

IRAN: Western Media Stay Silent – The Minab Massacre

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Alireza Akbari (AA): We are right at the entrance of Hajji Khademi village. It is some four to five kilometres away from the Minab school in southern Iran. And next to me is standing a family of martyrs that have lost five family members. You can see their photos here. Two teachers and three school children. They were all killed in the Minab bombing that was carried out on the first day of the US-Israeli war on Iran. Alongside these five dear members, I can say in total 168 people were killed in the Minab school and 95 people were injured. And it was not only the school complex, the whole residential area was bombed reportedly by three Tomahawk missiles. At some 11 in the morning the bombing started and many people were killed there. Here is one family. They lost five members there and their last name is Karimi. And you can see here the names of the school children: Sepeh Karimi, Saleh Abbasi, Hannaane Zakerikhahan, and two teachers, Haniseh Karimi and Elham Karimi. Maybe they are from one family because they have the similar last name, two teachers and three school children.

Dimitri Lascaris (DL): And what is their relationship to the victims?

AA: "I am Mohammad Reza Karimi. I am the father of Sepeh. And I'm the brother of these two teachers. And I'm the uncle of Hannaneh and uncle of Saleh".

DL: And this gentleman?

AA: "My name is Omid Zakiri Khan. I am the husband of Elhan. I'm the father of Hannane. My cousin [Haniseh] and one of our distant relatives from the mother's side [Sephe], some cousin you can say, he is the grandson of my uncle [Saleh], and he is my father, martyred, maybe 40 years ago".

DL: And the lady?

AA: "I am Fatemah Karimi. I'm the mother of Saleh. And I'm the sister of these two teachers who were killed at Minab. And I'm the aunt of Hananeh and Sepeh". She's the aunt of these two and mother of Saleh.

"In the name of God, I'm Mohsen Karimi. I'm the husband of Haniseh". Haniseh was a teacher. And these two are the sons of Haniseh.

DL: Are they twins?

AA: Yes.

DL: What are their names?

AA: "Their names are Mojib and Mojir." Mojib, Mojir. How old are they? "They are 3 years and 4 months old." Any questions?

Journalist: These two young boys here, have they fully grasped that their mother is no longer around? Is that an inappropriate question?

AA: "Yes. Yes, and they want their mother every day before they go to sleep."

DL: I have a question. I have a couple of questions.

AA: And they say "where is our mother – They ask questions, 'where is our mother? When will she come? Where is she?' And I tell them that your mother is now in heaven, in the sky. And we hope that with these massacres and these war crimes, all people in the world can understand what is happening here. I hope they can understand it was a really big war crime, that they killed innocent teachers and school children in Minab. I hope that they pay the price for their war crimes. I hope they pay the price for the blood that they shed in Minab. They left these two innocent children without their mother in their young age. They need their mother now. There is no mother. They do not have their mother". Dimitri?

DL: The three of us, we come from the West. I'm curious to know, before today, has any Western journalist come to speak to them?

AA: "No one".

DL: The United States military has acknowledged that it destroyed the school. Has anybody from the United States government or the military come to interview you?

AA: No, Dimitri. No one.

DL: Anybody from the United Nations Human Rights Council?

AA: No one.

DL: Have you been offered any compensation for the killing of your family members?

AA: "No."

DL: Thank you.

DL: Good morning, this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you for Reason to Resist from Minab in Iran on March 28th, 2026. We just arrived at the graveyard where many of the 168 victims

of the bombing of the Minab girl school on March 1st, 2026 have been buried. We have been told that many of these victims were laid to rest initially in temporary graves. And you can see behind me that permanent graves are being dug for the victims, some of the victims who have not yet been laid to rest in permanent graves. We just visited with a family that lost five members.

AA: We are in southern Iran, in the city of Minab, some 90 kilometres away from Hormozgan. You have heard the story of Minab and what happened here on the first day of war – 168 people were killed, including school children and teachers. And now we are in the graveyard of this city. And we can see that some people and some families are still mourning the loss of their loved ones. And they are still here nearly one month after the massacre and after the war crimes that happened by the US and Israeli regimes. Families are still here mourning this massive war crime. And still I can see the photo of school children including this girl here. The rest of them are covered with the flag of Iran off. When the attack was targeted here, the news broke out in the whole world. And in the beginning, US officials ignored accepting the war crime that was committed by them, but later it was clearly known that the Tomahawk missile reportedly, as I've heard, three missiles targeted this school in Minab, and 168 school children, including teachers, were killed and some 95 others were injured.

And there is a process here that some people are trying to kind of make a grave for the victims of this US-Israeli war crime. And I can still hear the atmosphere is very heavy. People are grieving the loss of their loved ones. I've seen the videos on social media that some people still are spending day and night next to their loved ones because they were just school children. And as I got the information, they were aged between five or six to twelve. The elementary school they were at, and the latest update was that it was not just the school but the whole complex that came under attack, including one hospital, one school, a supermarket, a clinic. And this was the war crime that took place on the first day of war. The local people told me it was 11:00 in the morning when the attack was carried out. So many parents were in the school to take their children and they were targeted as well.

And just before coming here we just visited a family that lost five members of their families in that attack, including two school teachers and three children. The atmosphere was really intense for all of us. The young children were asking for their mother and they told the father, "where is our mother?" And the father had nothing to say and just said, "your mother is in heaven" because some children with these ages – because those two who we saw in the house were the same age, they cannot understand the meaning of this war crime. They just want their family. They want their mother. They want their father. But unfortunately, they are suffering.

I saw a person here dressed in black, a man in his 40s, I think. It caught the attention of everyone here. Let me see who that person is. He says that the person here is his son. "I am the father of this martyr." The name of that martyr is Ali Reza. Ali Reza? Shahrju. Can you introduce yourself? "My name is Javad. I am 44 years old. In the name of God, I have been here next to my son since the morning." I asked him why are you putting flowers here? "Because this is the grave of my son."

DL: So could you please ask these gentlemen to identify themselves?

AA: "I am Faramar Pekar. I am the husband for her". He says: "She is my wife. She went after my daughter in Minab". And she is Adrina Pekar, his daughter. This is Adrina, the same photo. And that's one of his relatives, Amir Mohammed Boheri. Also, this young boy was martyred in Minab. Any questions?

DL: I do but first this gentleman, his name?

AA: "I am Mukhtar Zakiri. I am a faculty member of Farhangian University. I'm the father of two martyrs, Azra and Selma Zakiri".

DL: And are they pictured on his phone?

AA: "This one is Azra, and this one is Selma."

DL: How old were they?

AA: "Azra was 10 years old and Selma was 6 years old."

DL: And these children?

AA: She was 7 years old, he was 10 years old. And she was 39 years old. He wants to emphasise a point: "I want to say something very clear and loud. I'm not a military person. And I have not booked the names of my children in a military school. I want to say this one clearly. I'm not military and I'm not connected to these governmental issues. And I want to emphasise that the claim that they bring that they have targeted a military school, this is not true. For 13 years this school has been funded and it's been working under the Ministry of Education. Yesterday it was proved at the UN that it was a war crime, a crime against humanity. I would like to ask the world media to raise their voice on the injustice of the people of Iran and the injustice that these children have been subjected to in this crime and their families. Be the voice of Iranian people for nearly 200 school kids that they killed in Minab. And I emphasise that the US government is very cruel to the people of Iran. Most of the attacks that are taking place in Iran are residential areas. No military targets have been fired at in the last week. This should be heard all over the world. The United States hits residential areas in Iran. Please spread this out. I want to say very clearly that the US regime, the US government, they're targeting residential houses in Iran. In the last week, at least, I can say that they have been very violent in targeting the residential areas here in Iran. The whole world should understand that the US is targeting 90 million Iranian people, not just a portion of us. They are targeting all of us."

"I'm talking to the people of the world: there was no weapon in this bag. There were pens, pencils, and anything needed to draw the future of Iran. It was not a threat to anyone in the world. They are targeting schools – school is a sacred place. It is not a field of battle for no one. And when they are targeting schools, it shows that they have been defeated in the battlefield so they are targeting schools and innocent children."

END

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