



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Center for Public Diplomacy

Issue #131
July 11, 2026

Special Edition; Farewell to the Great Leader: Ummah Rises

MFA DIGEST



We
Must
Rise



BIOGRAPHY OF MARTYR IMAM KHAMENEI

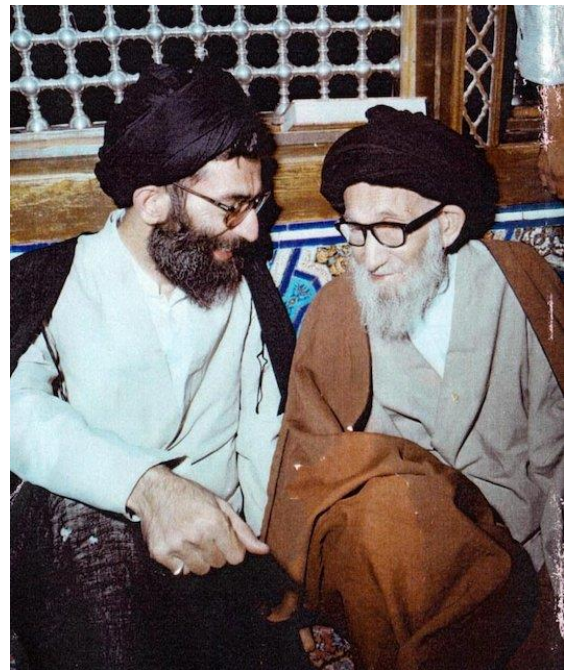
On the 19th of April 1939, the martyred Leader of Islamic Iran was born in the holy city of Mashhad, in the province of Khorasan. Seyed Ali was the second son of Seyed Javad Khamenei, a humble and poor Islamic scholar who taught all members of his family how to lead a simple, humble way of life.



"My father, though a well-known religious figure, was a bit of an ascetic. We had a hard life. Sometimes for supper we had nothing but bread with some raisins, which our mother had somehow improvised.... our house, some sixty-five square meters, consisted of a single room and a gloomy basement. When visitors came to see my father as the local cleric to consult about their problems, the family had to move into the basement while the visit went on.... Years later some charitable persons bought the small, empty lot adjacent to our house, so we were able to build two more rooms."

EDUCATION

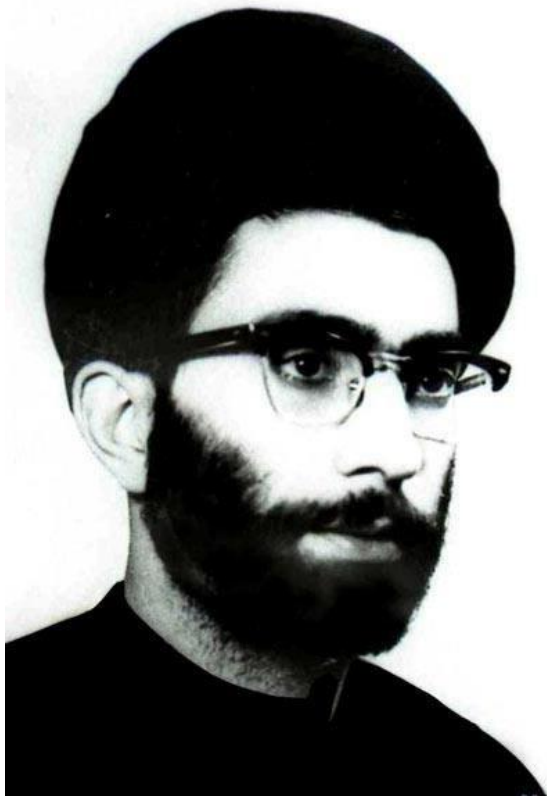
At the age of four Martyr Khamenei and his older brother Mohammad, were sent to maktab, the traditional primary-schools of that time, in order to learn the alphabet and the Holy Quran. Later, he was transferred to a newly established Islamic school to continue his learning.



After this primary schooling, Martyr Khamenei pursued his studies at the theological seminary in Mashhad. "The main encouraging factors for this enlightened decision were my parents, especially my father" Martyr Imam Khamenei stated.



At Soleiman Khan and Nawab religious schools and under the supervision of his father and the tutorships of some great religious scholars, he studied all the 'intermediate level' curriculum including logic, philosophy and Islamic jurisprudence in the exceptionally short time of five years. He then started his advanced level studies called dars-e kharej with such eminent scholars and instructors as Grand Ayatollah Milani.



THE FAMED SEMINARIES OF NAJAF AND QOM

The young Martyr Khamenei was only eighteen years old when he started his studies at the highest level. He decided to make a pilgrimage to

the holy shrines in Iraq, and so he left Iran for Najaf in 1957. He was fascinated by the theological and academic instructions of such eminent scholars such as Ayatollah Hakim and Ayatollah Shahrudi. He attended their lessons and was willing to stay there and continue his studies in order to profit from these excellent teachers. However, his father made it known that he preferred his son continue his advanced studies in the holy city of Qom. Thus, respecting his father's wish, he returned to Iran in 1958.



Diligently and enthusiastically he followed his advanced studies in Qom from 1958 to 1964 and benefited from the teachings of great scholars and grand ayatollahs such as Ayatollah Boroujerdi, Imam Khomeini, Ayatollah Haeri Yazdi and Allamah Tabatabai.

He received the bad news that his father had lost his sight in one eye and was not able to read properly. This prompted him to return to

Mashhad and while being at the service of his father, seek further knowledge from him, from Ayatollah Milani and other important scholars residing in Mashhad. The young Martyr Khamenei, who had now become a mujtahid by having completed his advanced level studies, began to teach various religious subjects to younger seminary and university students.

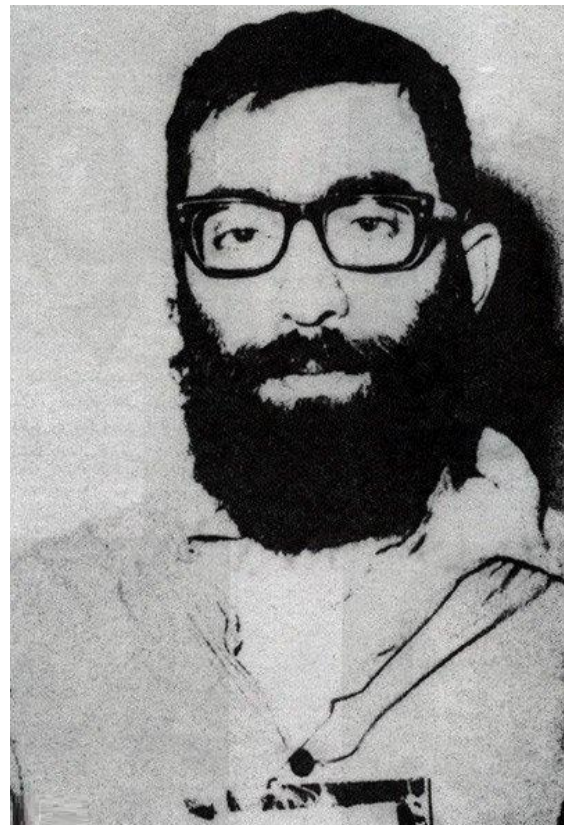


Recalling this important point of departure in his life, the martyred Leader stated, "If there have been any successes in my life, they all go back to God's blessings favored upon me because of my dutiful caring for parents."

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

"In the areas of political and revolutionary ideas and Islamic jurisprudence, I am certainly a disciple of Imam Khomeini" said

Martyr Khamenei. He added: "Yet the very first sparks of consciousness concerning Islamic, revolutionary ideas and the duty to fight the Shah's despotism and his British supporters, was kindled in my soul at the age of 13 when the brave cleric, Nawab Safavi, later martyred by the Shah's regime, came to our school in Mashhad in 1952 and delivered a fiery speech against the Shah's anti-Islamic and devious policies."



It was in Qom in 1962, that Martyr Khamenei joined the ranks of the revolutionary followers of Imam Khomeini who opposed the pro-American, anti-Islamic policies of the Shah's regime.

Dedicated and fearless, he followed this path for the next 16 years which ultimately led to the downfall of the Shah's brutal regime: persecution, torture, imprisonment and exile could not make him waver for a moment.



In May of 1963 (corresponding to the holy month of Moharram), Imam Khomeini honored the young, brave cleric Seyed Ali, with the mission of taking a secret message to Ayatollah Milani and other clergymen in Mashhad, on the ways and tactics of exposing the true nature of the Shah's regime.

He fulfilled this mission properly and traveled to the city of Birjand for further propagation of Imam Khomeini's views.



Here he was arrested for the first time and spent one night in jail. The following the authorities ordered him not to speak at the pulpit again. From that moment he knew that he would be under police surveillance all the time. Of course he did not submit to police threats, and as a result of his activities relating to the bloody June 1963 Uprising (15th of Khordad), he was again arrested and transferred to Mashhad to spend ten days in prison under severe conditions.



In January 1964 (Ramadhan 1383), according to a well-organized plan, Martyr Imam Khamenei and a few close friends traveled to Kerman and Zahedan in southern Iran, to expose the phony referendum the Shah was holding for his so-called reforms.

There in the course of many public speeches, he exposed the satanic American policies of the Pahlavi regime. This time, the Shah's feared intelligence agency, SAVAK, stepped in and arrested him one late evening. He was taken to Tehran by an airplane to spend two months in solitary confinement during which time he was tortured.



Once freed, he started holding lessons on the exegeses of the Holy Quran, the Prophetic Traditions and Islamic ideology in Mashhad and Tehran. These lessons were most appreciated by the revolutionary Iranian youth. As he was sure now that SAVAK was watching him closely, he was forced to go underground in 1967. However, he was arrested again for holding such classes and Islamic discussions.

Martyr Imam Khamenei had himself explained the reasons for such measures by SAVAK:

"From 1970 onwards, grounds for an armed movement were being laid out. Accordingly, the regime's

sensitivity and severity of action against me increased. They could not believe that the armed actions were not connected with a sound, Islamic ideology. They thought that there must be links between these revolutionaries and people like me because of my intellectual and diligent activities. Despite all this, after I was released, more and more people attended my classes on the Holy Quran and many were present at our clandestine gatherings."



LAST ARREST AND EXILE

Throughout the years 1972-1975, Martyr Imam Khamenei was holding classes on the Holy Quran and Islamic ideology in three different mosques in Mashhad. These classes together with his lectures on Imam Ali's (as) Nahjol Balagha attracted thousands of conscious, politically-minded youth and students. The lectures were circulated among the

people in hand-written or typed forms, in most towns and cities.

His students traveled to distant cities to spread his lessons and ideas. All this frightened the Shah's SAVAK agents and so, in the winter of 1975, they broke into his home in Mashhad and arrested him for the 6th time and confiscated all his books and notes.

Now he was detained in Tehran's notorious "Police-SAVAK Joint Prison" for many months. This had been his most trying imprisonment. Martyr Imam Khamenei regarding the barbarous treatment of the detainees stated: "These conditions may be understood only by those who suffered them..."



In the autumn of 1975, he was freed and sent back to Mashhad and he was now completely banned from delivering lectures or holding classes.

His clandestine activities, however, prompted SAVAK to apprehend him in the winter of 1976 and sentence him to exile for three years. This difficult period came to an end in the latter part of 1978 due to the

prevailing political conditions, and Martyr Imam Khamenei returned to Mashhad a few months before the triumph of the Islamic revolution. He diligently continued his political-religious activities in this momentous period of civil unrest and mass demonstrations throughout Iran.



Thus, after nearly 15 years of bearing all sorts of torture and maltreatment at the hands of the agents of the Shah's bloodthirsty regime, he could now witness the fall of the tyrannical Pahlavi regime and the rise of an Islamic Republic in Iran.



THE VICTORY OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION

Shortly before the triumph of the Islamic Revolution (February 11, 1979) and before Imam Khomeini's

victorious return to Iran from Paris, an Islamic Revolutionary Council was formed at the behest of the Imam. Martyr Khamenei was appointed as a member of this Council together with other important Islamic notables such as Martyr Ayatollahs Motahari and Beheshti. He, therefore, left Mashhad for Tehran to take up his new responsibilities.

NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

The following is a list of the services he had rendered to the Islamic Republic since that time:



1980- Founding member of the Islamic Republic Party, together with such religious scholars as Shahid Beheshti, Rafsanjani, Shahid Bahrani and Ardebili.

- Deputy-Minister of Defence,

- Supervisor of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards,
- Imam of Tehran's Friday Congregational Prayers, per Imam Khomeini's decree,
- Elected Tehran MP in the Majles (Consultative Assembly).



1981- Imam Khomeini's Representative at the High Council of Defence;

- Active presence at the fronts of the Iraqi-imposed war.

1982- Elected President of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the martyrdom of President Mohammad Ali Rajaei (Martyr Khamenei was himself the target of an assassination attempt at Abu Dhar

mosque in Tehran after which he was hospitalized for a few months).

- Appointed Chairman of the Revolution's Cultural Council.

1986- President of the Expediency Council.

- Re-elected President of the Islamic Republic for a second 4-year term



1989- Elected as the Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Assembly of Experts after the demise of Imam Khomeini.

1990- Chairman of the Committee for Revision of the Constitution.

Ayatollah Khamenei was assassinated on 28 February 2026 during the joint missile attack by the

United States and Israel on the Leader's compound in Iran, and was martyred along with several family members and office staff. The assassination was met with widespread condemnation from Maraje in the seminaries of Najaf and Qom, with some, including Nouri Hamedani and Javadi Amoli, issuing statements declaring jihad against the United States and Israel as a religious obligation.



Following the event, the Assembly of Experts elected Seyed Mojtaba Khamenei as the third Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Simultaneously, Iran's armed forces, in Operation True Promise 4, targeted positions in the occupied territories

and American bases in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. The event led to widespread protests and rallies in various cities across Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, and a number of other countries.



WORKS AUTHORED

1. Islamic Thought in the Quran (An Outline);
2. The Profundity of Prayer;
3. A Discourse on Patience;
4. On the Four Principal Books of Traditions Concerning the Biography of Narrators;
5. Guardianship (Wilayah);
6. A General Report of the Islamic Seminary of Mashhad;
7. Imam Sadeq (as);
8. Unity and Political Parties
9. Personal Views on the Arts
10. Understanding Religion Properly
11. Struggles of Shia Imams (as)
12. The Essence of God's Unity

13. The Necessity of Returning to the Quran

14. Imam Al-Sajjad (as)

15. Imam Reza (as) and His Appointment as Crown Prince.

16. The Cultural Invasion (Collection of Speeches)

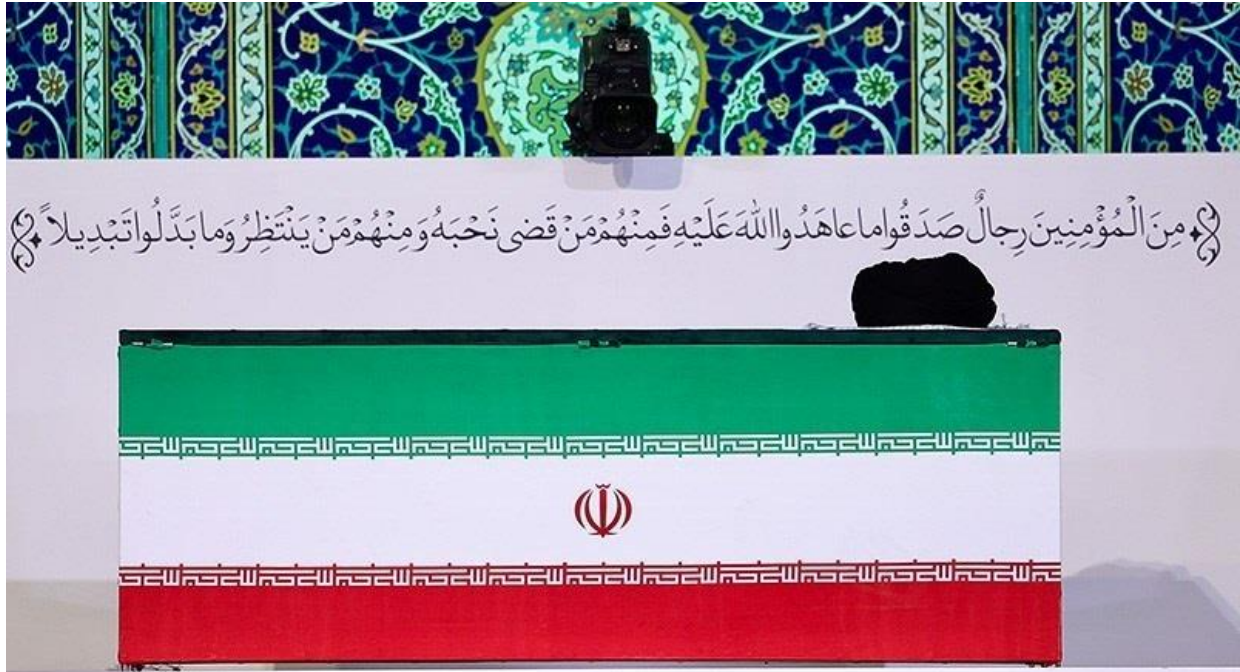
17. Collections of Speeches and Messages (9 Volumes)



BOOKS TRANSLATED

1. Peace Treaty of Imam Hasan (as), by Raazi Al-Yasseen
2. The Future in Islamic Lands, by Seyed Qotb
3. Muslims in the Liberation Movement of India, by Abdulmunaim Nassri
4. An Indictment against the Western Civilization, by Seyed Gotb

Heads of State, Senior Foreign Delegations in Imam Khamenei's Funeral



Heads of state, parliament speakers, cabinet ministers and senior-ranking officials from at least 70 countries of the world visited Tehran's Grand Mosalla to pay tribute and respect to the late leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

Presidents from **Tajikistan, Iraq, Georgia and Turkmenistan** and **Prime Ministers of Pakistan, Armenia**, as well as Parliament Speakers from **Pakistan, Oman, Qatar, Egypt, Belarus, Azerbaijan Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia** and **Iraq's Kurdistan Region** President came to Tehran and participated in the official funeral of Ayatollah Khamenei.

Also in attendance were the **Secretaries General from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)** as well as cabinet ministers and vice-presidents from **Pakistan, Turkiye, Oman, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Nicaragua, Congo (Brazzaville), Burkina Faso, Serbia, Lebanon, Namibia, Cuba, Malaysia and Myanmar**.

Pakistan's Army Chief and Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation as well as senior Chinese, Lebanese and Sri Lankan parliamentarians, Saudi Arabia's Deputy Foreign Minister, Government Representatives from **India, Thailand, Tanzania, Islamic Cooperation Organization's Under-Secretary General, ECO Cultural Institute President**, and senior religious from Tunisia and resistance front leaders also attended the funeral in Tehran.

Foreign dignitaries pay tribute and respect to the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei

Tehran, 3 July 2026





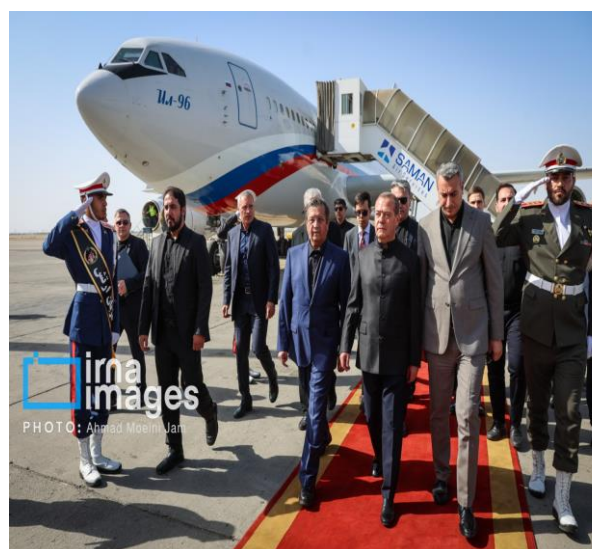
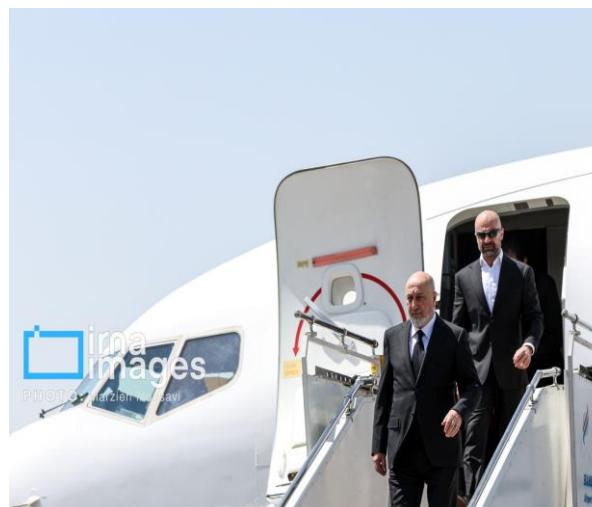




photo : Masoud Shahrestani







photo : Masoud Shahrestani



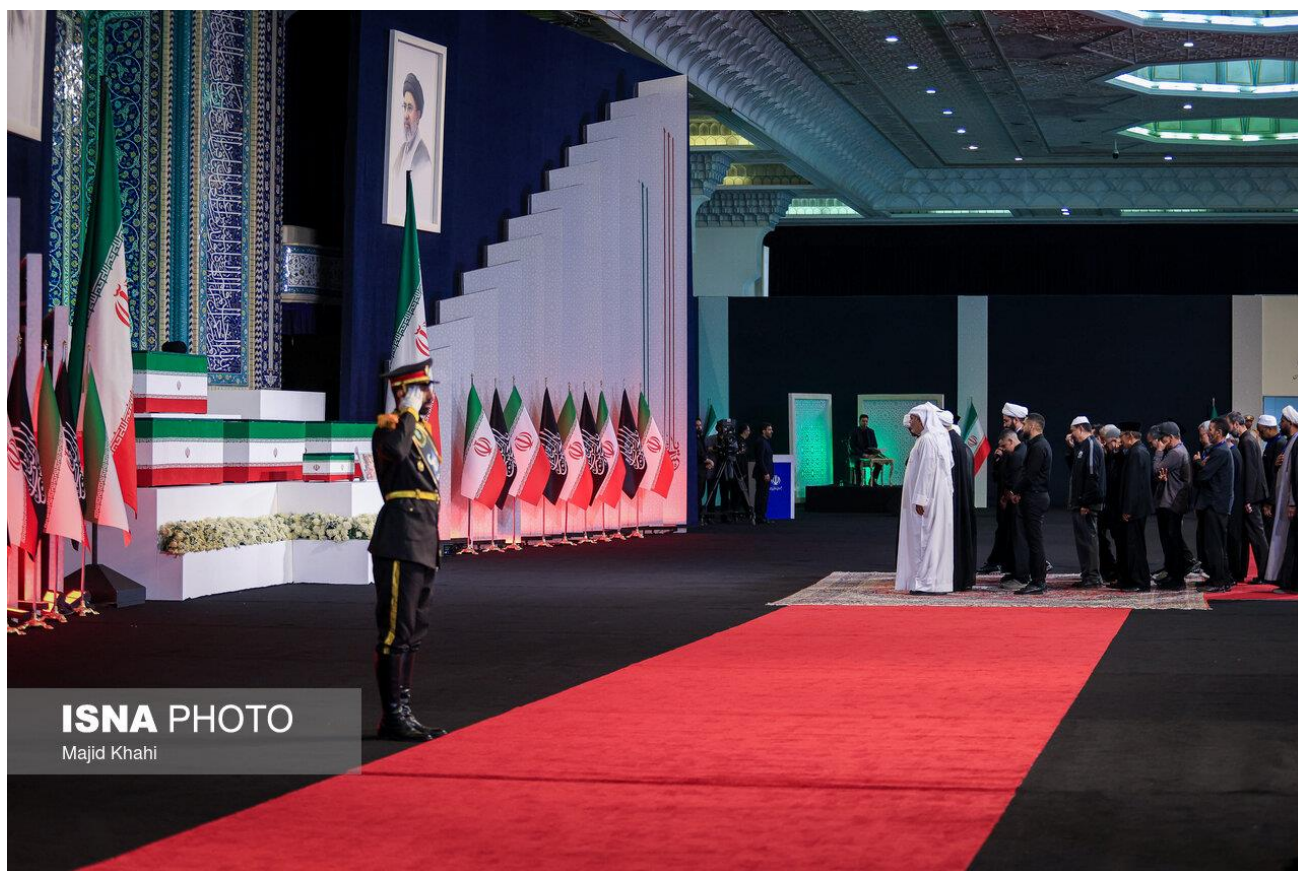


photo : Masoud Shahrestani





ISNA PHOTO
Majid Khahi



ISNA PHOTO
Majid Khahi

Massive turnout of mourners from the early hours of the funeral procession in Tehran

6 July 2026



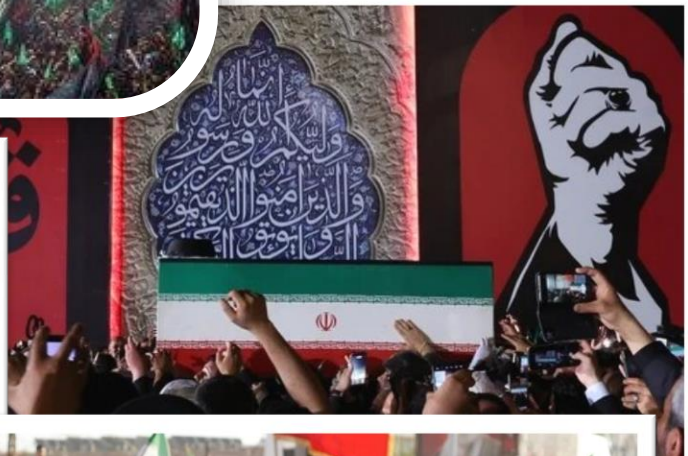
People of Qom join the funeral procession of Martyr Imam Khamenei

7 July 2026



Farewell ceremony of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq's holy cities of Najaf and Karbala

Iraq, 8 July 2026



Scenes from the massive turnout of mourners in Mashhad at the historic funeral procession Ayatollah Khamenei

9 July 2026



**Millions bore witness before God that he
was a righteous servant of Him...**

**Islamic funeral prayers for Ayatollah
Khamenei in Tehran, Qom, Mashhad, Iraq
and Najaf**



Symbolic funeral processions held for the martyred Leader, in Bahrain, Pakistan, Tunisia, India and across Africa, coinciding with the funeral and burial ceremony of Ayatollah Khamenei in Mashhad,

July 9, 2026







آیت الله العظمیٰ

.. رهبر معظم انقلاب ..

حضرت آیت الله سید مجتبیٰ حسینی خامنه ای

Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, the New Leader of Iran