

## **Statement on the Armed Conflict in the Near East**

We, the President and Board of Directors of the Society for Near Eastern Studies in Japan, express our deep concern over the armed conflict that erupted with the attack on Iran by Israel and the United States on 28 February 2026 and the ensuing retaliatory actions, and hereby issue the following statement.

As a body of specialists from various fields studying the Near East—a region with a long history extending from antiquity to the present—we express our profound condolences to all those who have lost their lives in the current situation. We also wish to stand in solidarity with all those who have suffered physical and psychological harm and who continue to endure hardship.

We call for the immediate cessation of all acts of violence, regardless of the parties involved, and urge that peace be restored to the daily lives of those whose lives are at risk, and that assistance be extended to all those placed in extremely difficult circumstances.

While recognizing that the present conflict rests upon a complex accumulation of historical factors that cannot easily be disentangled, we nevertheless expect all parties concerned to take steps toward reconciliation. We also hope that all individuals will reflect on what they themselves can do to help resolve the situation and act accordingly.

In particular, we urge the Government of Japan to undertake resolute diplomatic efforts from a fair and balanced perspective, grounded in the principles of pacifism that constitute a fundamental policy of our country.

As an academic society devoted to the study of the Near East, and as individual researchers, we pledge to seriously consider and pursue what we can do, drawing on our expertise, in the face of the present situation, which may prove to be a decisive turning point for the future of humanity.

24 March 2026

President and Board of Directors  
The Society for Near Eastern Studies in Japan