



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER  
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

**U.N. Human Rights Council – 61<sup>st</sup> regular session**

**Urgent debate to discuss the recent military aggression launched by the Islamic Republic of Iran  
against Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates on  
28 February 2026**

**Statement by Mr. Yannick GALEAZZI, First Secretary**

*25<sup>th</sup> March 2026, Geneva*

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Dear Colleagues,

The Sovereign Order of Malta is deeply preoccupied by the military escalation and ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, with regional and global consequences.

This is aggravating an already fragile humanitarian and human rights situation affecting millions of people across the region. We deplore innocent deaths and condemn indiscriminate attacks against civilians.

*Of grave concern is also targeted attacks against civilian infrastructures, in particular energy facilities, protected under IHL, which have direct and profound implications. The disruption of **maritime traffic**, electricity and essential services undermines the effective realization of fundamental human rights (rights to life, health, water and sanitation, and an adequate standard of living). Such impacts disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, further exacerbating inequalities and exposing civilians to heightened risks and suffering, **globally and especially in developing countries**.*

In this context, the Order of Malta reiterates the absolute necessity of full respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), ensuring the protection of civilians, medical and humanitarian personnel, as well as the safeguarding of medical facilities and critical infrastructures.

Mr President,

The Sovereign Order of Malta calls for immediate de-escalation, dialogue, a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the conflict, **as well as the implementation of UNSC resolution 2817**.

Thank you.