UN Raises War Crimes Allegations Over US Strikes in Iran

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The United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran has said that US military strikes on a primary school and a sports facility in Iran could potentially constitute war crimes. The same report also accused Iranian authorities of committing crimes against humanity while suppressing anti-government protests.

The findings were published on Thursday (September 17). The report is scheduled to be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

According to reports by Reuters and Al Jazeera, the investigation examined US military operations during the war in Iran that began in February, as well as the actions taken by Iranian authorities to suppress anti-government protests that spread across the country during the same period.

According to the fact-finding mission, a US strike on a primary school in Minab, Iran, killed more than 150 people, including around 120 children. A separate strike on a sports facility in Lamerd left 22 civilians dead or injured. The mission examined whether the attacks on civilian facilities complied with international law.

The investigation also found evidence of serious human rights violations by Iranian authorities during the suppression of anti-government protests that began in late December. The report cited unlawful killings, torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances and internet shutdowns. The mission said such acts could amount to crimes against humanity.

Neither the US nor Iranian permanent missions in Geneva immediately commented on the report. US officials have previously maintained that their military operations were conducted in accordance with the laws governing international armed conflict. Iran, meanwhile, has repeatedly rejected allegations of systematic human rights violations in the country.