



MOURNERS. AVENGERS.

Huge crowds gather at Tehran's Mosalla to bid farewell to the martyred Supreme Leader, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, July 4, 2026.

- *Iran bids farewell to Martyr Ayatollah Khamenei* ▶2
- *What slogans do the mourning crowds chant?* ▶2
- *Legacy of martyred Khamenei's foreign policy vision* ▶2
- *Foreign mourners at Leader's funeral: 'We lost our father'* ▶3
- *The epitome of resistance against bullies and hegemons* ▶3
- *Commander's prudence; deriving infinite power from the heart of limitations* ▶3
- *Humble and righteous: From birth to final breath* ▶3
- *Foreign lenses capture the unbreakable resolve of a grieving nation* ▶4
- *A river of grief, an ocean of resolve: Tehran bids farewell to its martyred Leader* ▶4
- *Iraq holds its breath ahead of a historic farewell* ▶4

What slogans do the mourning crowds chant?



By Maedeh Zaman Fashami

The funeral and farewell ceremony for the martyred leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei, is far more than a simple ritual of bidding farewell to a political or religious figure. It is a scene where grief, loyalty, and the redefinition of the bond between the social body and the leadership of the system unfold simultaneously. From the very first hours of the ceremony, what stands out above all else is the presence of the people, who, with Iranian flags, images of the martyred leader, and personal handwritten notes, seek to display their sorrow in the public sphere. These handwritten messages, the tears, the traditional local attire, and the presence of families elevate the ceremony beyond an official rite, transforming it into a narrative of collective mourning. The participation of non-Iranian individuals from various countries around the world lends an international dimension to the event.

Alongside this outpouring of grief, another layer of the messages present at the ceremony centers on the continuation of the political path and the declaration of allegiance to the new leadership. The images, slogans, and symbols used by the attendees indicate that for them, the funeral procession is not merely the end of an era, but rather the beginning of a new phase of expressing solidarity and pledging allegiance to the new leader. From this perspective, the ritual of saying goodbye to the past simultaneously becomes a ritual of proclaiming continuity.

The image of the new leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Sayyid Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, alongside the martyred leader, appears held aloft in the hands of the people. It is to this image that the crowds chant their pledges of allegiance. Spontaneously, the people raise pictures of the martyred leader and

chant slogans like "Revenge, Revenge," "Death to America," and "Death to Israel" in the grand Mosalla, along the routes traveled by the mourners, and at metro stations. Alongside the Iranian flag, the red banner bearing the inscription "Yā la-Thā rā t al-ā, ausayn" (O Avengers of Husayn) in the hands of the people at the Mosalla draws particular attention from the media and journalists. The phrase "We Must Rise," which serves as a primary slogan of the ceremony, also appears visible on the hands of the people. Flags of Hezbollah and Palestine also appear among the mourners.

The people who come to the Mosalla to see their leader for the last time write their heartfelt messages on banners which they bring with them. Some write that they continue the leader's path to the last drop of their blood. Others express their yearning for the martyred leader. One mother holds her young child in one arm and in her other hand holds a note reading, "May my Zahra be sacrificed for the leader's Zahra." This message refers to the 14-month-old granddaughter of the martyred leader, who is martyred alongside her mother in an attack by the American-Israeli coalition.

Simultaneously, the atmosphere of the ceremony does not remain limited solely to emotional expressions. A segment of the slogans and symbols present reflects anger and disgust toward America and Israel. These themes, from protest chants to the writings and flags held by the people, indicate that in the minds of the participants, mourning intertwines with demands for accountability and justice against those responsible for the martyrdom of the revolution's leader and his family. In such an atmosphere, the feeling of loss intermingles with a sense of anger, presenting an image of a society that both mourns and demands.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Legacy of martyred Khamenei's foreign policy vision

By Abbas Araghchi,
Foreign Minister

TEHRAN - At pivotal moments in history, nations are often defined by leaders who shape their country's future. From this perspective, the late martyr Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei sought to build the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the principles of national identity, independence, and the preservation of the nation's dignity. In this framework, diplomacy was viewed not merely as a tool for managing relations with other countries but as a means of safeguarding the honor and interests of the Iranian people.

Developments in recent years, including two wars of aggression imposed by the United States and the Israeli regime, have underscored the growing importance of foreign policy. These experiences demonstrated that diplomacy is more than a mechanism for regulating interstate relations; it also reflects a nation's identity, political will, and national interests. Accordingly, the foreign policy legacy of the late Leader is presented as being founded on three core principles: 'Dignity,' 'Wisdom,' and 'Expediency.'

One of the central pillars of this approach is 'independence.' In this vision, independence does not mean isolation or disengagement from the world. Rather, it signifies an active, effective, and autonomous role within the in-

ternational system. Based on this principle, the Islamic Republic of Iran has sought to maintain dialogue and engagement with other countries while preserving its fundamental values and principles.

This outlook also maintains that national interests and Iran's Islamic and national values are complementary rather than contradictory. Likewise, idealism and realism are regarded as mutually reinforcing elements of foreign policy. According to this perspective, diplomacy that focuses solely on short-term interests while neglecting fundamental values ultimately loses its broader purpose and effectiveness.

In foreign affairs, the late Leader placed strong emphasis on strengthening national self-confidence and self-reliance. From this standpoint, diplomacy should remain firmly committed to its principles while pursuing the country's interests through pragmatism and flexibility. It was within this framework that the concept of "dignified engagement" emerged, emphasizing that dialogue with other countries should take place from a position of confidence and strength rather than weakness. Alongside this, the concept of "smart jihadi diplomacy" was introduced as a proactive approach to advancing national objectives under pressure and external threats.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran bids farewell to Martyr Ayatollah Khamenei

TEHRAN - Iran is in mourning as millions gather to bid farewell to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Martyr Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who was assassinated on the first day of the joint US-Israeli aggression against the country on February 28.

The official mourning ceremonies commenced on Saturday morning at Tehran's Grand Imam Khomeini Mosalla, where an unprecedented sea of mourners assembled to pay their final respects to a leader whose life and legacy profoundly shaped the Islamic Republic for more than three decades.

Long before sunrise, roads leading to the sprawling religious complex were filled with people arriving from every corner of Iran. Families, veterans, clerics, students, tribal elders, and pilgrims travelled through the night, many carrying Iranian flags, portraits of Ayatollah Khamenei, Qur'ans and black mourning banners. Their destination was not merely the funeral of a national leader, but what many regarded as a historic moment to honor a man they viewed as the guardian of the Islamic Revolution and a symbol of steadfast resistance against foreign domination.

Across the capital, black flags fluttered from government buildings, mosques and public squares. Large banners stretched over major streets proclaimed the martyrdom of Ayatollah Khamenei and celebrated his enduring place in Iran's contemporary history. Loudspeakers broadcast verses from the Holy Qur'an, elegies and revolutionary anthems, creating a solemn atmosphere that extended well beyond the Mosalla.

Within the vast religious complex, mourners carrying red banners—long associated with the call to avenge the blood of martyrs—filled the courtyards while chanting slogans condemning the United States and Israel and reaffirming their commitment to the ideals for which Ayatollah Khamenei devoted his life. Cries of "Death to America" and "Revenge, Revenge" echoed through the gathering as mourners awaited the arrival of the coffin.

Inside the main prayer hall, the coffin of the martyred Leader, together with those of several members of his family who were also killed in the February 28 attack, was placed inside a glass enclosure for public viewing. Many mourners stood silently in prayer, while others recited verses from the Qur'an or wept openly as they passed before the coffins to pay their final respects.

Ayatollah Khamenei's body will lie in state at the Grand Imam Khomeini Mosalla through Sunday before the official funeral procession begins in Tehran on Monday. Alongside him rest his son-in-law, Dr. Mesbah al-Hoda Bagheri Kani; his eldest daughter, Seyyedeh Boshra Hosseini Khamenei; his 14-month-old granddaughter, Zahra Mohammadi Golpayegani; and his daughter-in-law, Zahra Haddad Adel, the wife of Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, the current Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

For millions of Iranians, the ceremonies represent far more than a farewell to a statesman. They are an expression of gratitude to a leader whom they believe dedicated his entire life to defending Iran's independence, preserving the ideals of the Islamic Revolution, and supporting oppressed nations across the Muslim world. To many of those gathered in Tehran, his martyrdom marks not the end of his influence but the beginning of a new chapter in a legacy they believe will endure for gen-



erations.

A legacy of leadership

For millions of Iranians and admirers across the Muslim world, the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei marks the end of a remarkable chapter in contemporary Islamic history, while opening another in the enduring influence of his thought, leadership and vision. To his supporters, his legacy extends far beyond politics. They regard him as a scholar, revolutionary, jurist and spiritual guide whose life was devoted to safeguarding the Islamic Revolution, defending Iran's independence and championing the cause of the oppressed.

Understanding Martyr Khamenei requires understanding the history of the Is-

promise on principles despite extraordinary external pressure.

His message resonated far beyond Iran's borders. Across the Muslim world, many viewed him as a prominent voice advocating resistance against foreign domination while encouraging Muslim nations to rely on their own scientific, intellectual and cultural capacities. He repeatedly argued that genuine independence could only be achieved when nations trusted their own people, strengthened their institutions and remained confident in their civilizational heritage.

Beyond the realm of politics

Ayatollah Khamenei's influence extended well beyond the political arena. Throughout his leadership, he consistently en-

overseeing the commemoration ceremonies, public mourning at Tehran's Grand Imam Khomeini Mosalla will continue through Sunday, allowing millions of mourners from across the country to pay their final respects before the official funeral procession begins on Monday.

Authorities expect more than 10 million people to participate in the funeral procession in Tehran, making it one of the largest public gatherings in the history of the Islamic Republic. To accommodate the influx of pilgrims, schools throughout the capital have been opened to provide temporary accommodation and essential services for visitors arriving from across the country.

According to Iran's ISNA news agency, more than 5,000 schools and between 40,000 and 50,000 classrooms nationwide have been prepared to welcome pilgrims attending the ceremonies.

Following the funeral procession in Tehran, commemorations will continue in the holy city of Qom on Tuesday before Ayatollah Khamenei's body is transferred to Mashhad on Thursday, where he will be laid to rest at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), one of the most revered sites in the Muslim world.

Special farewell ceremonies will also be held in the Iraqi holy cities of Najaf and Karbala on Wednesday, reflecting the deep spiritual significance Ayatollah Khamenei held for many Muslims beyond Iran's borders.

The week-long ceremonies have attracted senior Iranian officials, heads of state, religious leaders and high-ranking delegations from across the world, underscoring the international dimension of the martyred Leader's legacy.

Among those paying tribute were Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Eje'i and Chairman of the Expediency Council Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larjani.

Foreign dignitaries attending the ceremonies included Turkmenistan's Chairman of the People's Council Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Asim Munir, Iraq's Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani and senior officials from Iraq, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and several other countries.

Representatives of international organizations, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), were also present, alongside senior officials from China, Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon, Cuba, Namibia and numerous other nations.



lamic Revolution itself. As one of the closest disciples of the late Imam Ruhollah Khomeini, he played a pivotal role in preserving and advancing the revolutionary ideals established in 1979. Following Imam Khomeini's passing in 1989, many outside observers predicted that the Islamic Republic would gradually abandon its founding principles under mounting domestic and international pressure. Instead, under Ayatollah Khamenei's leadership, the Revolution entered a new phase marked by resilience, continuity and unwavering commitment to its core values.

His leadership coincided with some of the most challenging periods in Iran's modern history. Decades of economic sanctions, political isolation, military threats, regional conflicts and sustained international pressure tested both the country and its leadership. Yet he remained steadfast in defending the fundamental principles of the Islamic Republic: independence, national dignity, justice, Islamic unity and support for oppressed peoples around the world.

What distinguished Ayatollah Khamenei was not merely the authority he exercised as Leader, but the consistency with which he upheld his convictions. From his imprisonment and torture during the US-backed Pahlavi era to surviving an assassination attempt that left him permanently injured, his life was shaped by sacrifice long before he assumed the leadership of the Islamic Republic. Throughout more than three decades as Leader, he refused to com-

couraged scientific research, higher education, technological innovation and cultural self-confidence, arguing that faith and modern progress should reinforce rather than contradict one another. Under his guidance, many young Iranians were encouraged to pursue knowledge, innovation and public service as part of their responsibility to strengthen the country and preserve its independence.

He is credited with inspiring hope among nations and movements that believed resistance against powerful global actors was impossible. Through speeches delivered over several decades, he maintained that history is shaped not only by military or economic power but also by faith, perseverance and commitment to justice. From this perspective, martyrdom does not weaken a movement; rather, it reinforces its ideals by transforming sacrifice into a lasting source of inspiration.

For millions of followers, Ayatollah Khamenei's legacy therefore does not end with his earthly life. They believe it lives on through the institutions he strengthened, the students he inspired and the enduring principles of justice, independence, dignity and resistance that he consistently defended. His supporters maintain that while leaders may depart, the values they dedicate their lives to continue guiding future generations, ensuring that their influence transcends the boundaries of time.

The final farewell

According to the headquarters

Foreign mourners at Leader's funeral: 'We lost our father'

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN — As millions of Iranians poured into the streets for the funeral of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, foreign dignitaries, journalists, and ordinary visitors from around the world joined the mourning, describing the late Leader as a father figure to the oppressed and a symbol of resistance against Western domination.

The ceremonies, which began on Friday at Tehran's Grand Mosalla and will continue through the week in Qom, Iraq, and Mashhad, have drawn delegations from nearly 100 countries. For many foreign attendees, the event was both a profound personal loss and a political statement.

'They separated us from our father'

Hassan Abdullah, a Nigerian student studying in Iran, told reporters that he came to the farewell ceremony to pray for the martyred Leader. "Sayyid Ali Khamenei was the father of the oppressed," Abdullah said. "He always spoke about the oppressed and helped them. He hated injustice throughout his life and helped people around the world." Abdullah, visibly emotional, added: "This incident is a very big thing in our hearts. I was very sad because they separated us from our father. God willing, with his blood, Israel and America will come to an end."

"We lost our father," a woman from Bosnia told Iranian media, summing up the sentiment of many foreign mourners.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who attended the funeral ceremonies, issued a statement afterward saying that the martyred Leader's "wisdom, leadership, and deep impact on Iran and the region will endure for generations." He affirmed that Pakistan, "as a brotherly neighbor, stands by Iran in this time of grief."

Muhammad Anas Malik, a Pakistani journalist covering the



funeral for the English-language Asia-One network, described the event as a powerful political message to the world. "The presence of millions of Iranians to bid farewell to their Leader and the travel of high-ranking officials from various countries to Iran shows that Tehran remains a decisive player in regional and global equations," Malik told Iranian media. "The Iranian nation sent a clear message to the world: Iranians are stronger than ever and more cohesive." He noted that the presence of delegations from 100 countries demonstrated "the world stands in solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran." Malik emphasized that Pakistan's high-level delegation — including the prime minister, army chief, and foreign minister — proved that "all segments of our society stand with Iran at this critical juncture." "Here, everyone is grieving the loss of Ayatollah Khamenei," he said. "Everyone is heartbroken but stronger than before."

'Resistance a political and strategic plan thanks to Ayatollah Khamenei'

Elias al-Mur, Secretary-General of the Eastern Christian Union in Lebanon, described the martyred Leader as one of the most prominent figures in formulating the "resistance model" as a political and strategic framework beyond borders. "In academic and international relations terms, Ayatollah Khamenei was one

of the most prominent figures who contributed to formulating the resistance model as a political and strategic plan that transcends domestic and regional borders," al-Mur told reporters. He credited the late Leader with transforming resistance "from a concept related to classical military confrontation into comprehensive political, cultural, and identity-based expression" that encompasses sovereignty and international justice.

Dr. Azmi Abdul Hamid, head of the Advisory Council of Islamic Organizations in Malaysia, who met the martyred Leader on three occasions, told Iranian media that what struck him most was the Leader's "extreme humility" paired with "clear and explicit" messages about Muslim unity and resistance. "The most important characteristic of the martyred Leader that I want to mention is his leadership quality, which is very rare in the Islamic world today," Abdul Hamid said. "He was decisive yet very humble, and with this spirit, he invited the peoples of the world to accept Islam as a solution." He added: "America and Israel ultimately concluded that the only person who could thwart their plans against Iran and the Islamic Ummah was Ayatollah Khamenei. They thought that if they eliminated him, everything would collapse. But that assumption was wrong. Today we see that the movement he start-

ed is growing stronger, and Muslims around the world are more awake than ever."

'Leader's martyrdom opened him a path to eternity'

Alexander Dugin, the prominent Russian philosopher, in an interview with IRNA, described the late Leader as "an intellectual, a politician, and a brave leader" whose life culminated in "martyrdom — a path to immortality." "The peak of Ayatollah Khamenei's mission was his martyrdom, which opened a path to eternity, both for himself and for the Iranian nation," Dugin said. "I am more saddened for the Iranian nation than for him today. He lived a fruitful life, accomplished a great mission, and the crown of that great life was his heroic death." Dugin, an Orthodox Christian who said he has studied Shia tradition for years, called the culture of martyrdom "one of the most important commonalities that unites us with Iran." "In killing the Leader and the people of Iran, especially in the killing of children — these innocent angels — there is no definable political or military meaning," he said. "This situation should remind us that we are facing Western civilization, which is in fact an evil civilization."

Muhammad Darwish, head of Hamas's leadership council, wrote in the memorial book for the martyred Leader after visiting his coffin: "May God have mercy on the martyred commander, Imam Sayyid Ali Khamenei, and all the martyrs of the path of freedom, resistance, independence and victory over the oppressors. The Islamic Republic will be victorious over its enemies, and we will continue on the path of resistance."

With delegations from Russia, China, Pakistan, India, Iraq, Tajikistan, Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, and dozens of other nations, the funeral ceremonies have become a display of international solidarity with Iran.

IRAN IN FOCUS

JULY 5, 2026

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

Commander's prudence; deriving infinite power from the heart of limitations



By Major General Amir Hatami, Chief Commander of the Iranian Army

These days, separation from our Leader and Commander, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who was dearer to us than life itself, has been accompanied by profound sorrow and deep emotion. These emotions are noteworthy from several perspectives.

First, as one individual among this nation, enduring this separation is heartbreaking for me — a grief even greater than losing one's father. Then, as a soldier, I neither wished nor was able to believe that my commander had attained martyrdom while I remained alive. Time and again, like millions who loved him, I prayed to God to shorten my life and add to the life of that beloved one. Yet God accepted his own prayer instead, which is a sign of the lofty station our martyred Leader held before God. At the same time, I sought to console myself with the thought that for that embodiment of the pure soul, no end other than martyrdom was worthy.

What we have inherited today from that martyred Imam is an independent identity which, inspired by the pure teaching of Islam, the infallibility of the Holy Imams (peace be upon them), and the Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeini (may God be pleased with him), and forged through more than half a century of struggle, transformed Iran into both a regional and global power — so much so that even its enemies bow before its steadfastness.

The martyred leader of Iran has left us many precious legacies. The generation of power, which guarantees independence and progress; religious democracy; and dozens of other invaluable inheritances. Yet what has been most tangible in my own field of responsibility within the Ministry of Defense and the Army has been the country's scientific advancement and the progress of the Iranian armed forces through the policy of self-confidence and reduced de-

pendence, the rapid movement toward self-sufficiency and self-reliance, the promotion and development of science and technology, and advancement at the frontiers of knowledge.

Through his close supervision, leadership, and precise guidance throughout his years of leadership, significant achievements were attained in vital sectors, including space, air, and sea, as well as in the design and production of the equipment required by the Army's four powerful branches, founded upon the principle that we must progress, can progress, and must never cease advancing.

If our Army, through his emphasis and special attention, has been adorned with the qualities of being devoted to revolutionary, powerful, strong, and loyal, then the source of this growth and this unbreakable solidarity must be sought in the vision of the two leaders of the Islamic Revolution.

The same approach was reflected in the message of our beloved Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei (may his shadow endure), issued on 18 April 2026 (29 Farvardin 1405), which, with the same foresight and confidence as our martyred leader, infused the hearts of every courageous member of the Army with renewed determination to defend religion and the homeland.

Strategic foresight and a profound understanding of the requirements of defensive power permeate every word and writing of the martyred leader. Strengthening both spiritual and combat readiness; steadfastness and resistance; recognizing the enemy; tireless scientific endeavor; education and training founded upon religious and revolutionary values; faith and hope in God's assistance and in a bright future through struggle and doubled effort — all stood at the forefront of his strategic guidance for the Army and the Armed Forces as a whole.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The epitome of resistance against bullies and hegemons

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was recognized as the embodiment of defiance against bullying nations and Western hegemony, particularly that led by the United States. Firm and unwavering in his stance, he never succumbed to pressure or intimidation. Ultimately, he lost his life standing up to bullies and challenging hegemons. He will be remembered as a distinguished political and religious leader, renowned for his extraordinary courage and bravery.

During his leadership, he observed the United States, under President Donald Trump, deploying advanced aircraft carriers and fighter jets to the region in an attempt to compel him to abandon his principled stance. Nevertheless, he steadfastly upheld Iran's legitimate right to peaceful nuclear energy and strongly opposed the Zionist regime's occupation of Arab lands and its apartheid policies against the Palestinian people.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will be remembered as one of the bravest leaders of his time, who boldly confronted the U.S.—the dominant superpower of his era—and Israel, often referred to as Washington's aggressive ally in West Asia.

In addition, during his nearly four decades of Iran's leadership, Ayatollah Khamenei promoted Iran's deterrence power and promoted Iran's dignity in the world.

"Probably the most important legacy of the martyred Leader of the Revolution was addressing a longstanding concern that had troubled successive Iranian governments since the 19th century—namely, how to safeguard the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty in the face of great powers," former foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif notes.

Zarif explains that during Ayatollah Khamenei's reign, a new approach was established to protect national security. He says this approach was based on "forging a connection between defense capabilities, so-

cial cohesion, active diplomacy, and a belief in domestic capacities."

In recognition of his bravery and leadership, foreign dignitaries from around 100 countries, including eight heads of state and government, gathered at Tehran's Grand Mosque, known as the Imam Khomeini Mosalla, on Friday to pay their respects to him.

As millions of Iranians honor his memory, it is important to outline the timeline of farewells and funeral processions for this remarkable man, which take place from Saturday, July 4, to Thursday, July 9, as written by Seyed Zia Hashemi, the Vice President's deputy for scientific and cultural affairs:

Given the wide geographic distribution of those expected to attend and the large number of mourners, the farewell and funeral ceremonies for the martyred Leader will be held in several stages across three key Iranian cities—Tehran, Qom, and Mashhad—as well as the two major spiritual centers of the Shiite world in Iraq: Karbala and Najaf.

The selection of these cities reflects the main pillars of the Islamic Republic: Tehran as the country's political and administrative capital, Qom as the center of Islamic scholarship and religious authority, Najaf and Karbala as the historic centers of Shiite religious leadership, and Mashhad as the city of spirituality and devotion. The scale and significance of this historic event call for special attention to the meaning and symbolism of each stage of the ceremonies.

Farewell ceremony in Tehran (July 4–5)

The farewell ceremony will be held over two days at Imam Khomeini Mosalla in Tehran, the capital's largest venue for religious gatherings. Thousands of mourners have the opportunity to pay their final respects to the martyred Leader.

Beyond its capacity, the venue carries deep symbolic importance. It has long hosted Eid prayers and many historic Friday prayers led by the Leader himself. To accommodate the large crowds, Tehran traffic police have an-

nounced extensive security and traffic measures aimed at ensuring the smooth movement of mourners throughout the event.

Funeral procession in Tehran (July 6)

The main funeral procession will take place in Tehran on Monday, July 6. It is expected to be one of the largest public gatherings in the history of the Islamic Revolution, comparable only to the funeral of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.

Government agencies and municipal services will operate at full capacity throughout the day. Religious organizations and volunteer groups will establish service stations along the procession route to provide support and assistance to the millions of mourners expected to attend.

Qom: Renewing the bond with the center of Islamic scholarship (July 7)

On Tuesday, July 7, the body will be transferred to the holy city of Qom, the birthplace of the Islamic Revolution and the center of Iran's religious seminaries.

The martyred Leader spent many years studying in Qom under some of the most distinguished scholars of Islamic jurisprudence and philosophy, including Ayatollah Borujerdi, Imam Khomeini, Seyyed Mohammad Mohaqeq Damad, and Allameh Tabatabaei. The funeral ceremony in Qom represents the farewell of the religious seminaries, senior clerics, students, and the people of Qom to one of the most prominent Islamic jurists of the contemporary era.

The many condolence messages issued by senior religious authorities following the Leader's martyrdom reflect the close relationship between the institution of religious leadership and the Shiite seminary tradition. Holding the ceremony near the shrine of Hazrat Masoumeh symbolizes the deep roots of the Islamic Revolution in Islamic scholarship and Shiite religious authority.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Humble and righteous: From birth to final breath

By Hossein Rafiei Renani

VANCOUVER — I am writing these words as I watch with tearful eyes the live funeral procession of the martyred Leader of Iran, the late Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. Like countless Iranians abroad, I wish I could stand among the millions who are gathering to bid him farewell. Distance may keep me from the funeral, but it cannot silence my grief, my respect, or my allegiance to his righteous path of anti-imperial resistance and the safeguarding of Iran's sovereignty and independence. These are my farewell words.

Dear martyred Leader;

Although I never had the honour of meeting you, my heart holds utmost respect and admiration for you. The news of your assassination by U.S.-Israeli attacks on your residence unleashed a tsunami of grief and outrage within me unlike anything I have ever known. I will never forget that despite repeated warnings from your security team, you refused to be intimidated and take shelter, saying, "How can I take shelter when our people have not taken shelter?"

From birth to your final breath, you lived a humble and righteous life. What more fitting departure could there be for a man of God and leader of Godly people than to fall at the hands of the most vicious savage evil forces on earth? What more sacred moment to leave this world than during the holy month of Ramadan, while fasting? What more noble time to pass away than after 86 years of steadfast service to God, the people of Iran, and all nations resisting imperial aggression?



The circumstances of your martyrdom — alongside your family members including your daughter and 14-months-old granddaughter — have poetic resemblances to those of your Islamic role models, Imam Ali and Imam Husain, peace be upon them. God honored you and accepted your prayers for martyrdom after a long life of devotion.

From a young age, you dedicated yourself to Islamic scholarship and anti-imperial resistance. You endured imprisonment, torture, and exile at the hands of the Pahlavi regime's SAVAK secret police. You and your fellow revolutionaries persevered under the leadership of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and delivered the 1979 Revolution, restoring Iran's independence from imperial domination. You fought on the frontlines and later led the country as President during Iraq's eight-year invasion of Iran. After Ayatollah Khomeini's passing, the Assembly of Experts entrusted you with leading the Islamic Republic of Iran — a responsibility you accepted reluctantly yet fulfilled honorably and dutifully.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



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JULY 5, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who constantly jests, exposes a part of his intelligence to destruction.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:08 Evening: 19:45 Dawn: 3:05 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:52 (tomorrow)

Iraq holds its breath ahead of a historic farewell



By **Wesam Bahrani**

TEHRAN – Iraq is preparing for one of the largest public gatherings in its recent history, as millions prepare to bid farewell to the martyred Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution, Imam Ali Khamenei.

The arrival of his blessed coffin is widely expected to bring the nation together in a show of loyalty, grief, and defiance.

Millions expected to attend

Lieutenant General Saad Maan, spokesman for the Higher Committee overseeing the funeral of the martyred Imam in Iraq, has said that early estimates suggest millions of mourners will take part.

Speaking at a press conference, Maan stated that a full and flexible plan is ready to handle the huge crowds, with all security, service, and health teams on high alert. "We are putting the final touches on a flexible plan to organize the funeral ceremonies of the martyred Leader," Maan told reporters.

He confirmed that no funeral procession will be held in the capital, Baghdad, due to time constraints. Instead, the ceremonies will be limited to the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala within a 24-hour timeframe.

Streets covered with symbols

Across the capital and southern provinces, the streets are covered with countless images of martyr Imam Seyyed Ali Khamenei, his respected face looking down from banners, posters, and murals on buildings, bridges, and public squares.

The holy cities of Najaf and Karbala have been especially decorated with welcoming banners honoring the martyred Imam, with main roads dressed up to create a feeling of respect and mourning.

In the busy markets, shopkeepers have hung black cloth and portraits next to the green flags of the holy shrines. Black banners can be seen across streets in many areas, and red flags, which have historically represented calls for revenge in Iraq, are now seen across the cities, adding a powerful and somber layer to the mourning.

Groups have been allocated to serve the mourners with water amid the immense heat, while volunteers have been deployed to direct traffic and assist the crowds. The air is set to be filled with the rhythmic chanting of sorrow and the cries of men and women.

Security and logistics

For a week, Iraqi security forces, including the Popular Mobilization Forces (also known as the PMF or Hashd al-Shaabi), have been carefully working on the logistics. Social media videos show the PMF's Chief of Staff, Abu Fadak al-Mohammadawi, deeply involved in the planning.

The government has arranged public transport, with orders to send buses to carry mourners. Maan stressed that a comprehensive security plan has been put in place, involving various ministries and security agencies. He called on mourners to fully comply with organizational and security instructions.

While there will be no general limits on public movement, temporary traffic changes will be strictly enforced along the procession routes. The move to bring the blessed body to Iraq, rather than have some two million Iraqis cross the border into neighboring Iran, was a joint decision between Tehran and Baghdad to avoid incidents with overcrowding. Iraqi authorities have also expressed their honor at receiving the blessed body in Iraq.

Tribal and community mobilization

More than 100 major Iraqi tribes and more than 300 smaller tribes have called upon their members to attend. Tribal leaders, including the leadership of the Al Shar'a Sadat and Sheikh Zughair Saadoun Al Waheed of the Al Humaid tribe, have urged their followers to attend in large numbers, describing participation as a symbol of loyalty, steadfastness, and unity.

Tribal chiefs, clerics, and citizens from Basra, Iraq's second largest city, have announced their readiness to participate, affirming that their attendance comes in appreciation of the late Leader's supportive stances toward Iraq.

A unified convoy will set off on Tuesday morning from Basra toward Najaf. Sheikh Ali Al-Tamimi, a leader of the Basra tribes, said that participation represents a stance of loyalty to the martyred Imam. The Faily Kurds National Congress has also urged all Faily Kurds and the Iraqi public to join.

Official preparations

Several Iraqi provinces have announced the suspension of official work on Wednesday to allow citizens to participate in the funeral ceremonies. A statement from the office of the Governor of Baghdad said: "It has been decided to suspend official work at the Baghdad Governorate office and all its affiliated departments on Wednesday, corresponding to July 8, on the occasion of the martyr's eminence Ayatollah Seyyed Khamenei's funeral."

The Dhi Qar Provincial Council also announced the suspension of official work on Wednesday, while health institutions will continue operating.

The Basra Governorate announced the suspension of official work on both Wednesday and Thursday. Similarly, the holy provinces of Najaf and Karbala, as well as Wasit Governorate, announced the suspension of official work on Wednesday.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Foreign lenses capture the unbreakable resolve of a grieving nation

By **Garsha Vazirian**

TEHRAN — The farewell ceremonies for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, forced an unexpected recalibration across the global press this July.

U.S.-Israeli strategists assumed their illegal late-February war of aggression and assassinations would fracture the Islamic Republic.

Instead, these processions have started to broadcast stabilization and defiance.

Observers noted the dense symbolism embedded in the timing. As CNN highlighted, "[the martyred Ayatollah] Khamenei's body is scheduled to lie in state on the 250th American Independence Day," turning an imperial milestone into a showcase of Washington's foreign policy failure.

This convergence was amplified by spiritual coordinates; CNN observed the spectacle unfolded during Muharram, a period "deeply associated in Shiite Islam with mourning, betrayal and martyrdom, specifically the 7th century martyrdom of Imam Hussein, one of the Shia saints to whom [Ayatollah] Khamenei traces his lineage," transforming public grief into a potent renewal of revolutionary justice.

Truth forcing its way through hostile lenses

Even biased Western networks could not minimize the mobilization.

CNN noted that "safeguarding the Leader's body, managing the millions of mourners while hosting foreign dignitaries, and orchestrating major events across



five cities in two countries is a colossal undertaking," and it will require "an unprecedented security operation" for Iran.

The Guardian, which has a long history of participating in the West's soft war operations against Iran, conceded that "the scale of the six-day funeral has been conceived to relay political and religious messages of resistance to the rest of the world," noting "as many as 30 million people may attend."

Inside Tehran's Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla, popular devotion shattered Western narratives.

Reuters reported that "mourners filed into the vast courtyard of the Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla, beating their chests, wailing and waving the banners of the Islamic Republic and historic Shiite Muslim martyrs."

The agency noted "women dressed in black chadors wore white visors or held umbrellas to shield from the hot mid-morning sun," while "grown men sat cross-legged, sobbing uncontrollably for long periods."

Reuters captured the ritual continuity, describing a compere encouraging the crowds: "Let us wail! Everybody chants oppressed, everyone says Hussein," invoking historical traditions of sacrifice to anchor the modern struggle against the U.S. and Israel.

This mass participation quickly translated into an explicit popular mandate for retaliation.

The Associated Press (AP) reported that "hundreds of thousands of mourners began a dayslong funeral Saturday for Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, beating their chests in sorrow before the glass case containing his flag-draped coffin in Tehran and calling for revenge against Israel and the United States," rhythmically chanting, "Our word is one! Revenge! Revenge!"

"Imam Khamenei was our heart, our father, our everything," mourner Masoumeh Mohammadi told AP. "I still can't believe they martyred him. We will not rest until we avenge his death."

Testimonies also underlined a deeply ingrained generational commitment to this war.

Mobina Razaaghi, an 18-year-old student from Isfahan, told Reuters that "only by avenging his blood, demanding justice for it, and ensuring that our Leader's blood is not left unavenged, can this sorrow of the people be somewhat alleviated."

Arash Rahimi, 40, told the agency, "We will certainly avenge his blood... Everyone here has come to avenge the blood of their Leader. As our Leader has said, we have a blood feud with the United States."

Defiance and collapse of the sabotage campaign

This resolve blindsided Western analysts. The Wall Street Journal admitted the ceremonies constituted a "massive show of defiance by the Islamic Republic against the West," set to be "one of the largest gatherings in history."

A translator, Hossein Ansari, noted the crowds would "show to those inside and outside the country that, unlike what is being portrayed in the West, the majority of the people respected him in the country even if they were not that religious."

An unnamed woman characterized the political legacy of Ayatollah Khamenei to the newspaper as "Iran-centrism and resistance against the world's major powers, in the sense that we should decide our own future ourselves."

Diplomatically, the funeral also exposed the limitations of American leverage.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

A river of grief, an ocean of resolve: Tehran bids farewell to its martyred Leader

By **Fardin Molaei**

TEHRAN – "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die." The words of Thomas Campbell echoed silently through the streets of Tehran on Saturday as millions began the first day of farewell ceremonies for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. Yet no quotation alone could fully capture the atmosphere of a city where sorrow and pride walked side by side.

My home is in Tehran's District 7, on Sohrevardi Street, inside the first security ring established for the funeral ceremonies. My wife and I both work in the press, and although we were scheduled to head to our newsroom later in the afternoon, we decided first to witness history with our own eyes rather than through camera lenses or television screens.

Shortly after sunrise, we left Andisheh Street and walked uphill toward Beheshti Street. The distance from the beginning of Beheshti Street to Tehran's Grand Mosalla is only a little over one kilometer, but on Saturday it felt like a journey through the collective memory of a nation.

The closer we walked, the larger the crowds became.

At first, small groups of families moved

quietly along the sidewalks. Then streams of people came from every direction. Finally, after only a few hundred meters, the streams merged into what could only be described as a river of humanity flowing toward an ocean—the Grand Mosalla itself.

There was almost no empty space left on the streets.

Despite the warm summer weather, no one seemed impatient. Volunteers had established countless logistical stations along the route, offering drinking water, juice, syrup-based refreshments, meals, medical assistance, and places to rest. Young volunteers worked shoulder to shoulder with elderly citizens. Every few steps, someone could be seen distributing bottles of water before thinking of drinking one themselves.

It was impossible not to remember the words of Albert Schweitzer: "The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

Service had become the language of the day.

The most remarkable sight, however, was the children.

They walked hand in hand with their parents and grandparents toward the Mosalla



with extraordinary enthusiasm. Their expressions carried curiosity rather than fear, excitement rather than exhaustion. They moved through the immense crowds as though they were heading toward a playground rather than a farewell ceremony.

The contrast was striking.

Tears filled many eyes, yet despair was nowhere to be found.

People embraced strangers as naturally as family members. Elderly visitors who struggled to walk immediately found helping hands. Volunteers formed spontaneous human chains whenever the crowds slowed. Bottles of water passed from hand to hand without a word.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

A city in mourning, a farewell in order

By **Samaneh Aboutalebi**

TEHRAN – Tehran's Mosalla opened its gates on Saturday for the first day of a two-day public farewell to the martyred Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who was martyred alongside members of his family during the recent US-Israeli aggression against Iran. Ahead of Monday's funeral procession, hundreds of thousands of mourners gathered to pay their respects. Despite the scale of the gathering, the prevailing impression was one of order, careful organization, and a steady rhythm that allowed visitors to come and go without major congestion.

Long lines of people filled the streets, yet the flow never came to a standstill. Rather than concentrating the crowds into a short period, the schedule has allowed

mourners to arrive throughout the day while others leave after paying their respects.

With some subway stations closest to the Mosalla temporarily closed to ease crowd pressure, many visitors completed part of their journey on foot. At subway stations, where travel was provided free of charge, volunteers greeted passengers with flowers before they joined the steady stream of pedestrians heading toward the ceremony.

The roads leading to the Mosalla, closed to regular traffic, became corridors of people. Along the route, volunteers, local community groups, and trade associations had established service stations offering drinking water and refreshments. Under Tehran's intense summer heat, water-spraying vehicles and volunteers equipped

with portable mist sprayers were stationed every few meters, helping make the long walk more comfortable.

Attention to detail was visible throughout the route. Trash bags and waste bins had been placed at frequent intervals, and despite the widespread use of disposable water bottles and cups, little litter could be seen. Municipal sanitation workers remained on duty along the streets, clearing waste almost as quickly as it appeared. Emergency medical teams, security personnel, and volunteers were also stationed throughout the area, assisting visitors and maintaining the smooth movement of the crowds.

After passing through security checkpoints, visitors entered the Mosalla's vast central courtyard, where the farewell ceremony is be-

ing held. The large open space remained filled throughout the day, yet the atmosphere was notably orderly. As one group of mourners reached the center of the venue to pay their respects, another departed, allowing thousands to move through the ceremony without disrupting its rhythm.

People from every generation could be seen among the mourners. Families carried infants in their arms while elderly visitors slowly made their way through the crowd. Women with different styles of dress stood alongside one another, reflecting the diversity of those attending the ceremony. Organized groups from Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and Iraq also joined the gathering, adding an international dimension to the event.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))