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Iran's legal battle at the UN: Can justice prevail?

July 1, 2025 @ 12:47pm



Iran's UN representative Amir Saeid Iravani speaks during a UN Security Council Meeting on the Israel-Iran conflict at United Nations headquarters on June 24, 2025 in New York. AFP

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LETTERS: On June 29, 2025, Iran submitted an official letter to the UN Secretary-General, urging the Security Council to recognise Israel and the United States as the instigators of a recent 12-day aggressive war.

The United Nations Charter is unambiguous. Article 2(4) prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

The General Assembly's Definition of Aggression (1974) further declares that any unprovoked armed attack by one state against another constitutes aggression – a grave breach of international peace.

Aggression is also recognised as a crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which empowers the ICC to try individuals, including political leaders, who plan or carry out aggressive wars.

Still, can the United Nations take action? The Security Council holds primary responsibility for addressing aggression under the UN Charter.

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