

Date: 7 May 2026

Ref: IR-MSRT-1405-001



To:

Mr. Taha Ayhan

Chairman of the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF)

Istanbul World Trade Center, 10th Floor, Suite A3

Yenibosna, Istanbul 34149, Turkiye

Subject: Urgent Appeal Regarding the Systematic Destruction of Educational and Scientific Infrastructure in Iran and Its Impact on the Future-Ready Youth

Your Excellency,

The Union of Student Scientific Associations of Political Science of Iran, as the representative body of political science students across Iranian universities, has the honour to express its highest consideration and respect to you and your esteemed organisation.

We extend our congratulations on the designation of the year 2026 as the Year of Future-Ready Youth. At the same time, we wish to convey our deepest concern over an unprecedented situation that directly targets the future of the young generation in Iran. The ICYF's motto this year promises to prepare youth for the challenges ahead. However, what is currently taking place in Iran not only prevents young people from becoming "ready" for the future but also deliberately destroys the very future and civilisational identity of the younger generation.

More than sixty days have passed since the beginning of the military aggression by the United States and Israel against Iranian territory. During this period, educational and research infrastructures — the very foundations for the growth and future-building of young people — have been systematically targeted. According to available assessments, the short- and long-term consequences for the youth and student population are catastrophic, exposing them to serious threats: fundamental disruption of education and research; displacement of thousands of civilians, a significant proportion of whom are families with school and university students; irreversible loss of human and scientific capital; widespread destruction of educational and research equipment and facilities; severe psychological trauma; and the rupture of international scientific and research networks.

Higher education institutions in Iran have been at the forefront of this destruction. Based on international reports, at least 30 major universities across Iran have been struck between 28 February and 7 April 2026. Notable among them are: Sharif University of Technology (Iran's leading engineering university, with its engineering departments, Institute for Nanoscience, and computer systems destroyed); Isfahan University of Technology (attacked twice); and Shahid Beheshti University (complete destruction of the Laser and Plasma Laboratory and a student dormitory). Official figures released by the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicate that at least 180 faculty members and students — representing the country's elite and future-building young generation — have been martyred. Dozens of knowledge-based companies, employing thousands of educated young graduates, have been damaged, with losses to the knowledge-based ecosystem amounting to millions of dollars.

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In addition, 1,489 educational units and schools across 22 provinces have been destroyed or damaged.

These attacks are not “mistakes” or “collateral damage”; they form a systematic pattern designed to destroy Iran’s scientific and civilisational future. Alongside the physical attacks, on 7 April 2026, U.S. President Donald Trump explicitly threatened to annihilate Iranian civilisation in a message posted on Truth Social. These statements — widely echoed in global media — constitute not a simple threat but an official declaration of intent to destroy the identity and future of an entire nation.

The young generation of Iran, which was to inherit a civilisation thousands of years old, now faces on one hand the bombing of universities and schools (the main pillars of education and growth) and on the other hand an explicit threat of “civilisational annihilation”. This situation directly challenges the mission of ICYF as defined in its statutes: “to address socio-economic, moral and cultural problems of youth in member states”, “to promote solidarity based on common Islamic values”, and “to empower youth as future leaders of the Islamic world.”

Your Excellency,

We are fully aware that the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum has so far taken effective steps towards solidarity among the youth of the Islamic world. Now is the time for this solidarity to manifest itself in a concrete and immediate manner with respect to the Iranian youth, whose scientific and psychological infrastructure is being targeted. Silence in the face of this situation is incompatible with the slogan “Future-Ready Youth” as well as with the Islamic and humanitarian commitments of ICYF.

Therefore, the Union of Student Scientific Associations of Political Science of Iran, while strongly condemning the attacks on educational and research infrastructure and the threatening statements against Iranian civilisation, respectfully requests Your Excellency to take the following actions:

First: Issue an immediate official statement condemning the systematic attacks on Iranian universities and schools, emphasising the contradiction of such acts with the Year of Future-Ready Youth.

Second: Establish a special fact-finding working group to document the full extent of damage to the Iranian educational and research system and submit a report to relevant international bodies.

Third: Cooperate in sending volunteer educational and capacity-building teams composed of young students and professors from OIC member states to Iran.

Fourth: Create a support platform for Iranian researchers and students by providing study and research opportunities at universities in OIC member states.

Fifth: Accept the Union’s membership in the Model OIC (MOIC) student clubs network, with a view to designing joint programmes to enhance the academic, research and cultural level of Iranian political science students during the post-war reconstruction period.

The Union, while emphasising the necessity of solidarity among civil society institutions of the Islamic world to defend the future of the young generation, reaffirms its full readiness for any cooperation and coordination with the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum in documenting damages, supporting Iranian youth, and restoring the violated rights of the country’s educational and research system.

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We trust that through the high resolve of freedom-seeking youth and students of the Islamic world, we shall witness brighter and more peaceful days in the region and in Islamic lands.

With renewed respect,

Arvin Tanha
Secretary-General
Union of Student Scientific Associations
of Political Science of Iran



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