

Date: 8 September 2026 index number: MDE 13/1435/2026

USA/ISRAEL/IRAN: DEADLY US-ISRAELI STRIKES ON DENSELY POPULATED TEHRAN NEIGHBOURHOODS MUST BE INDEPENDENTLY INVESTIGATED

This briefing examines three deadly US-Israeli coalition attacks on densely populated residential areas of Tehran in March 2026. These are just three out of tens of thousands of strikes that have taken a devastating toll on civilians in Iran since the USA and Israel began their unlawful attacks on 28 February 2026. Civilians have lost their lives, and many others have lost their homes and livelihoods.

The USA and Israel carried out these armed attacks against Iran in violation of Article 2 (4) of the UN Charter, which prohibits “the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations”.

At least 1,469 civilians, including hundreds of children, were killed in Iran between 28 February 2026 and 24 July 2026, according to [official figures](#). The attacks also led to environmental damage and widespread destruction and damage to civilian infrastructure. Despite a fragile ceasefire agreed on 7 April 2026, hostilities have since resumed.

In response to the US/Israel unlawful war, Amnesty International has conducted a number of investigations into violations by all parties to the conflict. These include an investigation into the US attack on an [elementary school in Minab](#), Hormozgan province, which resulted in the deaths of 156 people including 120 children. The organization’s investigation found that the school was directly hit with precision-guided munitions as part of an attack on 12 other structures in the adjacent Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) compound raising concerns that it may have been targeted based on outdated intelligence and that the USA failed to take all feasible precautions to avoid civilian harm, particularly to do everything feasible to verify that the intended target was a military objective.

Amnesty International has also condemned US and Israeli attacks on [civilian infrastructure](#) and denounced repeated threats by [US President Donald Trump](#) to attack Iranian power plants, energy infrastructure and other civilian objects, including his warning in April 2026 that “a whole civilization would die”, language which may amount to a threat of genocide.

Internally, Iranian authorities have continued to [intensify repression](#), including by openly threatening to commit further mass killings of anyone expressing dissent or peacefully advocating for the downfall of the Islamic Republic system.

KEY FINDINGS

Amnesty International’s research into air strikes in the Niloufar, Resalat, and Javadieh neighbourhoods of Tehran between 1 and 13 March 2026 found evidence that explosive weapons with wide area effects were used in densely populated areas, killing at least 41 civilians and causing extensive damage to homes, a school, businesses and other civilian buildings.

In Resalat, air strikes hit a facility belonging to one of the Basij battalions of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), as well as three nearby buildings – at least one of which was a residential building – killing 16 civilians. Available evidence indicates that the residential building known as “Number 12” (*Pelak-e 12*) was likely struck separately from the Basij facility. In Niloufar and Javadieh, at least 25 civilians were killed when air strikes hit police stations and caused widespread damage to homes and other civilian structures.

Evidence gathered by Amnesty International, including satellite imagery, video evidence and testimonies, as well as state media reports, indicates that a Basij facility in Resalat and police stations in Niloufar and Javadieh were likely the intended targets of these strikes. While the USA and Israel announced strikes on “regime” targets in Tehran in March 2026, neither confirmed carrying out these three specific attacks.

Under international humanitarian law, police are normally considered civilians unless they are incorporated into the armed forces or are directly participating in hostilities. As Iran's police force is part of the broader armed forces structure in Iran, police stations may have qualified as military objectives under international humanitarian law, particularly if they were contributing to military operations at the time they were struck.

Regardless of whether the targeted facilities qualified as military objectives, the attacks were carried out in the densely populated Tehran neighbourhoods of Niloufar, Resalat, and Javadieh where a large presence of civilians was clearly foreseeable and resulted in devastating and yet entirely predictable consequences for civilians.

Under international humanitarian law, warring parties must ensure that their forces do not carry out direct attacks on civilians or civilian objects, as well as indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks, including by taking all feasible precautions to spare civilians.

When attacking a military objective, international humanitarian law obligates militaries to take all feasible precautions to avoid, and in any event to minimize, death and injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects. Such precautions include doing all that is possible to verify that a target is a military objective; choosing means and methods of attack that minimize civilian harm; assessing whether an attack would be disproportionate; giving effective advance warning to civilians where feasible; and cancelling an attack should it become apparent that it would be unlawful. In addition, when a choice is possible between several military objectives for obtaining a similar military advantage, the target selected must be the one where attacking it may be expected to cause the least danger to civilian lives and to civilian objects.

Commanders must choose weapon types and attack methods that reduce the risk of harming civilians and destroying civilian objects. The use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in the vicinity of concentrations of civilians has foreseeably indiscriminate effects and as such is prohibited under international humanitarian law. Additionally, an attacking party remains at all times bound by the principle of proportionality, weighing the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated from an attack against the expected harm to civilians and civilian objects, including the reverberating humanitarian consequences resulting from the attack. Launching indiscriminate attacks that kill or injure civilians and disproportionate attacks are war crimes.

With regard to the three strikes under investigation, the civilian death toll, the scale of destruction, the timing of the attacks, the impact on nearby civilian structures and the lack of effective advance warnings point to alarming failures by the US-Israeli coalition to abide by the obligations to take all feasible precautions to spare civilians and civilian objects. In none of the three attacks was an effective advance warning given to the civilian population, despite the particular importance of the obligation to take feasible precautions when conducting attacks in densely populated areas. The strikes may constitute indiscriminate attacks that failed to take all feasible precautions to minimize civilian harm and may therefore amount to war crimes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The US and/or Israeli authorities must carry out independent investigations to determine why weapons with wide-area effects were used in these densely populated residential areas, why these targets were selected for attack, what precautions if any, were considered, and whether the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated from the attacks was proportionate, given the inevitable civilian harm from these strikes.

The attacking parties must investigate whether their forces launched indiscriminate and/or disproportionate attacks thereby violating international humanitarian law, and whether these attacks constituted war crimes. The findings of these investigations must be made public to ensure transparency and accountability for victims and their families.

Amnesty International renews its calls for an [enduring ceasefire](#) and accountability for the unlawful US and Israeli attacks on Iran in violation of the UN Charter and for all violations of international law, including possible war crimes, committed during the conflict by the USA, Israel and Iran.

Amid the resumption of US strikes in Iran and renewed threats by US President Donald Trump to target civilian infrastructure, including 'knocking out' bridges and power plants, it is imperative that US and Israel end all unlawful attacks and that all parties strictly comply with international humanitarian law, including by taking all feasible precautions to avoid, and in any event minimize, incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects during the planning and execution of military operations.

The same international law obligations apply to Iran while carrying out retaliatory attacks, including against Gulf states.

Amnesty International calls on the USA, Israel and Iran to invite the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission to conduct enquiries into these attacks, as well as the attack on the Minab school which killed more than 150 people

including 120 children, and other allegations of serious violations of international humanitarian law by all parties, including attacks on energy infrastructure.

The organization also urges the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly to consider all possible avenues to deliver and ensure peace, security and justice for the unlawful attacks by the US and Israel against Iran.

METHODOLOGY

Amnesty International analysed satellite imagery and verified 60 videos published online in relation to the three incidents. The organization also reviewed official public statements made by authorities in Iran, Israel and the USA, as well as state and independent media reports, and conducted interviews with two individuals inside Iran. Pseudonyms have been used to protect their security. Amnesty International wrote to Israeli and US authorities on 17 July 2026 and to Iranian authorities on 31 July 2026. No response was received by the time of publication.

AIR STRIKE IN NILOUFAR NEIGHBOURHOOD

At least 20 civilians were killed in the attack in Niloufar Square on 1 March 2026 in central Tehran at around 9pm local time when people were on the streets and restaurants and shops were open, according to information gathered by Amnesty International from eyewitness accounts, state media reports, and public statements from Iranian officials.

Niloufar Square is a well-known leisure and commercial area that contains restaurants, medical clinics, a pharmacy, a boys' school, and commercial premises. At the time of the attack, around 9pm, restaurants and cafes in the area were open, according to [locals](#) as well as a journalist in Iran, Kiana, who visited Niloufar Square shortly after the attack, making the presence of civilians in and around the square readily foreseeable.

Eyewitness accounts published by [state media](#) consistently described at least [two explosions](#). The evidence gathered indicates that the attack directly struck and destroyed the 104 Abbas Abad Police Station (Kalantari 104), located on Eshghyar Street in Niloufar Square.

According to Iran's official [Islamic Republic News Agency](#), the attack also destroyed and damaged residential buildings and business establishments in the area, as well as the police station. Other state media [reports](#) also consistently stated that the police station was [struck](#) and [destroyed](#). Mehr News Agency [reported](#) that the US-Israeli coalition had carried out missile attacks on multiple law enforcement centres and police stations in Tehran and that among those destroyed was the police station in Niloufar Square.

According to [Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#), more than 20 civilians were killed in the Niloufar Square attack. State-affiliated media also [reported](#) that [several](#) police agents were killed, without giving further details.



Satellite imagery from 1 March 2026 (left) shows the police station building. On 6 March 2026 (right) imagery shows the building has been destroyed. The yellow circle highlights areas of damage and destruction visible in the imagery which extend beyond the police building. © 2026 Planet Labs PBC

Videos verified by Amnesty International show the police station [collapsed](#), with rescue workers clearing rubble amid [active fires](#).

Other verified videos show that the damage extended beyond the police station, significantly impacting surrounding [apartment buildings](#), [shops](#) and other [civilian](#) structures, and streets located up to approximately 100 metres away.

One [video](#) published by Iran's [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) on 6 March 2026 and verified by Amnesty International shows damage to the interior of a boys' school – Houshmand Shahid Hamedani Elementary School – located adjacent to Niloufar Square, including broken windows and doors, collapsed ceilings and damaged walls.

Another video shows a damaged [restaurant](#) in Niloufar Square, with bloodstaining on walls, floors, and seating areas. In the video, the owner states that two individuals were killed inside and several others were thrown out into the street from the blast.

Journalist, Kiana, described the damage to Amnesty International as severe and widespread, extending far beyond the police station. Kiana estimated that approximately 15 to 20 multi-storey apartment buildings had sustained major damage, rendering them uninhabitable. Kiana reported that among those killed were a father and son who worked at the bakery near the police station. She recounted:

"I went to Niloufar a little after that attack, and it was horrific. The extent of destruction was very large and expanded beyond the square. The houses surrounding the square had exploded. All the doors and windows had been ripped out. Everything had collapsed. Walls had come down. Inside the homes, there were signs of burning. It was clear that if anyone had been inside, they would not have come out alive. There was a bakery next to the police station, and one or two of those killed were a father and son who worked in the bakery and were there at the time [of the attack]. The further away you went from Niloufar Square, it became somewhat less severe, but there were still broken windows and collapsed walls. Some of the buildings were shops, some were houses. Many ordinary people were killed."

A shop owner interviewed by [Etemad Online](#) newspaper, based in Iran, for an article published on 14 March 2026, described the scene:

"Before the attack...dozens of people were sitting in front of the cafés in the square. All the shops were open... When the police station was struck, those who were sitting on the pavement in front of the cafés were killed... The whole street was full of blood. I saw one person whose chest had been pierced by broken glass. Many children, women and young people were killed here that night."



Stills from a video showing the impact of the strike on buildings and cars in Niloufar Square. © VahidOnline

Israeli authorities [publicly confirmed](#) that Tehran was a direct and central focus of air operations on 1 March 2026.

US officials [acknowledged](#) involvement in a large-scale, coordinated military campaign against Iran on 1 March 2026 without providing location specific details.

AIR STRIKES IN RESALAT NEIGHBOURHOOD

At least 16 civilians were killed during an attack in the densely populated neighbourhood of Resalat in eastern Tehran at around 2.30pm local time on 9 March 2026, according to information gathered by Amnesty International from open-source evidence, eyewitness accounts, state media reports, and statements from Iranian officials and the Iranian Red Crescent.

Resalat is centred on a major transport interchange and surrounded by residential neighbourhoods and businesses.

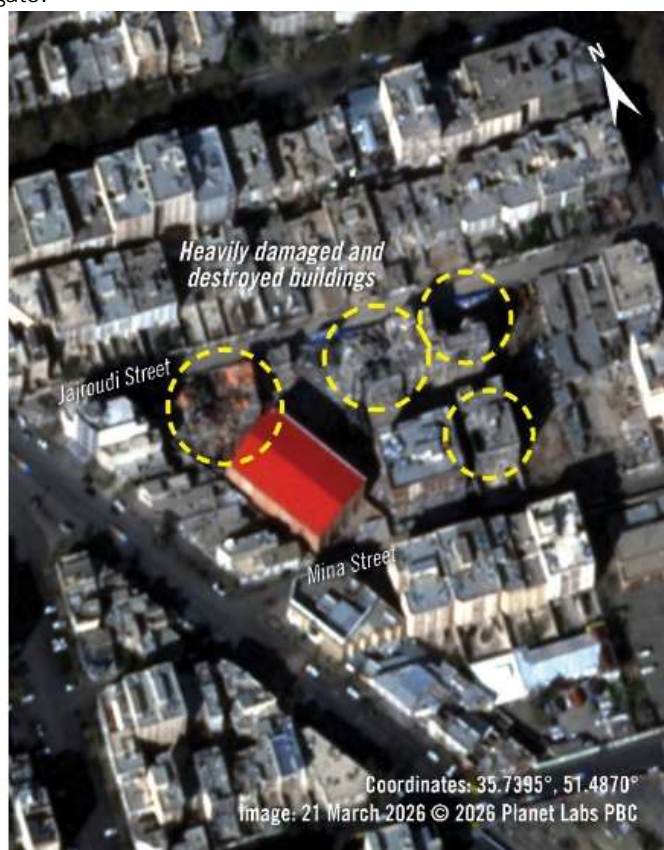
According to Amnesty International's research, the attack directly struck a facility belonging to a Basij battalion of the IRGC, located on Jajroudi Street.

Amnesty International is unable to independently verify the exact number of strikes that took place and the nature of all the buildings impacted in Resalat, but satellite imagery analysed by the organization shows four distinct buildings where heavy damage and destruction are visible: a building within the Basij facility on Jajroudi Street; two other buildings adjacent to the Basij facility on Jajroudi Street, one of which is a residential building known as "Number 12" (*Pelak-e 12*); and a building directly to the south of Number 12 and adjacent to it, on Mina Street. Ground videos show destroyed and damaged buildings and walls blown out.

While information from two informed sources and reports from state media indicate that the three aforementioned buildings near the Basij facility were residential, based on the evidence gathered, Amnesty International was only able to confirm that building Number 12 was a residential building.

State media reports indicated that [separate missiles](#) struck the buildings near the Basij facility, including the [Number 12](#) residential building. Evidence gathered by Amnesty International, including satellite imagery and videos, as well as witness

accounts, indicate that the Number 12 residential building was likely struck separately from the Basij facility. Building Number 12 is approximately 50 metres from the Basij facility gate.



Satellite imagery from 6 March 2026 (left) shows the Basij facility and nearby buildings in the Resalat neighbourhood. On 21 March 2026 (right), imagery shows four distinct buildings with heavy damage and destruction. © Planet Labs PBC

According to state media [reports](#), at least 16 residents were killed in Resalat, including 12 members of the same family who lived in Number 12, and dozens of others were injured. The 12 killed from the same family were [reported by state media to](#) comprise of six men and six women between the ages of 18 and 92.

Amnesty International spoke to an informed source, Payam, who witnessed the immediate aftermath of the air strikes in Resalat. Payam said at least 13 civilians in Number 12 were killed, including the building's caretaker and 12 members of one family. According to Payam, the Basij facility was struck first, followed in quick succession by strikes on the nearby buildings. He stated that those living in Number 12 were civilians:

“All the relatives were in that same building [Number 12] together. There were no military people, no special individuals, no-one connected to the government, no important person. Everyone living [in Number 12] was ordinary civilians...the whole building was families.”

Payam reported that bodies were so severely fragmented that some required DNA testing for identification, and that families were forced to bury some relatives with incomplete remains. He told Amnesty International about the disturbing state in which the bodies of two young women – Mohadeseh Rezaei, 26, and Maryam Mahmoudi, 28 – were found:

“Maryam Mahmoudi’s head had burst open, her eye had come out, and her face was burned. Her hand and foot were severed. The family of Mohadeseh Rezaei did not receive a complete body to bury.”

In an interview with [Etemad Online](#) newspaper on 3 June 2026, Hamed Mirzaei, the husband of Mohadeseh Rezaei, described how his family members were all killed inside residential building Number 12, including his wife, mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, uncle and aunt. He said that he was five minutes away from home when he heard multiple explosions. Upon arrival at the scene, he found an extended area of destruction:

“The scenes I saw were so horrific that they will never leave my mind. Body parts were found separately... A hand had been thrown to the entrance of the road or onto the roof of a house. When a leg was found, I looked at it for an hour to see whether it belonged to my father or grandfather.”

Other surviving family members have also given [testimony](#) to state media [recounting](#) their ordeal and stating that their building was residential.

Amnesty International found no state media reports or official statements indicating that members of the Basij or other security forces were killed during the attack.

Journalist Kiana reported that local residents, business owners, and Iranian Red Crescent workers had informed her that they believed military equipment was being stored at the Basij facility. Amnesty International has not been able to independently verify these reports.

According to [Mehr News Agency](#), a state media outlet, the Tehran Municipality announced that around 400 residential units in the area were damaged as a result of the strikes.

Analysis of verified [videos](#) shows that the air strikes damaged and destroyed buildings within the Basij facility and [along Jajroudi Street](#) and caused extensive damage to nearby homes and shops.

One verified [video](#), filmed by a local resident from nearby Valiasr Park and published online by the brother of one of the victims on his Instagram account, and verified by Amnesty International, captures the moment of the air strikes. The video begins with thick smoke rising, indicating that an air strike had already occurred, followed by the audible sound of at least two further incoming strikes in close succession in the same area, followed by additional plumes of smoke.

A video [recorded](#) immediately after the attack and verified by Amnesty International shows damage and destruction along Jajroudi Street and around its intersection with Nirooy-e Daryayi Street. The video shows the destroyed Number 12 building, as well as damage to surrounding buildings, including heavily damaged facades and shattered windows, while numerous men and women are running through the street covered in debris.

The Number 12 residential building, as well as other damaged and destroyed buildings, are also visible in other [ground](#) and [aerial](#) footage filmed in the aftermath of the strike and verified by the organization. The footage shows damage across [multiple streets](#), including videos of [two people](#) being rescued by Iranian Red Crescent personnel.



Still from a video showing rescue workers in front of the Number 12 residential building that was likely directly hit. © ISNA

Another verified [video](#) shows a distressed survivor covered in dust and seated amid the rubble, crying. He mentions his child to the rescue workers and gestures toward the rubble. Two individuals, who are not visible in the video, can be heard discussing the discovery of a body among the rubble.

Live [updates](#) issued by the Israeli military on its website showed a sustained pattern of air strikes [targeting](#) “Basij and Internal Security command centers” in Tehran on 9 March 2026.

US officials [confirmed](#) on 10 March 2026 that US air strikes were continuing inside Iran but did not provide specific information regarding Tehran. According to a Fact Sheet published by the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) on 6 April 2026, US forces targeted a broad range of sites throughout the armed conflict, including command-and-control centres, IRGC headquarters and intelligence facilities.

AIR STRIKES IN JAVADIEH NEIGHBOURHOOD

At least five civilians were killed during an attack in the densely populated neighbourhood of Javadieh in southern Tehran between mid-morning and midday on 13 March 2026, according to information gathered by Amnesty International from state media reports and public statements from Iranian officials.

Javadieh is a low-income neighbourhood characterized by ageing infrastructure and small, closely packed homes and other civilian structures.

Amnesty International’s research shows that the attack destroyed parts of Police Station 117 (Kalantari 117) on Ghorbani Street.

The destruction and damage extended well beyond the police station, and affected homes, businesses and other civilian structures across the surrounding neighbourhood.

State media [reported](#) that several nearby residential buildings were also destroyed and many others severely damaged.

The authorities have not published a total number for those killed in Javadieh but the [Martyrs and Veterans Affairs Foundation](#), a state body, announced that five members of one family were killed. [State media](#) and [domestic newspapers](#) named the five killed family members – mother, father, adult son and two adult daughters. At least 15 people were also injured, according to [state media](#) reports. Amnesty International found no state media reports or official statements indicating that members of the police and other security forces were killed during this attack.

Satellite imagery taken between 11 and 14 March 2026 and audiovisual evidence show extensive damage and destruction to the police station.



Satellite imagery from 5 June 2025 (left) shows the police station gate and the surrounding area. On 5 April 2026, imagery shows the area of destruction, highlighted with a yellow circle (centre). On 10 May 2026, imagery shows the areas that were cleared in red extending beyond the area of heavy destruction, further suggesting other buildings were heavily impacted and were cleared during the clean-up (right). © 2026 Planet Labs PBC

Based on Amnesty International's analysis of verified videos, the effects of the blast extended across several surrounding streets, including Tonggooyan Expressway, Ahmad Tarami Street, and Eslami street.

Verified videos [published](#) within hours of the attack show extensive destruction and damage to the [police station](#) and nearby buildings. The earliest verified [video](#) published, at 12:17 local time on 13 March 2026, shows emergency and rescue workers going through the rubble and carrying out rescue operations. They are seen carrying away an individual who appears injured and one body bag from the destroyed structures. The video also shows a distressed man pleading with rescue workers for the whereabouts of his sisters and their children.

In another verified [video](#), a journalist is seen walking through the rubble to access a damaged home.

Other [verified videos show](#) the blast impact extending up to more than 50 metres and causing [severe damage](#) to surrounding residential and commercial buildings. Destroyed structures included a four-story building adjacent to the police station, and another building directly opposite the police station, approximately 15 metres away. Several nearby businesses, including a restaurant, a bakery and a motorcycle repair shop were severely damaged.

A verified [video](#), published by Mehr News Agency on 28 March 2026, shows interviews with local residents and the extensive damage to residential homes. In the video, a local resident states that he was at home with his family when the attack took place and recalls hearing multiple explosions before parts of the home collapsed around them, causing debris to fall onto their heads.



Still from a video that shows parts of the police station in Javadih destroyed, as well as destruction and damage to other surrounding buildings in Ghorbani street. © Sharghdaily

Amnesty International reviewed a photograph [published](#) by Iranian state media alongside a series of images from the aftermath of the Javadih attack. The image shows several individuals standing around two dark, cylindrical pieces of metal lying on the ground. Based on an assessment of the visible fragments, Amnesty International's weapons experts identified the objects as consistent with a component of a Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM), specifically the section that houses the GPS guidance unit. JDAM kits are manufactured in the US and are known to be used by both US and Israeli forces.



Components of a Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) found in Javadiyeh as reported by Iranian state media. © Farsnews

Live [updates](#) issued by the Israeli military on their website on 13 March 2026 stated that the Israeli Air Force struck numerous command centres of “the regime’s security apparatus”, including headquarters of the “Internal Security Forces” in Tehran.

US officials [announced](#) that the USA conducted its most intensive air operations over Iran, including Tehran, on 13 March 2026 and indicated that air strikes formed part of a broader effort conducted alongside Israeli operations.

POLICE STATIONS AND FARAJA

Under international humanitarian law, police are presumed to be civilians unless they are incorporated into the armed forces or are directly participating in hostilities and police stations are civilian objects, unless they qualify as military objectives, that is, their nature, location, purpose or use make an effective contribution to military action and their destruction, capture or neutralization, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offers a definite military advantage.

Iran’s police force is formally known as the Police Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran and commonly referred to by its Persian acronym, FARAJA (*farmandehi-ye entezami-ye jomhoori-ye eslami-ye Iran*).

The command structure of FARAJA is complex and multilayered. On the one hand, it is one of the forces operating under the General Staff of the Armed Forces that include the Army, IRGC and Ministry of Defence, and is led by the general commander of FARAJA, who is appointed by the Supreme Leader, the commander-in-chief. On the other, FARAJA is institutionally affiliated with the Ministry of Interior at the national level and to provincial governors and county governors, who are the local representatives of the Ministry of Interior.

The term “armed forces” in the context of Iran refers to entities authorized to carry firearms either for military operations in armed conflicts or for domestic security operations. As such, the term does not solely denote military bodies as understood in a global context.

The statutory responsibilities of FARAJA include domestic policing and security; maintaining public order; preventing and investigating crimes; enforcing judicial orders; controlling borders; implementing passport and immigration regulations;

enforcing traffic laws; regulating firearms; protecting officials and designated facilities; and combating sabotage, terrorism and activities deemed to threaten national security. Iranian law also authorizes FARAJA to cooperate with the Army, the IRGC and other security forces when necessary but its legal mandate is distinct from that of the military and focused on domestic security.

After the armed conflict began on 28 February 2026, FARAJA [carried out](#) armed [patrols and checkpoints](#) in urban areas and operated alongside the IRGC, including its Basij battalions, in internal security deployments.

Given that FARAJA is part of the broader armed forces structure in Iran, police stations may have qualified as a military objective under international humanitarian law.

BASIJ BATTALIONS AND FACILITIES

The Basij battalions form part of the IRGC structure, operating through a nationwide network of local bases and battalions, including across Tehran.

Iranian officials and state-affiliated media [reported](#) that, during the conflict in March 2026, Basij forces conducted intelligence and security patrols, staffed checkpoints, monitored roads and other locations, and identified and arrested individuals accused of assisting the “enemy”. Senior officials also [described](#) using the neighbourhood-based networks to recruit and mobilize individuals into Basij units.

According to information gathered by Amnesty International, the Basij facility in Resalat was used for the command, coordination, mobilisation and training of local Basij forces.

As the Basij is part of the IRGC and the Islamic Republic of Iran’s broader armed forces structure, the facility likely qualifies as a military objective under international humanitarian law.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

International humanitarian law requires parties to the conflict to distinguish at all times between combatants and military objectives, on the one hand, and civilians and civilian objects, on the other hand. It is prohibited to directly attack civilians and civilian objects. Military objectives are limited to those objects which by their nature, location, purpose or use make an effective contribution to military action and whose partial or total destruction, capture or neutralization, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offers a definite military advantage.

Indiscriminate attacks – which fail to distinguish between military objectives and civilians or civilian objects – are prohibited. And disproportionate attacks – attacks which may be expected to cause incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, damage to civilian objects, or a combination thereof, which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated – are also prohibited.

Indiscriminate attacks which kill or injure civilians or damage civilian objects, and disproportionate attacks, which are carried out intentionally or recklessly, constitute war crimes.

Parties to the conflict must also respect the principle of precaution, which requires them to take constant care to spare civilians and civilian objects during military operations, including by taking all feasible precautions in attack to avoid, and in any event minimize, incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects. This includes giving effective advance warning of attacks which may affect the civilian population, unless circumstances do not permit.

Amnesty International’s analysis of the strikes on Niloufar, Javadieh and Resalat in Tehran raises serious concerns under international humanitarian law, particularly the principles of distinction and precautions in attack.

In Niloufar, available evidence indicates that the police station was directly struck in the midst of a densely populated urban environment at a time when civilians were predictably present. Even if the police station could qualify as a military objective or that FARAJA members were the intended target, the timing and location, the presence of civilians in surrounding residential buildings, restaurants and public spaces required the attacking forces to take all feasible precautions to avoid or minimize incidental death or injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects. The extensive blast damage affecting numerous apartment blocks, a school, and commercial premises, coupled with reports of significant civilian casualties, suggests the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects. The use in a densely populated area of a

weapon whose effects extend well beyond the targeted object raises serious concerns regarding the respect of the principles of distinction and precaution.

Similar concerns arise in relation to Javadieh, where the destruction of the police station appears to have caused widespread devastation across a densely populated and structurally vulnerable neighbourhood, including damage and destruction of nearby civilian buildings. Even if the police station could qualify as a military objective, the reported blast radius, extending up to 50 metres, and the scale of damage to homes and commercial properties indicate that the effects of the attack were not limited to the intended target as required by international humanitarian law. In such circumstances, the weapon used and the apparent failure to sufficiently mitigate foreseeable incidental harm to civilians and damage or destruction of civilian objects raise serious concern as to compliance with the principles of distinction and precautions in attack.

Considering the above, the strikes on Niloufar and Javadieh raise serious concerns that they may have been carried out in violation of the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks and the obligation to take all feasible precautions to protect civilians. The attacks should be investigated to determine whether they may amount to war crimes.

In Resalat, the Basij facility may have constituted a military objective and Basij forces qualified as combatants, meaning both the facility and forces could be the object of attack. However, available evidence shows that at least one residential building near the Basij facility was destroyed and was likely struck separately from the Basij facility. This indicates a possible violation of the principle of distinction if the residential building was targeted in the knowledge that it was a civilian object. Alternatively, the residential building may have been targeted in the mistaken belief that it constituted a military objective. This may indicate a violation of the principle of precaution, particularly the obligation to do everything feasible to verify that intended targets are military objectives, as well as to take other feasible precautions to spare civilians, including giving effective advance warning unless circumstances do not permit.

In light of the above, the strikes in Resalat may have been carried out in violation of the principle of distinction and the obligation to do everything feasible to verify that intended targets are military objectives. Investigations should clarify whether any residential buildings that were struck were intentionally targeted, or whether they were struck recklessly despite indications that they were civilian objects. If so, those attacks may amount to war crimes.

Amnesty International found no state media reports or official statements indicating that members of security forces were killed during the attacks in Javadieh and Resalat, while reports indicate that several FARAJA agents were killed in Niloufar.

In none of the three attacks was an effective advance warning given to the civilian population, a precautionary measure which is especially relevant when attacking objects in densely populated areas.

All three incidents should be investigated promptly, thoroughly, independently, impartially and transparently. If sufficient evidence exists, Israeli and US authorities should prosecute individuals reasonably suspected of criminal conduct in proceedings that fully respect the right to a fair trial and without recourse to the death penalty.