



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# Operation Epic Fury and International Law – SimplifiedA

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Article 2(4) of the UN Charter prohibits the use of force against another country's sovereignty.

## **Only Two Exceptions**

### **?What is Operation Epic Fury?**

Operation Epic Fury refers to joint military strikes carried out by United States and Israel against Iran on 28 February 2026.

The strikes targeted Iranian leadership and military infrastructure.

The attack reportedly killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

## **Main Legal Issue: Use of Force**

International law strictly limits when countries can use military force.

## **Rule under International Law**

Countries can legally use force only when:

UN Security Council authorises it

Self-defence against an armed attack (Article 51)

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## **Why Critics Say the Strike Was Illegal**

The UN Security Council did not approve the attack.

Iran was not attacking the U.S. or Israel at that time.

Iran was engaged in nuclear negotiations when the strike happened.

## **Regime Change and International Law**

The operation was reportedly aimed at removing Iran's government.

## **Why This Is Problematic**

International law prohibits forcible regime change.

The principle protects the political independence of states.

Changing another country's government through military force violates the norm of non-intervention.

## **Pattern of Military Actions**

The article argues that Operation Epic Fury is part of a larger pattern of unilateral military actions.

Examples mentioned include:

Military actions in Venezuela in 2025–26.

Cross-border strikes conducted without international approval.

The concern is that powerful countries might begin to treat international law as optional.

## **Risks of Regime Change Operations**

History shows that removing governments through military intervention often creates instability.

Examples cited in the article:

2003 Iraq War

2011 NATO intervention in Libya

## **Common consequences:**

State collapse

Long-term conflict

Rise of armed groups

Regional instability.

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## **Why International Law Matters**

International law exists to prevent uncontrolled wars.

Key purpose:

Maintain global stability

Protect weaker states

Prevent unilateral military aggression.

If powerful states ignore the rules, other countries may also start using force more freely.

## **Possible Responses by the International Community**

Inside the United States

Congress could restrict military funding for the operation.

The War Powers Resolution (1973) requires congressional approval for long wars.

## **International Level**

UN General Assembly action under the Uniting for Peace procedure.

Legal cases at the International Court of Justice.