

**Date: April 05 , 2026**

**To: Prime Minister Mark Carney**

**Subject: Urgent Appeal to Canadian Health Authorities and the International Medical Community Regarding the Attack on the Pasteur Institute of Iran**

We express our profound concern and unequivocal condemnation of the attack on the Pasteur Institute of Iran, reportedly carried out by the United States and Israel. This incident represents not only a serious escalation of violence but a direct violation of the foundational principles governing the protection of healthcare and scientific institutions.

We address this statement specifically to institutions and professionals entrusted with safeguarding public health and medical ethics, including Health Canada, provincial ministries of health, academic medical centers, and international humanitarian organizations such as Médecins Sans Frontières.

The Pasteur Institute of Iran, established in 1920 as part of the global Pasteur network, has played a critical role in infectious disease control, vaccine development, and epidemiological surveillance for over a century. Its work extends beyond national borders, contributing to regional and global health security. Any disruption to such an institution weakens collective preparedness against emerging and re-emerging diseases.

From a medical and public health perspective, the targeting of research laboratories, vaccine production facilities, hospitals, and humanitarian health centers—including Red Crescent infrastructures—constitutes a direct threat to civilian populations and the integrity of global health systems. These are not merely national assets; they are integral components of transnational disease prevention and response frameworks.

Under International Humanitarian Law, including the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, medical facilities and personnel enjoy explicit protection. Furthermore, United Nations Security Council Resolution 2286 (2016) unequivocally condemns attacks against medical facilities and demands accountability. Any intentional or indiscriminate attack on such infrastructure may constitute a war crime subject to international prosecution.

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For the global medical community, this is not solely a geopolitical issue—it is a matter of professional integrity and ethical obligation. The principles of medical neutrality, protection of patients, and preservation of healthcare infrastructure must be upheld without exception.

We therefore call upon:

- Health Canada and relevant provincial health authorities to formally acknowledge and condemn attacks on protected medical and scientific institutions;
- Canadian medical associations, universities, and research bodies to issue clear professional statements reaffirming the inviolability of healthcare infrastructure;
- Médecins Sans Frontières and similar organizations to advocate for independent, transparent international investigations into this incident;
- The broader international health and scientific community to actively support mechanisms of accountability through established legal frameworks, including engagement with the International Criminal Court where applicable.

Silence in the face of such actions risks normalizing violations that undermine decades of progress in global health cooperation and humanitarian law. As members of a profession grounded in the preservation of life, the medical community bears a unique responsibility to speak clearly and act decisively.

The protection of healthcare is not conditional. It is a legal obligation, a moral imperative, and a cornerstone of civilized society.



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