

In Prayer, Shoulders Shake and Tears Flow Down



On the second day of the official farewell ceremonies for the martyred Leader, funeral prayers were offered over his body at Tehran's Mosalla in the presence of members of the Leader's family, senior government officials, political figures, and a large crowd of mourners



Funeral prayers offered for the bodies of martyred Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and four of his family members, led by Ayatollah Sobhani and a large gathering of people, at Tehran's Mosalla prayer ground, July 5, 2026.

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Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei on Martyred Leader's devotion to his father

TEHRAN - For the first and only time, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, the current Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has agreed to a formal interview. The conversation, conducted in mid-2021, was not intended to discuss the Leader himself. Its stated purpose was to honor Ayatollah Seyyed Javad Khamenei, the father of the martyred Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who fell on February 28 in U.S.-Israeli strikes. Yet in the course of speaking about his grandfather, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei offered rare and revealing glimpses into the relationship between the martyred Leader and his own father — a bond marked by deep affection, intellectual partnership, and personal sacrifice.

The interview, excerpts of which were published by KHAMENEI.IR, shows that the connection between the martyred Leader and his father went beyond the ordinary. According to Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, it was not merely emotional but carried an element of spiritual admiration. The elder Ayatollah Khamenei had shown remarkable promise from a very young age. At twelve or thirteen, he was already teaching religious rulings to adults, using question-and-answer manuals in a time before modern religious treatises had become common. His father, recognizing his talent, encouraged him and sent him to deliver a lecture at a women's religious gathering — a task he handled with confidence.

Later, when the martyred Leader studied under his father's guidance, his quick grasp of advanced texts like Sharh al-Lum'ah prompted his father to remark that "Ali-Agha is a mujtahid." This was not a formal designation, the current Leader explained, but rather an expression of admiration for the young man's sharpness and potential.

Beyond the classroom, the martyred Leader was deeply attentive to his father's needs. He visited daily, reading to him and engaging in discussion. When the elder Ayatollah Khamenei walked to the shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad, his son would accompany him. If passersby offered greetings while the father was absorbed in prayer, the son would respond on his behalf.

One of the most significant revelations in the interview concerns the martyred Leader's decision to leave his advanced religious



studies in Qom and return to Mashhad. In the early 1960s, the elder Ayatollah Khamenei's eyesight began to fail due to cataracts and glaucoma. At the time, the martyred Leader was excelling in Qom, attending classes taught by Grand Ayatollahs Borujerdi and Khomeini. His lecture notes were highly regarded, and some scholars predicted he would one day become a leading religious authority.

The martyred Leader hesitated, torn between his studies and his father's need for care. On a trip to Tehran, he confided in a friend, who told him: "If God wills, He will make your worldly and spiritual affairs succeed in Mashhad as well." The martyred Leader described feeling immediate clarity. He returned to Mashhad, and soon after, his career as a teacher and preacher flourished — a path that would ultimately lead to his leadership of the Revolution and his martyrdom at the hands of American and Israeli forces.

The interview also highlights the martyred Leader's detachment from material wealth — a quality his son traces to his parents. The martyred Leader's household remained remarkably modest. The same three-burner gas stove was in use for decades. The television was so outdated that it lacked the ports for a modern receiver. Plastic chairs served as furniture. The bed the martyred Leader slept on was the same one he used after surviving an earlier assassination attempt in 1981 — in use for over forty years.

Killers of Iran's 'Martyred Leader' will face divine and just punishment: Grand Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi

TEHRAN - Grand Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Shirazi has issued a message ahead of the funeral ceremonies for Iran's martyred Leader, declaring that those responsible for his killing, along with the deaths of military commanders, officials, civilians, and children, "will not escape divine punishment or just retribution."

In the statement, Makarem Shirazi said the farewell and funeral ceremonies have renewed the nation's grief over the loss of 'the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution.' He said the expected large public turnout would demonstrate the Iranian people's loyalty to the ideals of the Islamic Revolution, the resilience of the nation and the broader Muslim community, and their commitment to continuing the path of martyrs.

The senior cleric stressed that the conflict should not be regarded as over, arguing that the confrontation with the 'front of global arrogance' continues. He warned that promoting despair, weakness, or pessimism, or undermining the morale of the public, state officials, and the armed forces, would serve the enemies' interests and run counter to the national interests. At the same time, he said hope and perseverance should be accompanied by a realistic understanding of the situation on the ground, describing patience and steadfastness as essential factors in overcoming difficult trials.

Reiterating his earlier remarks, Makarem Shirazi said those responsible for the 'great crime' would face both divine punishment and fair justice, adding that the victims' blood 'will not be wasted.'

He further stated that the Muslim community would pursue justice for the victims within the framework of Islamic law and the law.

The message also called on government officials, the armed forces, and decision-makers



to rely on faith, national capabilities, and public resilience while confronting external threats. He urged them to act with prudence, strength, and vigilance across military, diplomatic, and other arenas, arguing that experience has shown any retreat before an aggressor only encourages further aggression and excessive demands.

Makarem Shirazi also emphasized that the Islamic Republic is founded on the principle of Velayat-e Faqih (Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist), describing it as the cornerstone of national unity, the protector of the interests of the Muslim community, and a key pillar of the country's political system. He said adherence to this principle is a collective responsibility essential to safeguarding both Islam and Iran.

Highlighting the importance of domestic cohesion, the cleric said preserving national unity and solidarity is more critical than ever. He warned that differences of points of view should not be allowed to create division or weaken the country's internal front. He also urged officials to intensify efforts to address public concerns and serve the people sincerely.

According to the statement, funeral, farewell, and burial ceremonies for the "martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution" are scheduled to take place from July 4 to July 9 in Tehran, Qom, Karbala, Najaf, and Mashhad.

Millions join historic funeral prayers for Iran's martyred Leader

TEHRAN - Millions of mourners from Iran and other countries performed funeral prayers for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla on Sunday, as an immense outpouring of grief underscored his enduring role as a leading religious and political figure whose influence extended far beyond Iran's borders.

As the prayer hall reached capacity hours before the ceremony, authorities closed all entrances to the sprawling complex in preparation for the funeral prayers of the martyred Leader.

Even after the hall was filled, mourners continued to arrive, with the surrounding streets and avenues transformed into a vast gathering of people paying their final respects and offering prayers for Ayatollah Khamenei.

High-ranking tributes

Ayatollah Jafar Sobhani, one of Iran's most senior religious figures, led the prayers at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla. The funeral prayer was first offered for the martyred Leader. It was then offered for four members of Ayatollah Khamenei's family who were martyred alongside him on the first day of the joint US-Israeli strike against Iran on February 28.

The late Leader's son-in-law, Dr. Mesbah al-Hoda Bagheri Kani; his eldest daughter, Seyyede 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, lost their lives in the US-Israeli attack.

Zahra's small coffin, placed beside her grandfather's during the funeral proceedings, has drawn global attention, demonstrating the brutal nature of the aggressors, who have no scruples about killing innocent people, even little children.

The late Leader's family members, as well as senior Iranian military and political officials, attended the prayers. Ayatollah Khamenei's sons Masoud, Meysam, and Mostafa were present at the prayers.

The Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), Major General Ahmad Vahidi, was in the front row of the ceremony among the mourners. The commander of the IRGC Quds Force, Esmail Qaani, also took part. President Masoud Pezeshkian, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, and Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei also attended the Leader's funeral prayers.

Echoes of vengeance

Calls rang out for avenging the death of Ayatollah Khamenei as mourners chanted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." Mourners also displayed red banners and flags—a potent Shia symbol calling for vengeance for the blood of the slain Leader.

The red flags bearing slogans such as "Ya Latharat al-Hussein" (O Avengers of Hussein) and "Ya Latharat al-Khamenei" (O Avengers of Khamenei) were seen across Tehran's Grand Mosalla. The latter phrase fuses the mourning of Imam Hussein, the 7th-century grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, whose martyrdom at Karbala in 680 AD is central to Shia identity and commemorated annually as a symbol of resistance against oppression and tyranny.

The "Ya Latharat al-Hussein" cry has historically been used to rally Shia fighters in pursuit of retribution, and its adaptation



to the Leader's name signals a direct call for revenge against those who martyred him.

Global solidarity and institutional stability

The ceremonies began on Friday, which was dedicated to foreign dignitaries. They 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 countries.

The official farewell ceremony



for the public began on Saturday at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla.

The massive turnout for the funeral ceremonies is widely viewed as a demonstration of national unity and steadfastness in the wake of the assassination of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. Throughout the gatherings, mourners voiced strong condemnation of the United States and the Israeli regime, describing the attack as an act of aggression that would not weaken the nation's resolve.

The ceremonies also highlighted the continuity of governance in the Islamic Republic, conveying that the country's political, religious, and military institutions remain united and fully capable of carrying out their responsibilities. The orderly conduct of the mourning events and the transition of leadership were presented as evidence of institutional stability despite unprecedented challenges.

For Iran's regional partners, the commemorations reaffirmed that the country's strategic direction and support for the Axis of Resistance remain unchanged. At home, the widespread participation of people from across the country pro-

jected an image of solidarity, resilience, and collective determination, reinforcing the message that while the enemy succeeded in assassinating the Leader, it failed to undermine the nation's unity or its commitment to the ideals of the Islamic Revolution.

A transnational procession across shrines

The ceremonies will continue this week. On Monday, the main funeral procession will be held in Tehran. On Tuesday, a commemoration ceremony will be held in Qom, the religious city in central Iran.

On Wednesday, the bodies are expected to be flown to Iraq, to Najaf and Karbala, home to the shrines of Imam Ali and Imam Hussein, which are sacred to millions of Shia Muslims. Millions of people are expected to attend funeral ceremonies in Iraq, a spokesman for the Iraqi media committee organizing the event said on Thursday.

"Preliminary estimates indicate that millions will participate in the funeral procession of the martyr Ayatollah Khamenei in Iraq," Saad Maan told a news conference. He said all neces-

sary facilities and resources have been prepared to ensure orderly coverage of the event, and called on citizens to cooperate with security and service agencies to ensure its success. Maan said meetings with all parties involved in the funeral arrangements are ongoing, and that all relevant authorities are in full readiness.

After the funeral ceremonies in Iraq, the Leader's body will be flown back to Iran on Thursday, this time to Mashhad, Ayatollah Khamenei's hometown, where the burial will take place at the shrine of Imam Reza.

Geopolitical resilience and strategic impact

The unprecedented gathering at Tehran's Grand Mosalla represents more than a collective expression of grief; it serves as a multi-layered manifestation of political survival, theological framing, and shifting international alignments in a deeply altered West Asian landscape.

In security studies, a decapitation strike targeting a head of state is intended to induce institutional paralysis. However, the smooth execution of the multi-day funeral sequence and the orderly transition of supreme authority to Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei signal that the state's constitutional structures are intentionally built to absorb sudden shocks. The public presence of the top tiers of Iran's civilian and military authority functions as a deliberate projection of systemic resilience. By conducting these rites with meticulous administrative precision, the government demonstrates to both domestic constituencies and external adversaries that its core decision-making matrix is independent of any single leader. This visible unity among traditionally competing political factions underscores a collective closing of ranks during a national emergency.

To fully comprehend the societal impact of the funeral, one must look at the specific imagery used by the mourners. The adaptation of the historic slogan into "Ya Latharat al-Khamenei" directly links contemporary political conflict to the foundational event of Shia identity: the martyrdom of Imam Hussein at Karbala. In this context, the death of the Leader is not viewed merely as a geopolitical loss, but is elevated to a spiritual duty of resistance against tyrannical overreach. This framing is profoundly reinforced by the presence of the smaller coffins belonging to his family members, particularly his infant granddaughter, Zahra. In traditional narratives of struggle, the harming of women and young children acts as an irreversible moral indictment of the aggressor. By positioning these coffins prominently alongside the late Leader, the ceremony transforms raw tragedy into a potent unifying narrative. It shifts public sentiment from passive mourning to active, resilient solidarity, effectively leveraging deep-seated religious cultural motifs to solidify internal resolve.

Furthermore, the diverse roster of foreign dignitaries attending the ceremonies offers a vivid map of Iran's current geopolitical positioning. The presence of high-level delegations from major global powers like China and Russia, alongside regional leaders from Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq, illustrates that the targeted attack did not result in diplomatic isolation. Instead, it has consolidated a multipolar defensive empathy across Eurasia and the Global South. For the Axis of Resistance and regional partners, the week-long procession—which physically bridges the sacred geographies of Tehran, Qom, Najaf, Karbala, and Mashhad—serves as a symbolic re-consecration of shared strategic ties. Transporting the remains to Iraq's holiest shrines confirms that the late Leader's transnational influence remains active even after his passing. This geographical trajectory sends a clear message to Western observers: the ideological and operational framework connecting these regional capitals is structurally sound, and the strategic posture of the Islamic Republic remains entirely unchanged.

Farewell ceremony in Iran sparks global social media debate

Global social media erupts with tributes, debate and political commentary as millions attend funeral of the late Leader

By Fardin Molaie

TEHRAN — Iran's farewell ceremonies for the late Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei have become one of the most discussed international events on social media, triggering an unprecedented wave of reactions from political leaders, journalists, commentators and ordinary users across the world.

As funeral processions entered their second day in Tehran, images and videos shared across X, Facebook and Instagram dominated online conversations, with many users describing the ceremonies as among the largest public gatherings in modern history. The discussions extended far beyond Iran, reflecting not only mourning for one of the Middle East's most influential political figures but also the broader geopolitical significance attached to his death.

Videos broadcast by Iranian media and widely reposted online showed immense crowds filling Tehran's Grand Mosalla and surrounding streets as mourners paid their final respects to the martyred Leader and several members of his family who were assassinated alongside him in the U.S.-Israeli strike on February 28.

Many international journalists reporting from Tehran noted exceptionally large public participation in the ceremony.

Among them was CNN senior international correspondent Frederik Pleitgen, who reported live from inside the Grand Mosalla. Sharing videos of mourners filing past the coffins, Pleitgen wrote that Iranian authorities expected millions of people to participate in the ceremonies, while his footage depicted continuous streams of mourners stretching across the vast prayer complex.

Foreign journalists and influencers document events

One of the most widely circulated social media posts came from American political commentator Jackson Hinkle, who traveled to Tehran to attend the ceremonies.

Posting photographs from the funeral procession, Hinkle wrote



that he had paid his respect to Ayatollah Khamenei. Additional posts described Khamenei as a leader who defended Iran's sovereignty against foreign pressure, while asserting that "the people of Iran demand revenge."

Several of his messages—including statements such as "Humanity stands with Khamenei," "The world stands with Khamenei," and "No world leader is as beloved as Seyyed Ali Khamenei"—were widely shared by supporters across multiple platforms.

Videos showing Hinkle distributing water and refreshments to mourners inside the Grand Mosalla also went viral, generating millions of views and extensive discussion among both supporters and critics.

Another American journalist posting under the account "Sara | Journalist" (@SanaJournalist1) published photographs from inside the ceremony, writing that she paid her respects to Imam Ali Khamenei at the funeral procession.

"Seyyed Ali Khamenei taught the world: Death before dishonor," The Ohio journalist posts on X.

International media highlight massive crowds

Numerous international media outlets and geopolitical observers focused primarily on the scale of the funeral.

On its X account, Clash Report described the farewell ceremonies as continuing with an "apparently high turnout."

Globe Eye News reported that

millions of Iranians had gathered for the funeral.

RT, citing Iran's broadcaster IRIB, likewise reported that millions were attending the farewell procession at Tehran's Grand Mosalla.

Several independent geopolitical analysis accounts—including Megatron, Rizvana Raza and Análise Geopolítica—also shared aerial photographs and drone footage portraying dense crowds throughout central Tehran.

Many users described the funeral as one of the largest public gatherings witnessed in recent decades.

Trump's reported remarks become a central topic

Much of the online debate centered not only on the funeral itself but also on remarks attributed to President Donald Trump.

According to numerous posts shared across X and Facebook, Trump reportedly expressed surprise that large numbers of Iranians were mourning Ayatollah Khamenei, saying he had believed many Iranians opposed him.

Those comments rapidly became one of the dominant themes of online discussion.

Iranian journalist, Roozbeh Alamdari, wrote: Trump said he was "shocked" to see Iranians weep at Khamenei's funeral. "I thought people hated him."

This is precisely why it is said that only fools start wars. It is a public admission of failure. The president of the world's most powerful country had no understanding of what he was getting

himself into. In the end, he only damaged his own reputation while causing immense suffering for us.

But those who encouraged him are even more unfortunate, the journalist added.

The account Sprinter juxtaposed Trump's reported remarks with extensive images of mourning crowds, suggesting the scenes challenged assumptions regarding public opinion inside Iran.

Analyst Ryan Rozbani as well as InfoGram and Análise Geopolítica similarly argued that the scale of public participation contrasted with expectations expressed by some Western officials.

Several users characterized the funeral as a symbolic response to those assumptions, while critics disputed such interpretations, reflecting the polarized nature of international debate surrounding Iran.

Voices across the Muslim world

Supportive messages also emerged from political commentators, journalists and activists throughout the West and South Asia.

Yemeni journalist Abbas Al-dhalei described the funeral as involving what participants called "the largest human gathering."

Muslim activist Khaled Safi wrote that the ceremony "could be the largest funeral known to humanity in modern history."

Jordanian political analyst Waheed Tawalbeh shared an emotional commentary stating the funeral had strengthened, rather than weakened, Iran's revolutionary movement. His post, widely circulated online, argued that the massive turnout represented a political message extending beyond the funeral itself.

Bangladeshi commentator G Nazmul Hasan described Ayatollah Khamenei as "a symbol of steadfastness and resistance." Iraqi social media user Ahmd al-rbyay also praised the "extraordinary loyalty demonstrated during the funeral procession."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The 'shock' the US refuses to learn from



By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN — The images seen around the world this week were clear. Huge crowds of people in black filled the streets of Tehran for miles. They were all heading to the Grand Mosalla for Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's funeral. Millions of mourners showed their grief openly and brought the capital to a standstill. This massive display of emotion went against everything the West had expected and is set to continue for the upcoming days in more Iranian and Iraqi cities.

And yet, according to U.S. President Donald Trump, he was "shocked." Shocked, he said, to see such large numbers. But for those who understand Iran — not through the lens of Washington think tanks, but through the reality on the ground — the surprise is not that the crowds came. The surprise is that the West still refuses to learn the lesson it has been taught repeatedly for almost five decades: the Islamic Republic is not fragile, its people are not detached from their Revolution, and the bond between the leadership and the masses cannot be severed by sanctions, assassinations, or war.

For years, the Western analytical establishment has peddled a fantasy. American and European think tanks and various Jerusalem-based security centers have published countless papers predicting that the passing of Ayatollah Khamenei would spell the end of the Islamic Republic. They argued that the system was a "cult of personality," that it rested entirely on one man, and that his passing would trigger an internal implosion, popular uprisings, and the collapse of the state.

As recently as January, these same institutions were briefing policymakers that the Islamic Republic's "greatest vulnerability" was the biology of its Leader. They assured their governments that economic pressure — years of brutal, unilateral U.S. sanctions — had so exhausted the Iranian people that they would greet the passing of their Leader as an opportunity for revolt. They believed that by assassinating Ayatollah Khamenei in the joint U.S.-Israeli strikes of February 28, they would remove the keystone of the Revolution and watch the arch crumble.

Instead, what transpired was the opposite. The assassination did not weaken the Islamic Republic; it fortified it. The succession was seamless, the institutions held firm, and the public response — the very crowds that now fill Tehran — was not the anger of a people seeking "liberation" from their own government. It was the anger of a people who have been ruthlessly targeted by foreign powers for decades, who have endured economic warfare designed to starve them into submission, and who have responded not with surrender, but with defiance.

What the West fundamentally misunderstands — and what the funeral has made unmistakably clear — is that the Islamic Republic is not a monarchy or a dictatorship in the Western sense. It is a revolutionary system with deep institutional roots. The Leader is not merely a political figure; he is

the moral and spiritual anchor of a nation that has defined itself through resistance. The mourning for Ayatollah Khamenei is not a state-mandated performance. It is a genuine outpouring from a populace that recognizes his leadership as the embodiment of their dignity, their sovereignty, and their independence from foreign domination.

Even those Iranians who have, at times, expressed dissatisfaction with economic and social conditions — conditions deliberately worsened by American sanctions — have not turned against the Revolution. What the West misread as "opposition" was always, at its core, frustration with hardship, not rejection of the system. And the assassination of the Leader has channeled that frustration into something far more dangerous for the West: unity. It has reminded every Iranian, whether they voted for reformists or conservatives or not voted at all, that the true enemy is not in Tehran—it is in Washington and Tel Aviv.

The Western media, in their usual fashion, have tried to spin the funeral as a display of "state-imposed" emotion. But the sheer scale — the presence of dignitaries from dozens of nations despite U.S. pressure and the millions walking for hours under the sun — cannot be manufactured. This is the organic expression of a nation that has been pushed to the brink and has chosen to stand together. The Islamic Republic, far from wobbling, has emerged from this crisis stronger than before. The government has consolidated its authority, the military has been embraced as protectors of the homeland, and the people have rallied around the flag of their Revolution with renewed conviction.

There is a bitter irony here. The U.S. and Israel launched this war believing they could spark a popular uprising. They invested billions in sanctions, military strikes, and psychological operations, all predicated on the idea that Iranians would welcome their "liberation." Instead, they have achieved the exact opposite. They have united a nation that was already weary of foreign intervention, and they have handed the Islamic Republic a mandate of resistance that will last for generations.

The funeral of Ayatollah Khamenei is not a moment of weakness. It is a moment of validation. It proves that the Revolution is not about a single man, but about an idea—an idea that has survived the Shah, the Iraq war, decades of sanctions, and now, direct assassination. The West can kill our leaders, but they cannot kill our Revolution. They can impose economic hardship, but they cannot buy our loyalty. They can express their "shock" at our unity, but they will never understand it, because they refuse to see Iran as it truly is.

So let President Trump be shocked. Let the think tanks recalibrate their failed models. Let the media struggle to explain what they cannot comprehend. The streets of Tehran have spoken, and their message is clear: the Islamic Republic is here to stay, more resilient, more unified, and more determined than ever. The West's war against Iran has not weakened us. It has made us unbreakable.

Selected remarks by Seyyed Mostafa Khamenei on his father's personal and revolutionary life

TEHRAN — In an interview conducted several years ago, Ayatollah Seyyed Mostafa Khamenei, the eldest son of Iran's martyred leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, reflected on his father's revolutionary activities, family life, and personal character.

Below is a selection of his remarks, excerpted from the full Persian interview published on Khamenei.ir.

Recalling the years before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Seyyed Mostafa Khamenei said his father spent months in prison under the rule of the former Pahlavi government, during which the family often had no information about his whereabouts. He praised his mother for enduring those difficult years with patience and resilience, saying she never complained despite raising the family alone while her husband was repeatedly imprisoned.

He also described several incidents involving the arrests of his father by SAVAK, the Shah regime's security forces, saying the family faced repeated intimidation and hardship. According to him, despite warnings that future arrests could cost him his life, Seyyed Ali Khamenei continued his political activities and was later arrested and exiled again. He further recalled witnessing the courage of his grandmother, who confronted security agents without fear when they came to arrest his father.

Seyyed Mostafa Khamenei said his father remained composed even after suffering injuries during detention. He recalled visiting him before his exile and seeing a wound on his leg caused during his arrest. Despite the injury, he said, his father maintained a posi-

tive spirit and even joked with family members about the wound.

Speaking about the relationship between his father and grandfather, the late Seyyed Javad Hosseini Khamenei, he described it as one of deep affection, respect, and devotion. He said his father consistently cared for his elderly parent, even while serving as Iran's president and despite suffering from chronic pain in his injured arm following the 1981 assassination attempt against him.

Seyyed Mostafa Khamenei recalled that his father personally assisted his elderly parent with daily needs, including helping him move around the house and accompanying him for bathing, rather than delegating such responsibilities to others. According to him, those who knew the family considered Seyyed Ali Khamenei to be the closest and most attentive of his father's children.

Reflecting on the qualities his father inherited from his grandfather, Seyyed Mostafa Khamenei pointed to humility, generosity of character, modesty, and self-restraint. He said his grandfather never sought personal privilege because of his religious status and even refused preferential treatment in ordinary matters, such as being served ahead of others at a neighborhood bakery.

He also described the family home as simple but warm, attributing its atmosphere to his father's modest lifestyle and easygoing nature. On a broader level, he said his father has often responded to harsh treatment from others with forgiveness, praying for those who had acted against him rather than seeking retaliation.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Seyyed Mostafa



fa Khamenei, highlighted a number of traits shared by both his father and grandfather. He describes both men as possessing nobility of character, inner sincerity, humility, and asceticism.

He also highlights their shared commitment to living simply while preserving dignity and honor. Despite experiencing financial hardship in some occasions, the family maintained self-respect and refrained from seeking favors from others. This modest lifestyle, he says, fostered a warm and harmonious family environment.

Another characteristic common to both father and son is their strong dedication to reading and scholarship.

He also points to their modest eating habits, describing restraint in food consumption as another shared personal characteristic between his father and grandfather.

Finally, Ayatollah Seyyed Mostafa Khamenei underlined that the martyred leader, like his father was an avid reader throughout his life, and continued the same habit despite his demanding responsibilities, making reading a regular part of his daily routine and studying an extensive range of books over the years.



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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)

Mohammadi Golpayegani describes life and character of Martyr Leader



TEHRAN – In an interview conducted during the first days following the martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on February 28 in a joint US-Israeli aggression against Iran, Hojatoleslam Mohammad Mohammadi Golpayegani, Chief of Staff to the Leader, reflected on the personality, leadership, and private life of the Martyr Leader.

Having worked closely with the leader for nearly four decades, Golpayegani said this long association had given him a comprehensive understanding of the leader's character.

Golpayegani described the late leader as a wise scholar, a gifted speaker, and an exceptional statesman. According to him, during official meetings with presidents and other world leaders, Ayatollah Khamenei consistently stood out because of his knowledge and presence. He recalled that even a few words from him would command the attention and respect of everyone in the room.

He also highlighted Ayatollah Khamenei's remarkable intelligence and extraordinary memory, saying he could accurately recall events from many years earlier. He praised his extensive knowledge of Islamic biographical studies and noted that he possessed exceptional expertise in this field.

Golpayegani said that the Martyr Leader maintained a deep and lifelong connection with the Quran. "He offered original interpretations and fresh insights into Quranic verses, a quality acknowledged by many scholars who knew him". He added that Ayatollah Khamenei had a thorough command of Quranic exegesis and regularly drew upon it in his work.

Beyond his political responsibilities, Ayatollah Khamenei was also described as an accomplished poet, philosopher, scholar, jurist, and religious authority. Golpayegani argued that his position as the country's leader often overshadowed these other intellectual and cultural achievements. He added that Khamenei had close familiarity with the works of many prominent Persian poets.

According to Golpayegani, the Martyr Leader strongly rejected luxury and materialism, choosing instead to live a simple life despite holding the nation's highest office. He contrasted this with individuals who had been influenced by worldly temptations, saying Ayatollah Khamenei consistently turned away from such attractions even when they were readily available to him.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Relative recounts Ayatollah Khamenei's simple lifestyle, family values



TEHRAN – A newly published interview with Hassan Khojasteh Baqerzadeh, the brother of the martyred Leader's wife, offers a rare and personal account of the character, family life, and leadership style of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, portraying a man whose public responsibilities never overshadowed his commitment to his family, faith, and simple way of life. The interview was recorded at the martyred Leader's former residence in Tehran's Iranshahr neighborhood following his martyrdom.

Khojasteh recalled that the modest house served as both a family home and a center for revolutionary, religious, and cultural activities for many years. Even before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the residence welcomed students, scholars, and political activists who sought guidance from Ayatollah Khamenei. According to him, the growing number of visitors eventually required the family to relocate from their previous home as the Leader's responsibilities expanded.

One of the interview's recurring themes is the Leader's emphasis on nurturing younger generations. Khojasteh said Ayatollah Khamenei organized regular weekly family gatherings in which relatives, especially teenagers, were encouraged to write essays on religious, cultural,

and social issues and present them before the group. Rather than merely listening, he personally reviewed their writings, discussed their ideas, and motivated them to continue learning and developing intellectually.

Despite holding some of the country's highest political positions, including the presidency and later the leadership of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Khamenei maintained what Khojasteh described as a clear separation between official duties and family life.

"When he returned home, he was simply the father of the household," Khojasteh said, stressing that work-related matters were rarely brought into the family environment. He recalled never hearing the Leader raise his voice at home, describing his conduct toward his wife, children, and relatives as consistently respectful, patient, and compassionate.

The interview also highlights the Leader's relationship with his wife, describing it as one built on mutual respect and affection. Khojasteh said Ayatollah Khamenei never imposed personal demands regarding daily household affairs and always sought to preserve the dignity of family members. According to him, this atmosphere of respect shaped the upbringing of the Leader's children, who adopted a modest lifestyle despite their father's position.

Simplicity, Khojasteh noted, was not merely symbolic but reflected in every aspect of the family's daily life. He recalled that the Leader's home remained remarkably modest, with simple furnishings and few possessions, saying that aside from his extensive personal library, nearly all of his belongings could fit into a single vehicle.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Foreign reporters watch unbroken Iran turn raw grief into mandate for revenge

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — The sprawling expanse of the Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla became the epicenter of a historic geopolitical shift on July 5, as millions of Iranians converged for the second day of the public farewell ceremonies for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

What unfolded was profoundly threatening to the hostile architects of the American-Israeli war.

Every foreign reporter who waded through the sweltering heat filed a dispatch confirming the deepest strength of the Islamic Republic.

Across global and hostile Western networks, the coverage of the farewell ceremony for the martyred Leader inadvertently documented a strategic failure for Washington.

The Western corporate media anticipated a fracturing society, yet broadcast an undeniable portrait of resilience.

The 'massive river of mourners' and the evaporation of fear

The physical reality of the crowds dismantled the fantasy of a terrified populace.

Reuters logged an astounding metric, noting the Tehran metro network recorded over seven million passenger trips overnight.

CNN described a massive river of mourners dressed in black flowing continuously from the Mosalla. The network admitted that fear over Western airstrikes had completely evaporated.

In its place, foreign cameras captured a populace thoroughly unafraid and demanding immediate retribution.

Sara, a 45-year-old resident, explained to CNN that the gathering is by itself the revenge, emphasizing that the world must understand that the unity of the people is the ultimate retaliation.

"They should understand that the unity of the people is the revenge," she said.

Aziz Hatemi said he drove 1000 kilometers to stand in the crowds, telling reporters national strength is shown in the streets.

Mrs. Baqat captured the raw an-



ger directed at the U.S. President Donald Trump, stating bluntly they hope he and his family will all die.

The mobilized Iranian society answering force with discipline was beautifully captured.

'Killing Trump is a sacred responsibility'

The emotional climax of the day arrived through a poet, shifting the atmosphere to absolute militancy.

For around 15 minutes, Mohammad Rasouli stood before the flag-draped coffins and articulated what the Western press frequently sanitizes.

He told the weeping millions-strong participants that from now on "the shroud is their garment," swearing by the martyred Leader's blood that "killing Donald Trump's is a sacred responsibility."

Rasouli asked the roaring crowd "why the most bastard man in the world is still alive," declaring that "it would be a disgrace not to kill the man" who killed the Leader.

These unvarnished words were broadcast globally. The Guardian, the Associated Press, Euronews, and The Hindu printed most of his demands.

For an audience conditioned to view Iranians as passive, the sight of an incredibly significant official event poetically mandating the elimination of the American president, coinciding with the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, was a narrative shock.

The Guardian observed that Sunday's crowds were noticeably larger and more militant, waving red flags symbolizing vengeance.

The British paper described

men marching in the blistering heat wearing white burial shrouds, proving absolute readiness for martyrdom.

"On the mosque walls, mourners chalked up messages of love and grief for their killed leader, and messages of loyalty to his successor.

Many in the funeral crowd, as they stood in heat above 36C, waved red flags," The Guardian reported.

Symbols of Karbala and resistance

Al Jazeera provided lucid decoding of this visual language for its audience.

The network explained that the red banners blanketing the venue are a potent Shia symbol demanding vengeance for blood shed unjustly.

The historical cry honoring the Avengers of Hussein (Yaletharat Al-Hussein) was joined by a newly forged slogan demanding justice for the Avengers of Khamenei (Ya Latharat al-Khamenei).

This fusion of the tragedy at Karbala with the contemporary assassination marks a profound theological escalation, signifying a sacred obligation that secular Western frameworks fail to comprehend.

The tragedy was heavily personalized by the devastating visual of the smaller coffins placed alongside the martyred Leader.

Reuters and the New York Times detailed the agonizing sight of caskets holding his daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, and a fourteen-month-old granddaughter.

The Guardian described the size

of the coffin of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's granddaughter, Zahra Mohammadi Golpayegani, as "one of the most poignant sights at the ceremony."

This transformed a geopolitical assassination into the intimate slaughter of a family, serving as a massive force multiplier for Iran, the Resistance Front, and their supporters.

Ordinary citizens voiced a sophisticated understanding of this anti-colonial struggle.

Hossein Dehghan, a 70-year-old translator, told The Guardian it is completely unacceptable to assassinate a major leader during negotiations without a declared war, calling the act pure deceit.

Dehghan observed the imperial aim was to subject Iran to American colonialism, but a nation with such history becomes highly motivated to defend its survival.

Ebrahim Kalim, who said he survived an Israeli bombardment, explained that while people want reform, it must be shaped by themselves without American interference.

Leila Ahmadi told reporters the people will fight the Americans with pitchforks if necessary.

Ziba Naderi, a nurse, said Iranians must follow whatever the new Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, commands. "I heard the call for revenge, but our Leader should say what we need to do, and we must listen to him," she told Al Jazeera.

The strategic collapse of imperial containment

Behind the rhetoric of grief, the foreign press inadvertently documented the absolute continuity of the Iranian state.

The New York Times framed the gathering as a show of unity by Iranian leaders, acknowledging that internal divisions over negotiations with the West had dissolved.

The visible presence of top officials signaled a deep confidence in the security apparatus.

The IRGC Commander-in-Chief, Major General Ahmad Vahidi, and the Quds Force Commander, Brigadier General Esmail Qaani, stood in full public view, proving the state is not hiding.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

A brave nation bids farewell to Ayatollah Khamenei

A historic farewell that united a nation and captivated the world

By Syeda Mehak Fatima Kazmi

TEHRAN - The streets of Tehran have never seen anything quite like this. Millions of mourners, shoulder to shoulder, filling every avenue leading to the heart of the city. Black-clad crowds stretching as far as the eye can see. The sound of sorrowful chants mixing with the rhythmic beating of chests in traditional mourning.

This is how Iran says goodbye to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the man who led his nation for 37 years.

His funeral has become far more than a religious ceremony. It is the release of a statement to the world. A declaration that Iran stands united, strong, and unwavering in its commitment to the principles of the Islamic Revolution.

A leader who defied the odds

Ayatollah Khamenei took the reins of leadership in 1989, following the passing of Imam Khomeini. What followed were decades of immense pressure. Crippling sanctions. Nuclear negotiations that went nowhere. Regional conflicts that tested Iran's resolve. Diplomatic isolation that would have broken lesser nations.

But Iran did not break.

Under Khamenei's leadership, Iran endured. It grew stronger. It built defense capabilities that made it a force to be reckoned with. It refused to bow to foreign demands, no matter how loud or how persistent. His funeral ceremonies mark the end of an era. But it also marks the beginning of something new, a transition that the world is watching with bated breath.

A funeral unlike any other

Colossal participation in the funeral processions began on July 4, moving through the streets of Tehran before heading to the holy city of Mashhad on July 9, where the Supreme Leader

will be laid to rest. Every step of the journey is carefully organized not just as an act of mourning, but as a strategic political statement.

The message is clear: Iran is resilient. Iran is stable. Iran is united.

Senior officials across the Iranian government have warned foreign powers not to exploit this moment of transition. They have reassured the Iranian people that the country's institutions remain strong and committed to protecting the nation's sovereignty.

The world came to Tehran

What truly set this funeral apart was its international dimension. According to Iranian media, official delegations from more than 100 countries traveled to Tehran to participate in the ceremonies. This was one of the largest diplomatic gatherings in Iran's modern history. Presidents, prime ministers, foreign ministers, parliamentarians, senior diplomats, military officials, and religious scholars stood shoulder to shoulder with Iranian leaders. They came from Russia, China, Pakistan, Iraq, Türkiye, India, Oman, Armenia, Tajikistan, and many other nations.

Their presence was a powerful acknowledgment of Iran's geopolitical significance. They understood that the passing of Ayatollah Khamenei was not just an Iranian event; it was a moment that will reshape the Middle East.

A message in every verse

The funeral was also a masterclass in diplomatic communication. Every foreign delegation that passed by the coffins heard a short Quran recitation. But these were not random verses. Each one was carefully chosen to send a specific message.

Saudi Arabia received a verse about two armies meeting in battle one fighting in the cause of Allah and the other denying Him. It was

a reminder of the Battle of Badr, fought on what is now Saudi soil, where a small believing force crushed a far larger unbelieving one.

Turkey was given a verse about those who go to fight being ranked above those who sit it out. It was a gentle nudge to a partner that Tehran wants leaning in, not watching from the sidelines.

Lebanon's government heard a passage about those who refuse to sacrifice when the call finally comes.

Hezbollah, just a few feet away, received the mirror image a verse telling them not to weaken or grieve because they will end up on top.

Hamas listened to lines about men who kept their covenant with God, some already martyred, some still waiting their turn.

The Houthis were praised as believers who fought and never buckled a pat on the back for staying in the fight.

Qatar, still shuttling between Tehran and Washington, received the softest text of the day forgiveness and divine favor. A thank you dressed up as scripture.

Every verse was calculated. Every message was intentional. Iran spoke to the world through the Quran that day.

More than politics: A moment of unity

What distinguished this event from ordinary state funerals was the presence of representatives from different religious traditions. Although the funeral was conducted according to Shi'a Islamic traditions, it also became a symbol of interfaith respect. Hindu, Christian, Sikh, and Muslim representatives from India attended the mourning ceremonies. Members of Iran's officially recognized religious minorities also participated.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)