

## **Statement by Pharmaceutical Professionals, Members of Professional Associations, Physicians, and Stakeholders of Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Companies of Iran**

### **Condemning the U.S.–Israel Military Aggression Against Health Sector Infrastructure**

We, the undersigned, hereby express our deep concern and profound regret over the recent military attacks and the targeting of vital health sector infrastructure in Iran by the Israeli regime and the United States. These attacks have included pharmaceutical manufacturing plants, distribution companies, pharmacies, pharmaceutical machinery manufacturers, producers of pharmaceutical raw materials and chemicals, as well as production units involved in the supply of medicines and medical equipment. We strongly condemn these actions.

The pharmaceutical and medical equipment industries constitute fundamental pillars of any nation's healthcare system and play a direct role in saving patients' lives by providing essential medicines, medical devices, and critical supplies for vulnerable groups such as patients with special diseases, the elderly, and infants. Targeting such infrastructure is not only inhumane, but also poses a serious threat to public health and patients' access to essential healthcare services.

According to official reports, as a result of the hostilities initiated by the United States and the Israeli regime, approximately eight pharmaceutical factories have been partially or completely damaged, several pharmaceutical distribution companies have been attacked, and pharmacies in various cities have sustained damage. Furthermore, during these attacks, one of our pharmacist colleagues lost his life while on duty at a pharmacy. In addition, attacks on production units supplying essential goods—including an infant formula warehouse in Hamedan, the Pasteur Institute of Iran, pharmaceutical machinery manufacturing facilities, and companies active in the production of medicines and medical equipment—have raised serious concerns regarding the continued provision of vital nutritional and medical supplies for infants and patients.

These actions, beyond their direct human and economic consequences, deliberately target the entire chain of production, distribution, and public access to medicines and medical equipment, potentially causing far-reaching damage to the national healthcare system, medical centers, and patients dependent on life-saving treatments.

From the perspective of international law, health sector infrastructure is among the facilities that must receive special protection. Based on the fundamental principles of International Humanitarian Law—particularly the principles of distinction between civilian and military objects and proportionality—attacks on civilian facilities that play a vital role in public health are strictly prohibited. Under the 1949 Geneva Conventions and customary international humanitarian law, medical facilities, pharmaceutical supply chains, and healthcare services must be respected and protected and must not be subjected to attack or hostile actions.

Furthermore, the right to the highest attainable standard of health—recognized as a fundamental human right under Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights—requires states to refrain from actions that directly or indirectly undermine healthcare systems and people's access to medicines and healthcare services. As emphasized in General

Comment No. 14 of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, any obstruction to access to essential medicines or damage to infrastructure for their production and distribution may constitute a violation of obligations related to the right to health.

In addition, according to humanitarian law principles and interpretations by specialized international bodies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the healthcare supply chain—including pharmaceutical production, medical equipment manufacturing, distribution systems, and healthcare delivery centers—is considered part of protected essential civilian infrastructure during armed conflict. Any attack or destructive action against it may result in extensive humanitarian consequences for the civilian population.

Accordingly, pharmaceutical and medical equipment professionals and stakeholders in Iran strongly condemn the bombing and targeting of these industries and consider such actions a clear violation of the fundamental principles of International Humanitarian Law, the rules protecting civilians during armed conflict, and international obligations related to the right to health.

We hereby call upon all relevant governmental and private institutions, professional organizations, academic associations, and competent international bodies to urgently and seriously pursue, through legal and international mechanisms, the issue of these unlawful attacks on Iran's health sector infrastructure, pharmaceutical industries, and medical equipment sector. We also urge them to document, record, and raise these cases in international forums.

Protecting healthcare infrastructure, ensuring patients' access to medicines and medical equipment, and supporting healthcare workers is a universal human responsibility that must not be compromised by conflict and military actions.

**This statement has been signed by 540 physicians, pharmacists, members of professional associations, and manufacturers of pharmaceutical and medical equipment in Iran.**

**List of signatories: <https://www.karzar.net/292767>**