

The Iran–Israel–United States Armed Conflict: “In Focus” Syllabus Supplements (2025-2026)

August 2026

Overview: This supplement includes materials that focus on the legal, strategic, and oversight and accountability dimensions of the Iran-Israel-U.S. armed conflict (last updated August 2026; additional relevant analysis may also have been published since then, available on Just Security’s [website](#)). As with all articles on Just Security, the articles represent the views of the individual authors.

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A. Jus Ad Bellum (International Law Governing the Resort to Military Force)

1. Tess Bridgeman and Oona Hathaway, [At the 60-Day Mark, the Iran War is Triply Illegal](#) (May 2026)
2. Brian Finucane, [On the State Department Memorandum "Operation Epic Fury and International Law"](#) (April 2026)
3. Tom Dannenbaum, Rebecca Hamilton, Adil Ahmad Haque, Oona A. Hathaway, and Gabor Rona, [Over 100 International Law Experts Warn: U.S. Strikes on Iran Violate UN Charter and May Be War Crimes](#) (April 2026)
4. Geoffrey S. Corn, Dick Jackson, Chris Jenks, and Michael W. Meier, [In Response to the Letter by International Law Experts](#) (April 2026)
5. Adil Ahmad Haque, [Aggression by the United States and Israel, Misdirected Self-Defense by Iran, and Collective Self-Defense of Gulf States](#) (March 2026)
6. Eliav Lieblich, [Double Preemption, Imminence, and the U.S. Attack Against Iran](#) (March 2026)
7. Gabor Rona, [Fighting an Illegal War and Fighting a War Illegally: the Link between Regime Change Operations and International Humanitarian Law Violations](#) (March 2026)
8. Adil Ahmad Haque, [The Illegality of Israel's Military Campaign in Lebanon](#) (March 2026)
9. Brian Finucane, [An Unserious Justification for an Unnecessary War: Assessing the U.S. "Article 51" Letter to U.N. on Iran War](#) (March 2026)
10. Michael Schmitt, Tess Bridgeman and Ryan Goodman, [Expert Q&A: Are U.S. Threats or Use of Force Against Iran Lawful?](#) (February 2026)
11. Rebecca Hamilton, [International Reactions to Military Strikes on Iran: A Tipping Point for the UN Charter?](#) (February 2026)
12. Adil Haque, [Indefensible: Israel's Unlawful Attack on Iran](#) (June 2025)
13. Brian Finucane, [Assessing the U.S. Article 51 Letter for the Attack on Iran: Legal Lipstick on the Use of Force Pig](#) (July 2025)
14. Amichai Cohen and Yuval Shany, [A New War or a New Stage in Ongoing War – Observations on June 13 Israeli Attack against Iran](#) (June 2025)

B. International Humanitarian Law/Law of Armed Conflict and Law of State Responsibility

1. Michael Schmitt, Tess Bridgeman and Ryan Goodman, [On Ambassador Waltz's Defense of Potential Law of War Violations in the Iran Conflict](#) (April 2026)
2. Michael W. Meier, ["Precision Strike Missiles" \(PrSMs\) in Iran War: The U.S. Obligation to Conduct a Legal Review of New Weapons](#) (April 2026)



3. Margaret Donovan and Rachel VanLandingham, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.), [*When War Crimes Rhetoric Becomes Battlefield Reality: The Slippery Slope to Total War on Iran*](#) (April 2026)
4. Luca Trenta and Arturo Jimenez-Bacardi, [*Khamenei's Killing and the Perilous Death of the Assassination Ban*](#) (April 2026)
5. Michael Schmitt, Tess Bridgeman and Ryan Goodman, [*Expert Q&A: A Targeting Primer on Iran War*](#) (March 2026)
6. Marko Milanovic and Michael Schmitt, [*Was Targeting Ayatollah Khamenei and Other Iranian Leaders Lawful? What Precedents Does it Set?*](#) (March 2026)
7. Joseph N. Orenstein, [*When Intelligence Fails: A Legal Targeting Analysis of the Minab School Strike*](#) (March 2026)
8. Daniel Maurer, [*Hypothetical Legal Advice to SecDef Hegseth on "No Quarter" Statement \(from Office of General Counsel\)*](#) (March 2026)
9. Klaudia Klonowska and Michael Schmitt, [*Iranian Attacks on the Amazon Data Centers: A Legal Analysis*](#) (March 2026)
10. Annie Shiel and Priyanka Motaparthi, [*In the U.S. Strike on an Iranian School, What a Serious Military Investigation Should Look Like*](#) (March 2026)

C. Naval Warfare and the Strait of Hormuz

1. Daphné Richemond-Barak and Jacob Stoil, [*Taking a Toll: How Allowing Iran to Charge for Transit in the Strait of Hormuz Could Undermine U.S. Strategy in the Pacific and Beyond*](#) (May 2026)
2. Mark Nevitt, [*Five "Blockades" and One Legal Problem: Naval Enforcement in the U.S.-Iran Conflict*](#) (May 2026)
3. Mark Nevitt, [*Mined and Blockaded: Iran's Unlawful Mining and the U.S. Port Blockade*](#) (April 2026)
4. Michael Schmitt and Elizabeth Hutton, [*Sinking Iran's Frigate IRIS Dena and the Law of Naval Warfare*](#) (March 2026)
5. Michael Schmitt and Rob McLaughlin, [*Expert Q&A on Key Law of Naval Warfare Issues in the Conflict with Iran*](#) (March 2026)
6. Mark Nevitt, [*Legal and Operational Issues in the Strait of Hormuz: Transit Passage Under Fire*](#) (March 2026)

D. Domestic War Powers and Congressional Oversight

1. Brian Finucane and Tess Bridgeman, [*How Congress Can End Trump's Iran War and Prevent the Next One*](#) (July 2026)
2. Tess Bridgeman, [*Time to Repeal INARA and Move Forward with the Iran MoU*](#) (June 2026)



3. Michael J. Glennon, [*The Court Gutted Congress's War Power. It's Time to Give It Back.*](#) (March 2026)
4. Brian Finucane, [*Iran, War Powers, and the Power of the Purse: Leverage or Legalization*](#) (March 2026)
5. Tess Bridgeman, Kate Brannen, and Ryan Goodman, [*Top Questions the Trump Administration Needs to Answer on War with Iran*](#) (March 2026)
6. Brian Egan and Tess Bridgeman, [*Top Experts' Backgrounder: Military Action Against Iran and US Domestic Law*](#) (February 2026)
7. Michael J. Glennon, [*The U.S. Attack on Iran Was Unconstitutional*](#) (July 2025)

E. Intelligence, Strategy, National Security Policy, and Regional Implications

1. Jason Abbott, [*What A War Game Already Told Us About Iran*](#) (May 2026)
2. Marc Polymeropoulos and Jeremy Hurewitz, [*How Good is Our Intelligence on Iran?*](#) (April 2026)
3. Brianna Rosen, Tess Bridgeman, and Nima Gerami, [*The Day After U.S. Strikes on Iran's Nuclear Program: A Policy and Legal Assessment*](#) (June 2025)

