Lorestan	Kurdistan	Isfahan	Tehran
2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	4	4	12	22	61



Part of the damaged historical monuments and museums in **Tehran**

Tehran city, the capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with 60 damaged historical monuments and museums

- Historical Building of the National Bank of Tehran Bazaar Branch
- Historical Building of the Ministry of Finance
- Historical Building of the Tehran Provincial Court
- Hakim Bashi School
- Sepahsalar Mosque-Shahid Motahari High School
- National Arts Museum
- Masoudieh Building
- Mostofi Al-Mamalek House
- Farah Abad Polo and Equestrian Complex
- Historical Nest of Qale Morghi Airport
- Historical Square of Martyrs
- Historical Baharestan Square
- Arg Square-Tehran Historical Arg Complex
- Tehran Bazaar Complex
- Cultural Axis of Vali Asr Street
- Abgineh Museum
- Gol Mohammadi Museum - Robat Karim
- Ardebiliha Mosque
- Farahabad Kakh (Dushan Tepe)
- Manzariyeh Building
- Marzadaran Kohak Mill
- Hosseinieh ErshadArbab
- Hormuz Building
- Kolah Farangi Building (Bisim)
- Ministry of Cultural Heritage Building Terminal No. 1 of Mehrabad Airport
- Timurtash House (War Museum)
- Bina House
- Professor Adl House (Culture and Art Research Institute)
- Gomarak Caravanserai
- Agha Tomb Site
- Tehran Radio Building
- Tehran Arg Mosque
- Golestan Palace Museum – Tehran (7 museums)
- Saadabad Cultural and Historical Complex
- Sultanabad Complex
- Islamic Consultative Assembly Building (Sena)
- Historical buildings of Jang University
- Iranian Pasteur Institute Building
- History Museum of the Intellectual Development Center for Children and Adolescents
- Electricity Industry Museum in Shohada Square
- Eshratyab Kolah Farangi Building
- Qasr Prison Kolah Farangi Building
- Azadi Tower
- Marmar Palace
- Negarestan Cultural Center (former Quran Museum)
- Abu Muslim School
- Historical building of Tehran General and Revolutionary Court
- Historical building of the National Assembly

Along with numerous attacks on the historic area of Tehran and its buildings of historical value



Isfahan: A city as a museum of Islamic culture and art
Isfahan: The jewel of culture and art

Part of the damaged historical monuments and museums in **Isfahan**

- Jabarzadeh House
- Black House
- Takieh Mirza Rafia Naini
- Baqeh Baba Rokn al-Din
- Tekieh Mother of the Prince
- Jarchi Bashi Bath
- Paedani and Calligraphy Museum in Folad Shahr
- New Courier Factory in Shahr Reza
- Jame Mosque of Khansar
- Historical Abhari House of Khansar
- Raisan Mosque of Khansar
- Chehelsotun Palace Museum
- Museum of Decorative Arts (Rekib Khane Building) Isfahan
- Isfahan Abbasi Grand Mosque
- Naghsh-e Jahan Square Complex
- Ashraf Hall
- Jebeh Khane
- Timuri Hall
- Tohid Khane Complex (Art University)
- Amin House
- Hasht Behesht Palace
- Saadi Historical School

In addition to the attack on the World Heritage Site in Isfahan,
we also witnessed attacks on the historical areas of Isfahan and Khansar.



Part of the damaged historical monuments and museums in

Lorestan

- Falak-Aflak Castle Complex (Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology)
- Tavasoli Mosque
- Akhondabu House (Museum of Lorestan Language and Culture)
- Mozaffari Castle-Al Shatar

Part of the damaged historical monuments and museums in

Kurdistan

- Salar Saeed (Archaeology Museum)
- Asef Vaziri (Kurdish House, Anthropology Museum)
- Khosrow Abad
- Ayatollah Mojtahidi House
- Pir Omar Mosque and Imamzadeh
- Jama Mosque
- Malek al-Tojar
- Sahraei House
- Amin al-Islam House
- Nosrat Nouri House
- Motwasel House
- Two Treasures Bath



Some of the damaged historical monuments and museums in **11 other provinces**

West Azerbaijan	Mahabad Anthropological Museum
Bushehr	Bushehr Sabzabad Mansion (Regional Museum and Maritime and Sea Museum) and Siraf White House
Mazandaran	Safi Abad Palace, Behshahr
East Azerbaijan	Tabriz Senjesh Museum
Ilam	Dareh Shahr Archaeological Museum
Sistan and Baluchestan	Kohe Khajeh Site - Zabol
Qom	Jame Mosque and Jahangir Khan School of Qom
Alborz	Sulaymaniyah Palace Museum and Samsam Castle
Guilan	Mian Poshte Palace of Bandar Anzali (Navy Museum)
Khuzestan	Dezful Anthropological Museum (Dezful Carnation Bath)
Fars	Museum of the History of Education in Fars and the Old Municipality

And damage to 6 historical areas of the cities: Tehran, Isfahan, Sanandaj, Kermanshah, Qom, Khansar



Examples of damage caused to historical monuments of the National and World Register and museums of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the military invasion of the United States of America and the Zionist regime

From 28 Feb. 2026



Golestan Palace World Heritage Site

World Heritage Site

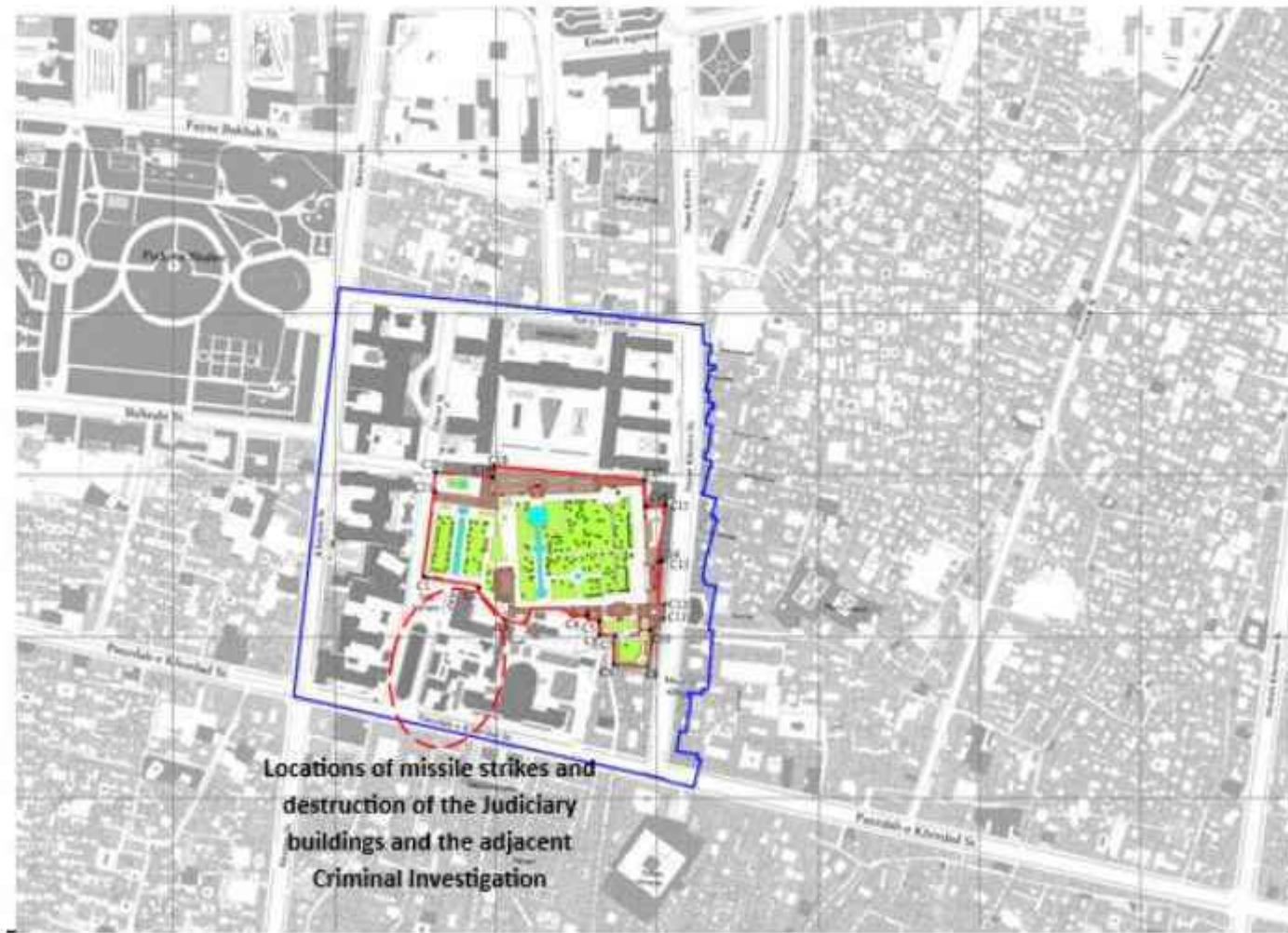


ID Card for the Assessment of Damages and Urgent Renovations

<i>Registration/Inscription Data</i>	<i>Registration/Inscription No</i>	World Heritage List in 2013
	<i>Name & Age</i>	From the Safavi period
	<i>Inscription Status</i>	World Inscription (UNESCO)
	<i>Function</i>	Palace Museum
<i>Incident Analysis & Origin of Damage</i>	<i>Date & Time of Incident</i>	01.03.2026; 22 PM
	<i>Type of Destructive Agent</i>	Explosion wave (seismic)- warhead- sound wave
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Site/Precinct, Main Structure and architectural decorations
<i>Technical and Structural Assessment (Severity of Crisis)</i>	<i>Level of Destruction</i>	Physical and structural destruction and architectural decorations
	<i>Type of Damage</i>	Damage to 320 doors, windows and historic Euros Collapse and cracking of 250 square meters of historic tilework Damage to 1,100 square meters of historic Qajar mirrorwork and exquisite stucco Damage to 100 square meters of murals in the main hall Damage to 2,500 square meters of roof gable sheets Damage to 30 historic chandeliers Damage to 2,000 square meters of wooden roof trusses Damage to 1,000 square meters of wooden roof framing Damage to 5 historic coffeehouse paintings



Location of the Golestan Palace Museum and the point of attack



Locations of missile strikes and destruction of the Judiciary buildings and the adjacent Criminal Investigation



Destruction of the Golestan Palace Museum - Tehran





Destruction of the Golestan Palace Museum - Tehran





Destruction of the Golestan Palace Museum - Tehran





Destruction of the Golestan Palace Museum - Tehran





Destruction of the Golestan Palace Museum - Tehran





Median Emam World Heritage Site

World Heritage Site

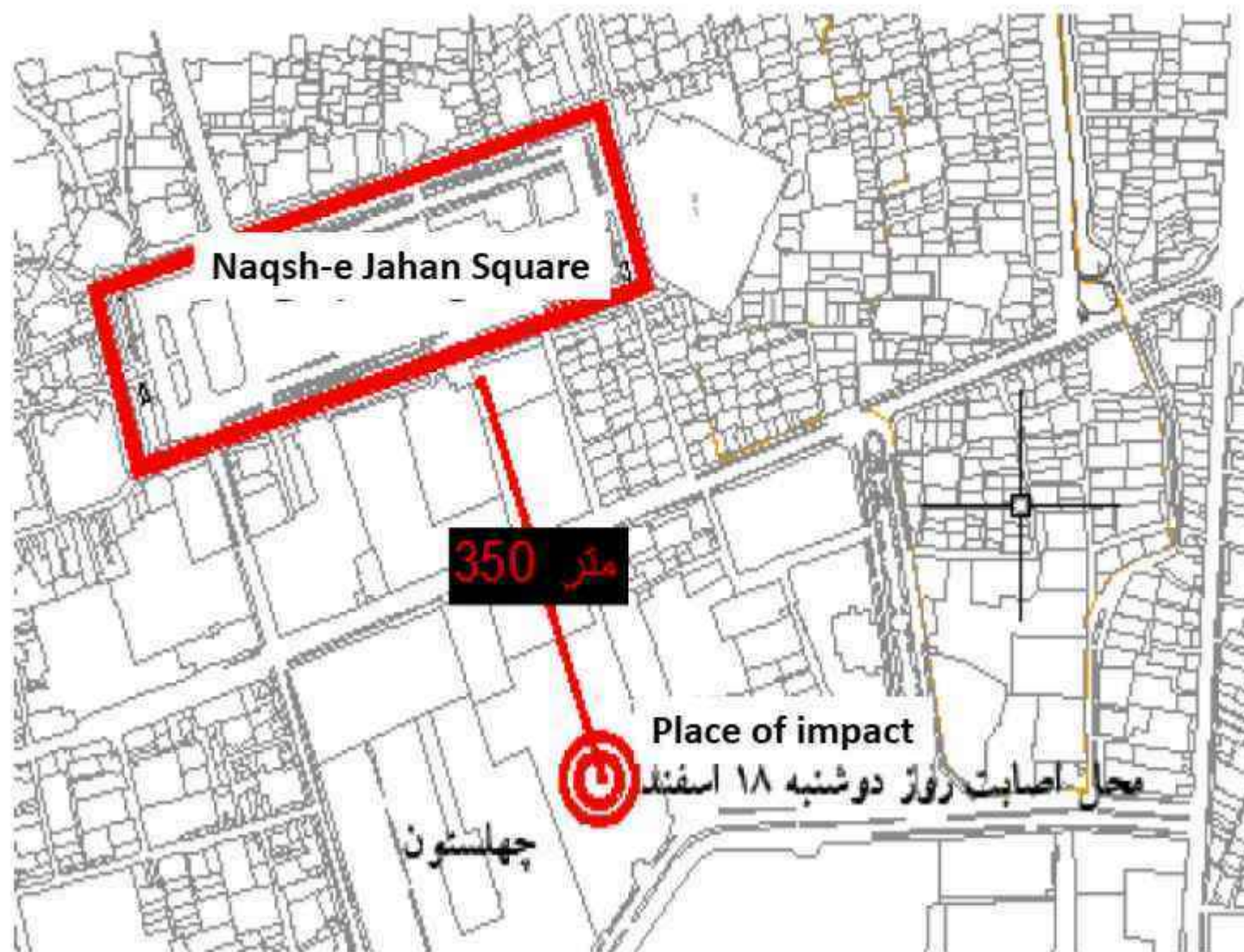


ID Card for the Assessment of Damages and Urgent Renovations

Registration/Inscription Data	Registration/Inscription No	World Heritage List in 1979
	Name & Age	From the Safavi period
	Inscription Status	World Inscription (UNESCO)
	Function	Historic urban space, historic palaces and mosques
Incident Analysis & Origin of Damage	Date & Time of Incident	07.03.2026; 8 AM - 09.03.2026; 14:30 PM
	Type of Destructive Agent	Explosion wave (seismic)- warhead- sound wave
Technical and Structural Assessment (Severity of Crisis)	Precise Situation of Damage	Site/Precinct, Main Structure and architectural decorations
	Type of Damage	<p>Damage to 650 square meters of door openings of Ali Qapu Mansion, Imam Mosque, Qeysariyeh Gate, upper floor of the square</p> <p>Collapse and cracks in 1200-square meters of tiling of Imam Mosque, Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, Qeysariyeh Square and Gate</p> <p>Damage to 400 square meters of exquisite stucco work of Ali Qapu Mansion, Qeysariyeh and plaster formalities of the upper floor</p> <p>Damage to 50 square meters of murals of the main hall</p> <p>Separation of tile layers from the ground and movement of stone plinths</p> <p>Destruction of the square entrance from Sepah and Hafez Streets and several parts of the bazaar arch due to the blast wave</p>



Location of Naqsh-e Jahan Square and the point of attack and hit





The attack on the privacy of Naqsh-e Jahan Square - Isfahan





Destruction of Naqsh-e Jahan Square - Isfahan





Destruction of Naqsh-e Jahan Square - Isfahan





Destruction of Naqsh-e Jahan Square - Isfahan





Chehel Sotoun Garden in Isfahan

World Heritage Site

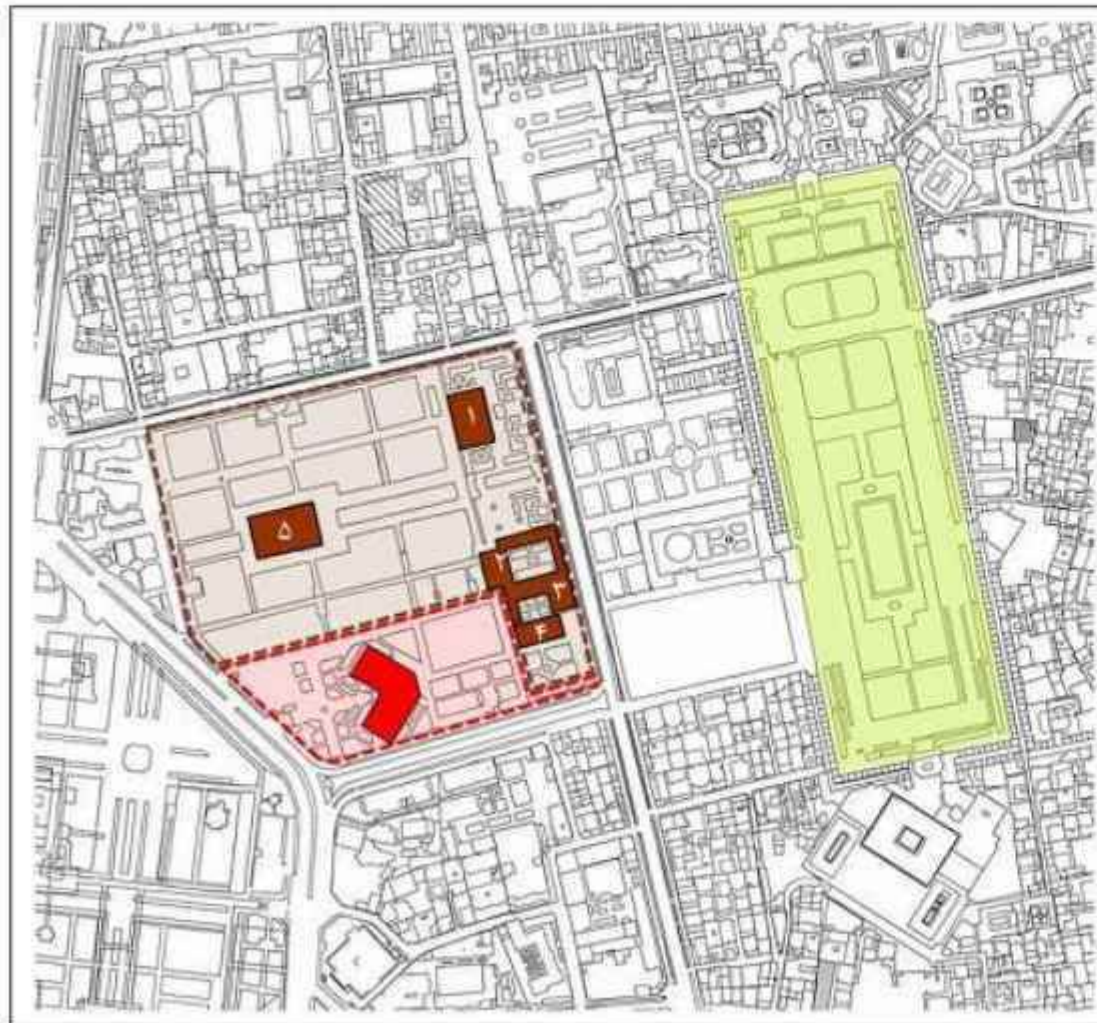


ID Card for the Assessment of Damages and Urgent Renovations

Registration/Inscription Data	<i>Registration/Inscription No</i>	No. 108 in the National Property List in 1921; No. 1372 in the World Heritage List in 2011
	<i>Name & Age</i>	World Heritage Base of Chehel Sotoun from Safavi Period
	<i>Inscription Status</i>	World Inscription (UNESCO)
	<i>Function</i>	Site Museum
Incident Analysis & Origin of Damage	<i>Date & Time of Incident</i>	09.03.2026; 14:40
	<i>Type of Destructive Agent</i>	Explosion wave (seismic)- lateral fires- warhead- sound wave
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Core zone of the property-superstructure (Main Building)- Buffer zone (landscape or ancillary buildings)
Technical and Structural Assessment (Severity of Crisis)	<i>Level of Destruction</i>	Partial (decorations)- midrange- (additions)- General (Bearing structure), danger of immediate collapse
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Core zone of the property-superstructure (Main Building)- Buffer zone (landscape or ancillary buildings)
	<i>Type of Damage</i>	Structural (deep cracks, wall siding, roof collapse, openings) Non-structural (architectural decorations, tile works, wooden decorations, openings)



Site Plan: Identifying the exact point of impact relative to the building structure Chehel Sotoun Garden



Title of the Map: General Plan of the Area

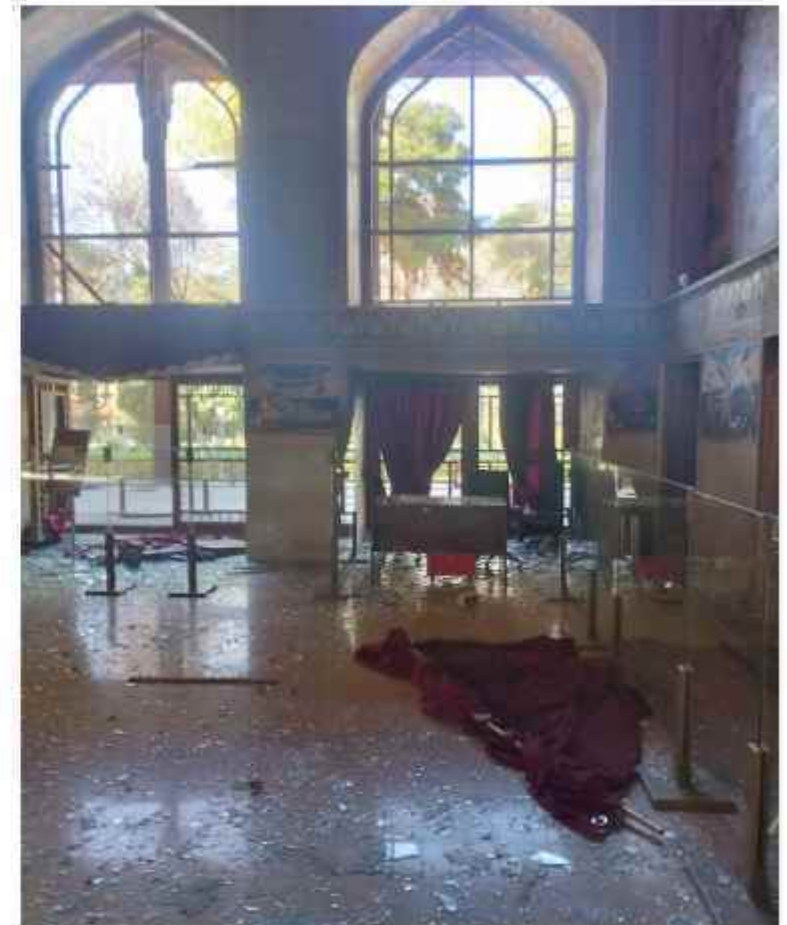


- Main Building of Governorship (Place of Explosion)
- Area of Governorship of Isfahan
- Geographical Location of Damaged Historical Buildings:
1- Timurid Hall; 2- Museum of Contemporary Arts; 3- Museum of Decorative Arts; 4- Ashraf Hall; Chehel Sotoun Palace
- Naghsh-e Jahan Square





Destruction of Chehel sotun Garden - Isfahan





Destruction of Chehel sotun Garden - Isfahan





Destruction of Chehel sotun Garden - Isfahan





Destruction of Chehel sotun Garden - Isfahan





Before and After Images of: Comparison of Building Health Assessment with the Current Situation

Before Interruption of Damage

Before Interruption of Damage



Chehel Sotoun Garden in Isfahan

Report on the Damages Inflicted Upon Cultural heritage and Museums in the Islamic Republic of Iran During the United States of America and the Zionist Regime Attacks



Before and After Images of: Comparison of Building Health Assessment with the Current Situation

Before Interruption of Damage

Before Interruption of Damage



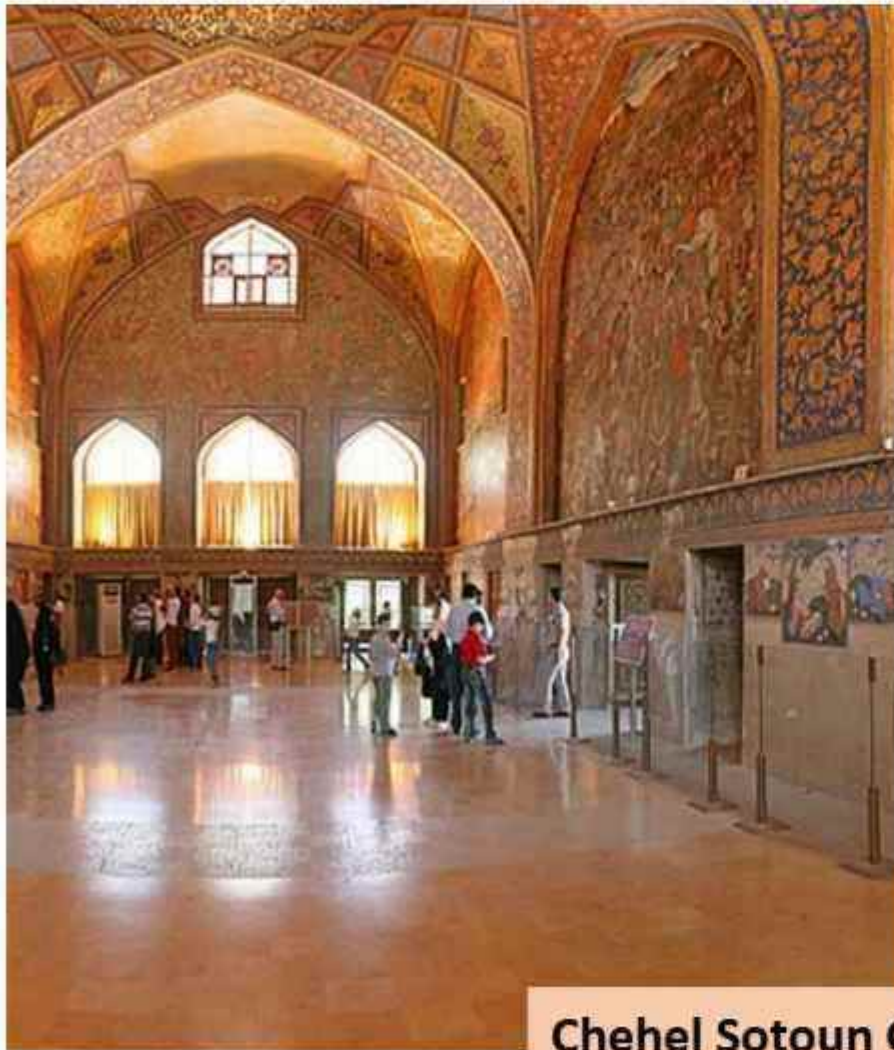
Chehel Sotoun Garden in Isfahan



Before and After Images of: Comparison of Building Health Assessment with the Current Situation

Before Interruption of Damage

Before Interruption of Damage



Chehel Sotoun Garden in Isfahan



Falak al-Aflak Fortification Complex in Ioranest
(Museums of Anthropology & Archaeology)



ID Card for the Assessment of Damages and Urgent Renovations

Registration/Inscription Data	<i>Registration/Inscription No</i>	883, 02.10.1969
	<i>Name & Age</i>	Falak al-Aflak Fortification Historical Complex – from prehistory to Pahlavi period
	<i>Inscription Status</i>	National- National Base
	<i>Function</i>	Museum-Administrative
Incident Analysis & Origin of Damage	<i>Date & Time of Incident</i>	03.03.2026; 06:00 & 17:00 AM
	<i>Type of Destructive Agent</i>	Missile Direct Impact- Explosion wave (seismic)
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Core zone of the property- superstructure (main building)- buffer zone (landscape or ancillary buildings)
Technical and Structural Assessment (Severity of Crisis)	<i>Level of Destruction</i>	Partial (decorations)- Midrange (ancillary buildings)- General (bearing structure)
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Core zone of the property- superstructure (main building)- buffer zone (landscape or ancillary buildings)
	<i>Type of Damage</i>	Structural (deep cracks, wall siding, roof collapse, openings)- Non-structural (architectural decorations, tile works, wooden decorations, openings)



**Falak al-Aflak Fortification Complex in Ioranest
(Museums of Anthropology & Archaeology)**



The impact points of the fired missiles have been marked with a red circle



Destruction of the Falak-Aflak complex - Lorestan





Destruction of the Falak-Aflak complex - Lorestan





Destruction of the Falak-Aflak complex - Lorestan





Destruction of the Falak-Aflak complex - Lorestan





Isfahan Museum of Decorative Arts

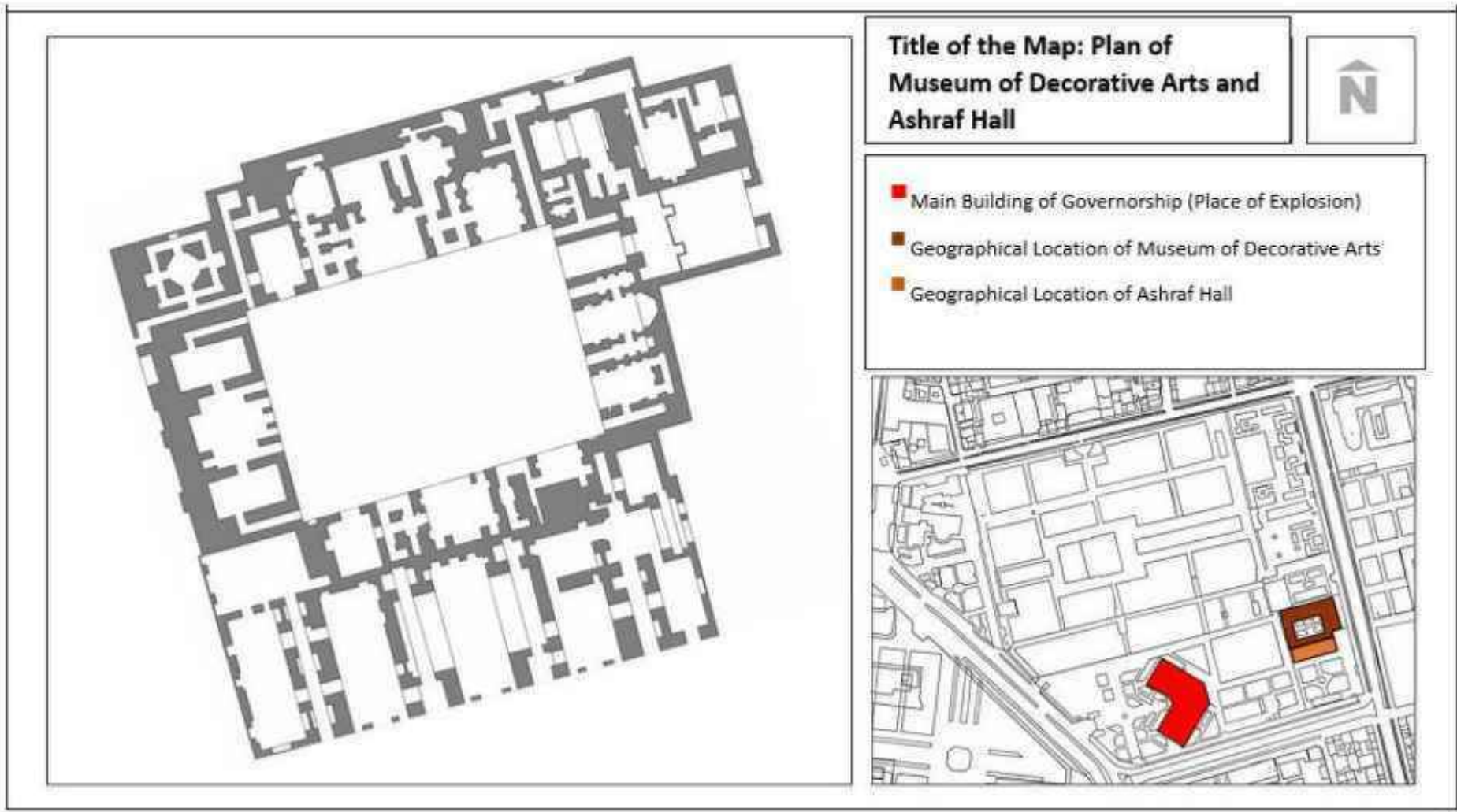


ID Card for the Assessment of Damages and Urgent Renovations

Registration/Inscription Data	<i>Registration/Inscription No</i>	No. 1703 in the National Property List on 12.08.1985
	<i>Name & Age</i>	Rakib Khane (Isfahan Museum of Decorative Arts) from Safavi Period
	<i>Inscription Status</i>	National
	<i>Function</i>	Museum
Incident Analysis & Origin of Damage	<i>Date & Time of Incident</i>	09.03.2026; 14:45
	<i>Type of Destructive Agent</i>	Explosion wave (seismic)- warhead- sound wave
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Core zone of the property-superstructure (Main Building)- Buffer zone (landscape or ancillary buildings)
Technical and Structural Assessment (Severity of Crisis)	<i>Level of Destruction</i>	Midrange (ancillary buildings)
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Core zone of the property-superstructure (Main Building)- Buffer zone (landscape or ancillary buildings)
	<i>Type of Damage</i>	Structural (deep cracks, wall siding, roof collapse, openings)- Non-structural (architectural decorations, tile works, wooden decorations, openings)



Location of the Isfahan Museum of Decorative Arts in the area that was attacked





Destruction of the Museum of Decorative Arts - Isfahan





Destruction of the Museum of Decorative Arts - Isfahan





Destruction of the Museum of Decorative Arts - Isfahan





Destruction of the Museum of Decorative Arts - Isfahan





Derreh Shahr Museum of Archaeology in illam



ID Card for the Assessment of Damages and Urgent Renovations

Registration/Inscription Data	<i>Registration/Inscription No</i>	-
	<i>Name & Age</i>	Derreh Shahr Museum- Contemporary
	<i>Inscription Status</i>	-
	<i>Function</i>	Museum
Incident Analysis & Origin of Damage	<i>Date & Time of Incident</i>	08.03.2026; 02:00 AM
	<i>Type of Destructive Agent</i>	Explosion wave (seismic)
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Superstructure (Main building)
Technical and Structural Assessment (Severity of Crisis)	<i>Level of Destruction</i>	Midrange (ancillary buildings)
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Core zone of the property
	<i>Type of Damage</i>	Non-structural (architectural decorations, tile works, wooden decorations, openings)



Destruction of the Dareh Shahr Archaeological Museum-Ilam





Tabriz Sanjesh Museum in East Azerbaijan



ID Card for the Assessment of Damages and Urgent Renovations

<i>Registration/Inscription Data</i>	<i>Registration/Inscription No</i>	1862
	<i>Name & Age</i>	Sanjesh Museum- Qajar Period
	<i>Inscription Status</i>	National
	<i>Function</i>	Museum
<i>Incident Analysis & Origin of Damage</i>	<i>Date & Time of Incident</i>	10.03.2026; 14:30 AM
	<i>Type of Destructive Agent</i>	Explosion wave (seismic)- sound wave
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Superstructure (Main building)
<i>Technical and Structural Assessment (Severity of Crisis)</i>	<i>Level of Destruction</i>	General (bearing structure)
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Core zone of the property
	<i>Type of Damage</i>	Structural (deep cracks, wall siding, roof collapse, openings)- Non-structural (architectural decorations, tile works, wooden decorations, openings)



Destruction of the Tabriz Museum of Measurements - East Azerbaijan





Sa'dabad Cultural-Historical Complex



Following the attack on the Sa'dabad historical complex on Tuesday morning, March 16, 1404, three important historical monuments of the complex, including the "Green Palace", the "Omidvar Brothers Museum" and the "Koshk", suffered serious structural damage due to the wave of explosions.

The blast wave also caused damage to other historical buildings and 12 other museums in the complex.

This large historical complex has about 100 large and small buildings and 14 palaces and museums, and nearly 200,000 historical and cultural objects are kept in it.



Destruction of the Sa'dabad Cultural and Historical Complex - Tehran



ANA news Ali Ahmadzad



Destruction of the Sa'dabad Cultural and Historical Complex - Tehran





Salar Saeed Building
(Museum of Archaeology)
in Kurdistan



ID Card for the Assessment of Damages and Urgent Renovations		
Registration/Inscription Data	<i>Registration/Inscription No</i>	1172, National Property List
	<i>Name & Age</i>	Molla Lotfollah Sanandaji (Habib Building)
	<i>Inscription Status</i>	National
	<i>Function</i>	Museum
Incident Analysis & Origin of Damage	<i>Date & Time of Incident</i>	01.03.2026; 06:00 & 10:00 AM
	<i>Type of Destructive Agent</i>	Explosion wave (seismic)- sound wave
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Core zone of the property
Technical and Structural Assessment (Severity of Crisis)	<i>Level of Destruction</i>	Partial (decorations)-Midrange (ancillary buildings)
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Superstructure (Main building)
	<i>Type of Damage</i>	Non-structural (architectural decorations, tile works, wooden decorations, openings)



Destruction of the Salar Saeed Archaeological Museum - Sanandaj





Museum of Anthropology in Kurdistān Asef Vaziri Building (House of Kurd)



ID Card for the Assessment of Damages and Urgent Renovations		
Registration/Inscription Data	<i>Registration/Inscription No</i>	1822, National Property List
	<i>Name & Age</i>	Asef Building- Safavi & Qajar periods
	<i>Inscription Status</i>	National
	<i>Function</i>	Museum
Incident Analysis & Origin of Damage	<i>Date & Time of Incident</i>	01.03.2026; 06:00 & 10:00 AM
	<i>Type of Destructive Agent</i>	Explosion wave (seismic)- sound wave
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Core zone of the property
Technical and Structural Assessment (Severity of Crisis)	<i>Level of Destruction</i>	Partial (decorations)- Midrange (ancillary buildings)
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Core zone of the property
	<i>Type of Damage</i>	Non-structural (architectural decorations, tile works, wooden decorations, openings)

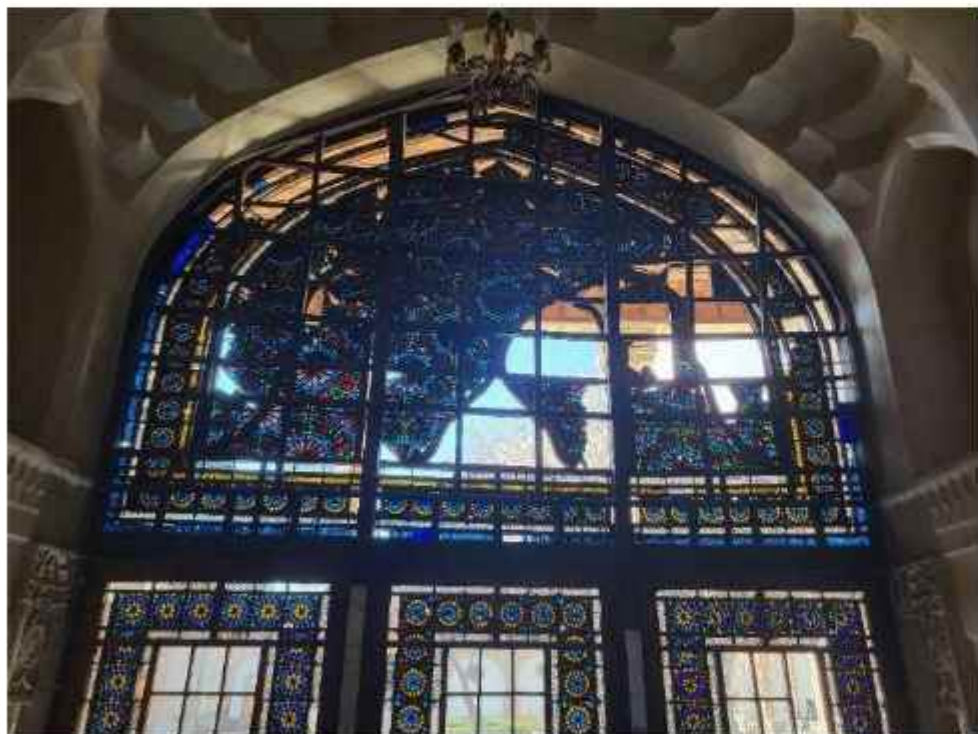


Destruction of the Asef Vaziri– Anthropology Museum - Kurdistan





Destruction of the Asef Vaziri – Anthropology Museum - Kurdistan





Khosrowabad Palace Museum in Sanandaj Kurdistan



ID Card for the Assessment of Damages and Urgent Renovations

Registration/Inscription Data	<i>Registration/Inscription No</i>	1491, National Property List
	<i>Name & Age</i>	Khosrow Abad Building- Zandiyeh period
	<i>Inscription Status</i>	National
	<i>Function</i>	Museum
Incident Analysis & Origin of Damage	<i>Date & Time of Incident</i>	03.03.2026; 06:00 & 11:00 AM
	<i>Type of Destructive Agent</i>	Explosion wave (seismic)- sound wave
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Core zone of the property
Technical and Structural Assessment (Severity of Crisis)	<i>Level of Destruction</i>	Partial (decorations)- Midrange (ancillary buildings)
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Core zone of the property & superstructure
	<i>Type of Damage</i>	Non-structural (architectural decorations, tile works, wooden decorations, openings)



Destruction of the Khosro wabad Palace Museum-Kurdistan



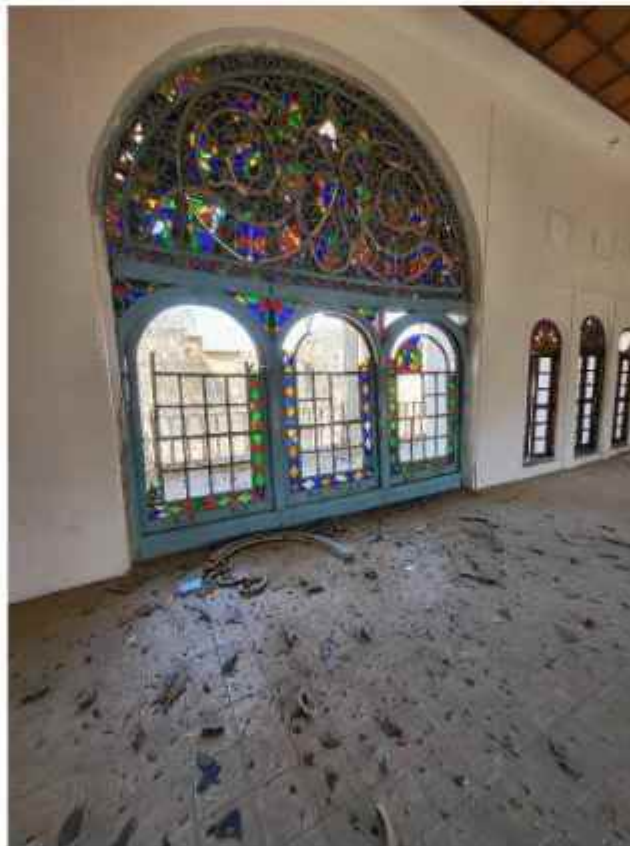


Destruction of the Khosro wabad Palace Museum-Kurdistan





Destruction of the Khosro wabad Palace Museum-Kurdistan





Biglarbeigi Tekkye Complex in Kermanshah

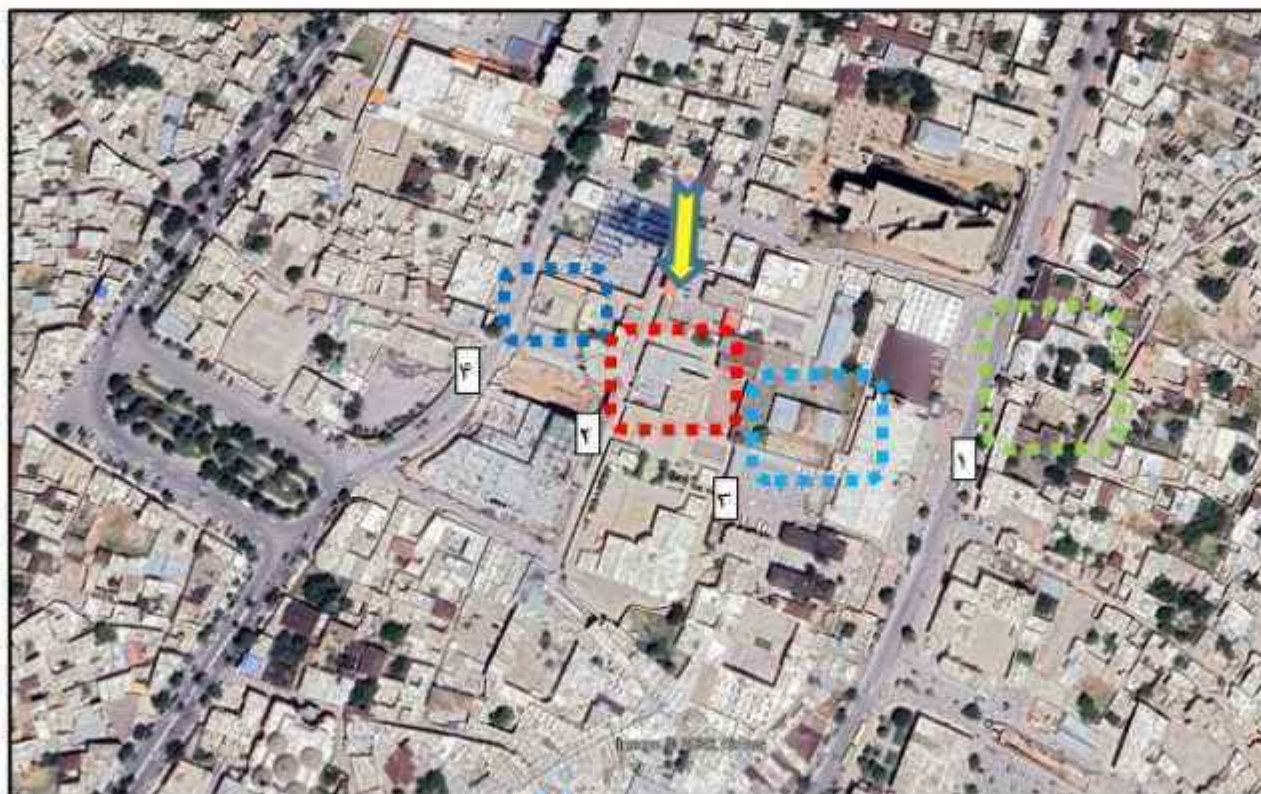


ID Card for the Assessment of Damages and Urgent Renovations

<i>Registration/Inscription Data</i>	<i>Registration/Inscription No</i>	1797, National Property List
	<i>Name & Age</i>	Shazdeh Mosque- Qajar period
	<i>Inscription Status</i>	National
	<i>Function</i>	Religious -Museum
<i>Incident Analysis & Origin of Damage</i>	<i>Date & Time of Incident</i>	09.03.2026; 06:00 & 18:00
	<i>Type of Destructive Agent</i>	Explosion wave (seismic)
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Superstructure (Main Building)
<i>Technical and Structural Assessment (Severity of Crisis)</i>	<i>Level of Destruction</i>	Midrange (ancillary buildings)
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Superstructure (Main Building)
	<i>Type of Damage</i>	Non-structural: wooden doors & windows and glasses of the complex - The stairwells were damaged by the blast wave of the explosion.



The location of Tekye Biglarbeygi, Kazazi High School, and the Souri House in relation to the location of the attack



Missile impact location:



- Biglarbeygi Tekkya (1)
- Ayatollah Abutorab Al-e Agha (Shazdeh) Mosque (2)
- Kazazi Highschool (3)
- Souri House (4)



Destruction of Tekye Beglarbeigi-Kermanshah





Mian Poshte Palace of Bandar Anzali (Navy Museum)



ID Card for the Assessment of Damages and Urgent Renovations		
Registration/Inscription Data	<i>Registration/Inscription No</i>	No.1651
	<i>Name & Age</i>	Navy Museum of Bandar Anzali, Pahlavi I Period
	<i>Inscription Status</i>	National
	<i>Function</i>	Museum
Incident Analysis & Origin of Damage	<i>Date & Time of Incident</i>	18.03.2026; 21:30 PM
	<i>Type of Destructive Agent</i>	Blast Wave (Seismic)
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Site/Precinct, Main Structure, Buffer Zone (Landscape/Attached Buildings)
Technical and Structural Assessment (Severity of Crisis)	<i>Level of Destruction</i>	Moderate Damage (Annexes)
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Site/Precinct, Main Structure, Buffer Zone (Landscape/Attached Buildings)
	<i>Type of Damage</i>	Structural Damage (Deep cracks, wall displacement/drift, roof collapse)



Ruins of the Mian Poshte Palace (Navy Museum) in Anzali, Gilan





Ruins of the Mian Poshte Palace (Navy Museum) in Anzali, Gilan





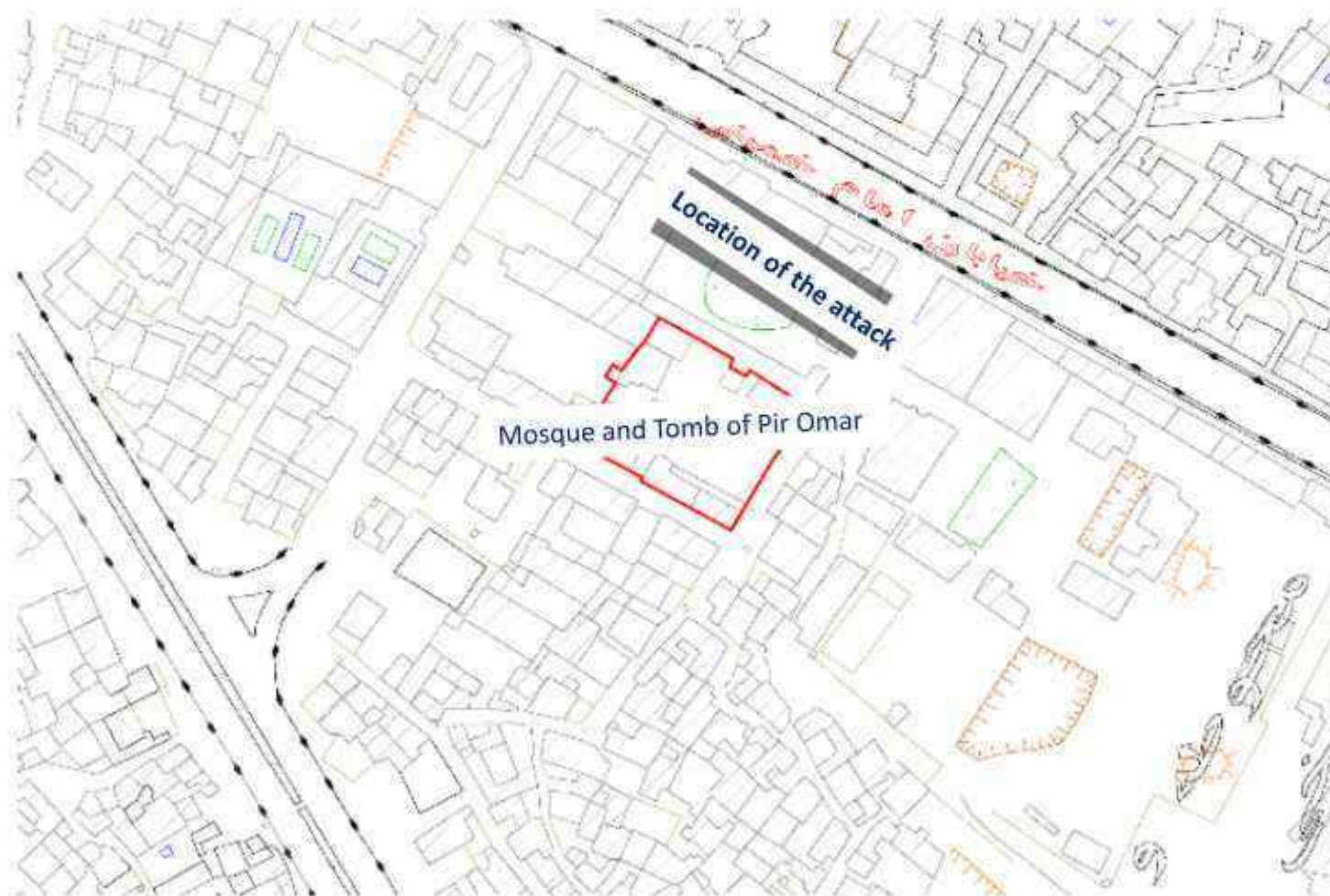
Mosque and tomb of Pir Omar Sanandaj - Kurdistan



ID Card for the Assessment of Damages and Urgent Renovations		
Registration/Inscription Data	<i>Registration/Inscription No</i>	No.2615
	<i>Name & Age</i>	Mosque and tomb of Pir Omar, Safavi Period
	<i>Inscription Status</i>	National
	<i>Function</i>	Religious
Incident Analysis & Origin of Damage	<i>Date & Time of Incident</i>	01.03.2026; 6 AM -03.03.2026; 11 AM
	<i>Type of Destructive Agent</i>	Explosion wave (seismic)- warhead- sound wave
	<i>Precise Situation of Damage</i>	Site/Precinct, Main Structure,
Technical and Structural Assessment (Severity of Crisis)	<i>Level of Destruction</i>	Physical and structural destruction
	<i>Type of Damage</i>	Physical, structural and environmental destruction Destruction of walls, ceiling, doors and windows, glass covering an area of 600 square meters



Location of the mosque and tomb of Pir Omar in relation to the location of the attack





Destruction of the mosque and tomb of Pir Omar, Sanandaj-Kurdistan





Destruction of the mosque and tomb of Pir Omar, Sanandaj-Kurdistan





Attachment

Letter from the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran to:

- UNESCO Director General
- Ministers for Culture of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia (ACHA) Member States
- Ministers for Culture of the Ancient Civilizations Forum (ACF) Member States
- Secretary-General of the UN Tourism
- UNESCO Director General
- UNESCO Director General
- Chairperson of the General Assembly of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage
- Chairperson of the Council of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia (ACHA)



Islamic Republic of Iran

**Ministry of Cultural Heritage,
Tourism and Handicrafts**

Date: March 12, 2026

H.E. Mr Mariusz Lewicki

Chairperson of the General Assembly of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Subject: Request for Urgent Action by UNESCO Regarding the Protection of Iran's Intangible Cultural Heritage

With highest regards and compliments,

The Islamic Republic of Iran takes great pride in the inscription of 27 elements of its rich intangible cultural heritage on UNESCO's Lists. Notable among these are the "Traditional Knowledge of Building and Sailing Iranian Lenj Boats in the Persian Gulf," inscribed in 2011 on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, and the "Art of Mirror Work in Iranian Architecture," inscribed in 2025 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. These elements constitute inseparable components of the cultural and historical identity of the Iranian nation and embody the profound civilizational values of our country.

It is with deep regret and grave concern that we must bring to your attention the serious threats and irreparable damage inflicted upon these precious heritages following the joint military aggression perpetrated by the United States of America and the Israeli regime against Iran. This aggression, which commenced on February 28, 2026, outside the framework of all binding international commitments, is currently ongoing.

Regarding the intangible heritage of the traditional knowledge of Lenj building and sailing in the Persian Gulf:

To date, approximately one hundred wooden Lenj boats in the port of Jask, Hormozgan Province, and a significant number of wooden Lenj boats in Khuzestan Province have been destroyed by fires resulting from these attacks. Given the severity of the damage, their repair and restoration are impossible.

Furthermore, the prevailing conditions of hostilities have rendered the protection of the restorers and skilled builders of these Lenj boats impossible. Consequently, the safeguarding and transmission of this valuable heritage—considered the shared capital of humanity—face serious challenges.

It is noteworthy that many of Iran's historical monuments, including Golestan Palace in Tehran (renowned for its Mirror Hall, a prominent example of Iranian mirror-work art) and Chehel Sotoun Palace in Naqsh-e Jahan Square, Isfahan (distinguished by its unique mirror-work decorations), along with numerous other historical buildings across the country, have sustained serious damage. It bears mentioning that Golestan Palace and Chehel Sotoun Palace are also inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (under the 1972 Convention). Given the intensity of the bombardment of residential and urban areas, precise information regarding the master artisans of the mirror work art is currently unavailable. Any harm to this human capital will place this valuable Iranian art in grave danger of extinction.



Islamic Republic of Iran

**Ministry of Cultural Heritage,
Tourism and Handicrafts**

Furthermore, the current situation has severely impacted the intangible heritage of Nowruz and its associated rituals, which are jointly registered with 12 other countries. Therefore, in light of the vital role of your esteemed organization in supporting the cultural heritage of humanity, the Islamic Republic of Iran, while vehemently condemning these aggressive acts, requests that your organization, within the framework of its mandate, adopt immediate reactive, supportive, and preventive measures. These measures may include the following:

- Issuing an official statement of condemnation;
- Declaring an official and firm position in support of Iran's cultural heritage;
- Issuing necessary international warnings to the hostile parties regarding the imperative to strictly prevent any direct or indirect attack on Iran's world and national cultural heritage and their surrounding buffer zones.

It is our earnest hope that, considering Iran's tangible and intangible cultural heritage constitutes part of the historical identity of the Iranian nation and the memory of civilization, your esteemed organization will place effective and urgent support for these manifestations of culture and civilization on your agenda, in line with your mission to safeguard humanity's cultural heritage.

Respectfully,

Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri

Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts
The Islamic Republic of Iran

Cc:

1. H.E. Mr GAO Zhang, president of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
2. Ms Fumiko Ohinata, Secretary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage



Islamic Republic of Iran
**Ministry of Cultural Heritage,
 Tourism and Handicrafts**

Date: March 13, 2026

H.E. Dr. Khaled Ahmed El-Enany Ali Ezz

Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Subject: Urgent Warning Regarding Threats to the Cultural Heritage of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Request for Effective Action to Address Them

With utmost respect and greetings,

Further to my previous correspondence dated March 2, 2026, I wish to bring to your attention that following the continuation of military aggressions by the United States of America and the Israeli Regime against the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the expansion of the scope of attacks to various military and non-military zones, many historical structures, sites, and places as well as valuable urban areas of our country are facing serious danger and destruction.

Hereby, while strongly condemning the recent attacks, I wish to declare my profound concern regarding the irreparable and irreversible risks arising from these aggressions against the ancient cultural heritage of Iran. Regrettably, sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, including the Golestan Palace, Naqsh-e Jahan Square (specifically the Abbasi Jameh Mosque and Ali Qapu Palace), Chehel Sotoun Palace (as a prominent example of Persian Gardens), as well as historical assets related to the Historical Valley of Khorramabad and prehistoric caves such as Falak-ol-Aflak Castle, are now exposed to direct threats as shared assets of humanity. These actions are clearly contrary to the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations, and constitute a blatant violation of international obligations.

Your Excellency is well aware that cultural and historical heritage is not merely a national wealth, but a shared heritage for all nations of the world and the foundation of historical identity and collective memory of human societies. Preserving these unique treasures is a moral and legal commitment transcending geographical and political borders, the realization of which depends upon the solidarity and shared responsibility of the international community.

The distinguished UNESCO has consistently committed itself to cooperating in the protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage, preventing their extinction and destruction, and encouraging necessary actions in this regard. It is expected that this Organization, by leveraging synergistic capacities and establishing close cooperation among member states, safeguard historical cultural sites against dangers arising from war, armed conflicts, and other natural and man-made disasters.

Accordingly, and citing the provisions of the 1972 UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the 1954 Hague Convention and its Second Protocol (1999) for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, as well as UN Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017) which designates the



Islamic Republic of Iran
**Ministry of Cultural Heritage,
 Tourism and Handicrafts**

deliberate destruction of cultural heritage as a tactic of war and a crime against humanity, I request Your Excellency, as the Director-General of the Organization, to utilize all available legal, civil, media, and diplomatic capacities. While strongly condemning these aggressive acts, I urge you to exert the necessary pressure to bring about an immediate halt to the attacks and prevent further damage to historical sites and areas. Silence or insufficient action in the face of these destructions could be perceived as a blow to the credibility and global mission of the Organization in preserving the heritage belonging to the global community.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude in advance for your attention and your prompt and responsible action towards safeguarding humanity's shared heritage against injustice and aggression.

With renewed respect,

Seyyed Reza Salehi Anjeli

Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts
 The Islamic Republic of Iran

Cc: H.E. Mr. Ahmad Pakatchi, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNESCO

Date: March 14, 2026

H.E. Dr. Khaled Ahmed El-Enany Ali Ezz

Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
(UNESCO)

Subject: Supplementary Report on Damage to National Heritage Sites and Warning Regarding
Increasing Threats to World Heritage sites in Iran

With utmost respect and greetings,

Further to my previous correspondences dated March 2 and March 13, 2026, regarding the military aggressions by the United States of America and the Israeli Regime against the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the necessity of protecting the country's cultural heritage, I hereby wish to bring to your attention new reports that have been confirmed by national authorities and officials responsible for cultural heritage protection in Iran.

While previous correspondences addressed the damage inflicted upon sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the purpose of this letter is to reflect the damages sustained by historical sites registered as National Heritage, which have unfortunately been targeted during these attacks. Documentation and field inspections indicate that during the recent attacks, heavy damage has been inflicted on these sites, which constitute an integral part of the cultural and historical identity of the Iranian nation. The damages include structural damage and the collapse of parts of the buildings, including architectural decorations, doors, and openings, as well as damage to the main body of the structures. A list of some of these damaged sites is as follows:

1. **Isfahan:** The Si-o-se-pol (Allahverdi Khan Bridge) of Isfahan, considered a masterpiece of Safavid architecture, has sustained damage. Furthermore, historical and cultural buildings located within the area known as the Safavid Government Complex, including the Teymourji Hall, the Jubbah-Khaneh Building (Museum of Contemporary Arts of Isfahan), the Rakib-Khaneh Building (Museum of Decorative Arts of Isfahan), and the Ashraf Hall, have been exposed to damage.
2. **Behshahr:** The Safi-Abad Palace in the north of the country, in Mazandaran Province, is a valuable historical site that has been damaged as a result of the attacks.
3. **Khorramabad:** The structures within the precinct and bounds of Falak-ol-Aflak Castle in Lorestan Province, which is one of the symbols of historical architecture in Iran, have suffered serious damage due to the bombardments.
4. **Sanandaj:** Numerous historical buildings in this city, located in western Iran, have been damaged, including the Khosrow-Abad Mansion, the Salair Saeed Mansion (Sanandaj Museum), and the Asif Vaziri Mansion (Kurdish House).

5. **Tehran:** In addition to the damages reported to the Golestan Palace World Heritage site, Iran's contemporary architectural heritage, which is also registered as national heritage, has fallen victim to these aggressions. Regrettably, the central structure and main building of the former Senate Palace, as well as the structure and historical mansion of the former Police Headquarters (Shahrbanu), have been completely damaged.

Your Excellency is well aware that one of the fundamental principles and noble objectives of UNESCO is the protection of the cultural and historical heritage of nations and its transmission to future generations. The destruction of these artifacts, which constitute the historical and cultural identity of a nation, deals an irreparable blow to the shared heritage of humanity.

Given the breadth of the attacks and the lack of distinction between military and non-military targets, there are profound concerns that with the continuation of these aggressions, other sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in Iran will also face serious danger and damage.

I request Your Excellency, given the sensitivity of the subject and the confirmation of these reports by specialized national authorities, to order the necessary and prompt measures for the precise documentation of these destructions and to exert diplomatic pressure to prevent further damage to the cultural heritage of Iran.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude in advance for your attention and rapid follow-up.

With renewed respect,

Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri


Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts
Islamic Republic of Iran

Cc: H.E. Mr. Ahmad Pakatchi, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNESCO

March 2, 2026

To:
H.E. Dr. Khalid Ahmed El-Ezmy Ali Ezz
UNESCO Director General
Paris, Republic of France

From:
Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts
Islamic Republic of Iran

Subject: Urgent Notification Regarding Damage to the Golestan Palace World Heritage Site

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you, with profound concern, of the serious damage inflicted upon a cultural property of outstanding universal value in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following the unlawful military attack carried out by the United States of America and the Israeli regime against my country.

According to verified national assessments, parts of the **Golestan Palace**, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2013, have sustained structural and decorative damage as a result of explosions and shockwaves caused by the aforementioned attacks. Furthermore, sections of the **Grand Bazaar of Tehran**, located in close proximity to the Palace and forming an integral component of the historic urban fabric of the capital, have also suffered damage.

Given the outstanding universal value of Golestan Palace and the historical significance of the surrounding urban context, these sites require urgent technical assessment, emergency stabilization measures, and protective interventions to prevent further deterioration.

As you are aware, these actions constitute a blatant violation of the international commitments of the United States of America and the occupying regime of Jerusalem, including **United Nations Security Council Resolution S/RES/2347 (2017)** regarding the protection of global cultural heritage. Moreover, Golestan Palace is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List under the **"1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage."** Pursuant to the provisions of this Convention, as well as the **"1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Additional Protocols,"** the protection of the heritage of humanity is a universal obligation

incumbent upon all State Parties.

In light of UNESCO's mandate and the collective responsibility of Member States to safeguard the cultural heritage of humanity, the Islamic Republic of Iran respectfully requests:

1. That UNESCO condemn the actions of the United States of America and the occupying regime of Palestine, which constitute a flagrant violation of UNSC Resolution S/RES/2347 (2017), the 1972 UNESCO Convention, and the 1954 Hague Convention, and that both parties be urged to immediately cease their attacks on Iran's historical cultural heritage and respect their international obligations in this regard.
2. The immediate dispatch of an independent UNESCO expert mission to assess the extent and nature of the damage;
3. The provision of technical cooperation and assistance for emergency stabilization, documentation, and the preparation of conservation plans in accordance with international standards;
4. The activation of the relevant monitoring and protective mechanisms under the World Heritage framework.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its full readiness to cooperate closely with UNESCO and its Advisory Bodies in addressing this urgent matter and ensuring the safeguarding of this irreplaceable heritage.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri


Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts
The Islamic Republic of Iran

Cc: H.E. Mr. Ahmad Pakatchi, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNESCO

Date: March 30, 2024

To:

The Honorable Ministers for Culture of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia (ACHA) Member States

Subject: Urgent Request to Halt Aggression Against Iran's Cultural Heritage

Excellencies,

Cultural and historical heritage, standing as the quintessential manifestation of human creativity and a living testament to the passage of time, constitutes not only an irreplaceable asset and a shared legacy for all nations but also the fundamental bedrock of historical identity and the collective memory of human societies. The safeguarding of these unique treasures is a trans-border moral and legal imperative, predicated upon the solidarity and shared responsibility of the international community.

In this regard, while vehemently condemning the recent military aggression perpetrated by the Israeli regime and the United States of America, we deem it imperative to draw Your Excellency's attention to the irreparable dangers these aggressions pose to Iran's ancient cultural heritage. Iran's sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List—including Golestan Palace, Naqsh-e Jahan Square, Chehel Sotoun Palace, the historical valley of Khorramabad, and prehistoric caves—now face direct threat as the shared capital of humanity. Such actions stand in flagrant violation of the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter.

In light of the provisions of the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention, the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Second Protocol (1999), as well as UN Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017)—which recognizes the destruction of cultural heritage as a tactic of war and a crime against humanity—we respectfully urge you, as a distinguished member of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia (ACHA), to mobilize all available legal, civil, media, and diplomatic capacities. Furthermore, we request that you condemn these criminal acts and exert the necessary pressure to bring an immediate halt to any damage or attacks on historical sites and monuments.

As you are aware, a core mandate of ACHA is to harness the synergistic capacities and enhanced interaction of member states for the protection of their cultural and evolutionary heritage. Therefore, it is our earnest hope that, through your solidarity and responsible action, we can collectively preserve this shared heritage against injustice and aggression.

Respectfully,


Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri

Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts
The Islamic Republic of Iran

Date: March 30, 2024

H.E. Mr. Rao Quan

Honorable Chairperson of the Council of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia (ACHA)

Subject: Urgent Request to Include the Issue of Deliberate Damage to Iran's Cultural Heritage on the Agenda of the Alliance's First Session

Your Excellency,

Cultural and historical heritage, as a manifestation of human creativity and a living testament to the passage of time, is not only an irreplaceable wealth and a shared legacy for all nations of the world, but also the fundamental bedrock of historical identity and the collective memory of human societies. The safeguarding of these unparalleled treasures constitutes a moral and cross-border legal commitment, the realization of which hinges upon the solidarity and shared responsibility of the international community.

In this regard, while strongly condemning the recent military aggressions by the Israeli regime and the United States of America against the Islamic Republic of Iran, I wish to inform Your Excellency that in the wake of these military attacks, at least 56 museums, historical monuments, and cultural sites in various provinces of the country have sustained serious damage. Notably among these are Iran's inscribed sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List, such as Golestan Palace, Naqsh-e Jahan Square, Chehel Sotoun Palace, the historical valley of Khorramabad, and prehistoric caves, all recognized as the shared capital of humanity. These actions stand in blatant violation of the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

As you are aware, numerous international documents and conventions emphasize the necessity of protecting cultural heritage during armed conflicts. In this regard, the 1972 UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the 1954 Hague Convention and its Second Protocol (1999), as well as UN Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017), have characterized the destruction of cultural heritage as a tactic of war and a crime against humanity. Furthermore, pursuant to Article 53 of the Additional Protocol II (1977) to the Geneva Conventions (1949), committing any acts of hostility against historic monuments and cultural property constituting the heritage of peoples is strictly prohibited.

Moreover, according to Article 8(2)(b)(iii) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998), intentionally directing attacks against buildings dedicated to education, art, science, or historic monuments constitutes a war crime and falls within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the Court. Therefore, beyond cultural organizations, the mandate of international bodies active in the fields of

international humanitarian law and international criminal law necessitates immediate engagement with this matter.

It is noteworthy that these aggressive assaults and the damage inflicted upon Iran's historical sites and intangible heritage—including the destruction of wooden Lari boats on the southern coasts and the damage to master artwork decorations in Golestan Palace (both of which are inscribed on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage)—violate the commitment to intercultural respect. By restricting access to tangible cultural heritage, these actions have also undermined the right to participate in cultural life, as stipulated in the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Cooperation (1966).

The collective action of the member states of the "Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia," as a noble entity that has assumed responsibility for the protection of Asia's cultural heritage, can have a profound impact along this path and play a unique role in safeguarding the heritage of the ancient continent.

In this regard, I request You, as the Honorable Chairperson of the Council of this Alliance, to place the critical issue of deliberate damage to Iran's cultural heritage—as an integral part of Asian civilization—on the agenda of the first session of this Assembly. This will facilitate the condemnation of such reprehensible actions, which run counter to international norms and principles, through deliberation and dialogue.

I would like to express my utmost gratitude in advance for Your attention and forthcoming action.

With the highest respect,


Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri

Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts
The Islamic Republic of Iran



Islamic Republic of Iran
**Ministry of Cultural Heritage,
 Tourism and Handicrafts**

Date: March 10, 2026

To:

The Honorable Ministers for Culture of the Ancient Civilizations Forum (ACF) Member States

Subject: Urgent Request to Halt Aggression Against Iran's Cultural Heritage

Excellencies,

Cultural and historical heritage, standing as the quintessential manifestation of human creativity and a living testament to the passage of time, constitutes not only an irreplaceable asset and a shared legacy for all nations but also the fundamental bedrock of historical identity and the collective memory of human societies. The safeguarding of these unique treasures is a trans-border moral and legal imperative, predicated upon the solidarity and shared responsibility of the international community.

In this regard, while vehemently condemning the recent military aggression perpetrated by the Israeli regime and the United States of America, we deem it imperative to draw Your Excellency's attention to the irreparable dangers these aggressions pose to Iran's ancient cultural heritage. Iran's sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List—including Golestan Palace, Naqsh-e Jahan Square, Chehel Sotoun Palace, the historical valley of Khorramabad, and prehistoric caves—now face direct threat as the shared capital of humanity. Such actions stand in flagrant violation of the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter.

In light of the provisions of the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention, the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Second Protocol (1999), as well as UN Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017)—which recognizes the destruction of cultural heritage as a tactic of war and a crime against humanity—we respectfully urge you, as a distinguished member of the family of ancient civilizations, to mobilize all available legal, civil, media, and diplomatic capacities. Furthermore, we request that you condemn these criminal acts and exert the necessary pressure to bring an immediate halt to any damage or attacks on historical sites and monuments.

As you are aware, a core mandate of ACF is to harness the synergistic capacities and enhanced interaction of member states for the protection of their cultural and civilizational heritage. Therefore, it is our earnest hope that, through your solidarity and responsible action, we can collectively preserve this shared heritage against injustice and aggression.

Respectfully,

Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri

Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts
 The Islamic Republic of Iran



Islamic Republic of Iran
**Ministry of Cultural Heritage,
 Tourism and Handicrafts**

Date: March 11, 2026

H. E. Ms. Sheikha N. Alnuwais,

The Honorable Secretary-General of the UN Tourism

I would like to convey the profound concern and strong protest of the Government and the Nation of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the illegal and unjustifiable aggressions committed by the United States of America and the Israeli Regime against the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Regrettably, during these military assaults—which constitute a blatant violation of international principles and human rights—the historical districts of cities and the vital tourism infrastructure of the country have sustained irreparable damage.

These inhuman aggressions, which have resulted in the martyrdom and injury of a large number of innocent civilians, have dealt a heavy blow to Iran's rich cultural heritage. It is deeply unfortunate that sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, including the Golestan Palace in Tehran, Naqsh-e Jahan Square and Chehel Sotoun Palace in Isfahan, Falak-ol-Aflak Castle and the Ancient Valley in Lorestan, along with dozens of other national monuments—each serving as unique destinations and artistic masterpieces in the tourism industry of Iran and the world—have been subjected to destruction.

Furthermore, the tourism industry, recognized as a driving engine for peacebuilding, sustainable development, and job creation—which sustains the livelihoods of a vast number of my fellow citizens at both national and local levels—has been completely disrupted. It is anticipated that even after the cessation of these hostilities, the negative and destructive impacts on the tourism industry will persist, and that the economy of the tourism supply chain and investment flows in this sector will remain entangled in this crisis for a long period, both directly and indirectly.

The continuation of this war against my country will not only inflict heavier damages on tourism infrastructure and historical-cultural attractions but will also negatively affect the perception and mindset of potential tourists for many years to come, thereby threatening the security of tourism destinations.

In light of the noble mission of the UN Tourism to promote sustainable travel, deepen friendship and peace among nations, and protect the shared heritage of humanity, I request Your Excellency to utilize all available diplomatic and legal instruments and mechanisms—such as issuing official statements, convening emergency sessions, and informing all members—to stop these attacks and damages, while strongly condemning these illegal attacks against the cultural heritage and tourism infrastructure of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is expected that the Organization will play its effective and constructive role within the framework of its agenda to participate in peace development and to bring about an immediate halt to these treacherous aggressions.

Sincerely,

Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri

Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts
 The Islamic Republic of Iran

