

Statement: Calling for the Immediate Halt of All Military Operations in the Middle East

On February 28, 2026, the United States and Israel launched a military attack against Iran without authorization from the United Nations Security Council or approval from the U.S. Congress. This violation of Iran's sovereignty through the use of force is a clear violation of international law. We express our grave concern over this military attack and the subsequent chain of retaliatory strikes. We are deeply saddened and outraged by the loss of numerous civilian lives, including children.

We strongly demand an immediate end to all military actions in the Middle East. Furthermore, we call upon the international community and all relevant nations, including Japan, to strive for diplomatic solutions and peacebuilding through nonviolent dialogue based on compliance with international law.

The normalization of situations in which international law is disregarded and the belief that peace can be achieved through force must not be allowed to spread further.

Drawing on the lessons of history, we, the YMCA of Japan, have made it our mission to "preserve human rights, seeking justice and fairness" and "recognizing our historical responsibility to the people of the Asia-Pacific region, we shall walk forward hand in hand with the people of the world to build a world of peace" as stated in the Japan YMCA Statement of Basic Principles.

Justice, fairness, and peace cannot be achieved through violence or force. Through solidarity with our fellow YMCAs worldwide and with people living in our communities, we will continue to pray for and work toward peace so that the precious lives and human rights of each individual are protected.

March 9, 2026

The National Council of YMCAs of Japan

Rev. Toshimasa Yamamoto, President

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