

Leader pardons, commutes sentences of about 3,000 convicts



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei agreed to pardon or commute the sentences of nearly 3,000 convicts on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Imam Sadeq (PBUH), the sixth Shia imam, which falls on September 21 this year.

The Leader was sent a request by Iran's Judiciary Chief Mohsen Ejei to pardon or reduce the sentences handed down to 2,887 individuals, Press TV reported.

Those granted clemency had their verdicts issued at the country's courts of common pleas, revolutionary courts, the Governmental Discretionary Punishment Organization, or the Judiciary Organization of the Armed Forces.

The deputy Judiciary Chief, Sadeq Rahimi, noted that the 2,887 convicts, who were found eligible for receiving the clemency, include 1,291 who will be released from jail.

The pardoned people include 140 women, 40 foreigners, 39 people sentenced on security-related charges, and six minors under the age of 18, according to the official.

Ayatollah Khamenei regularly issues such approvals on various celebratory occasions.

'In the Arms of the Tree' picked as Iran's Oscar representative

Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian film 'In the Arms of the Tree' was selected as the country's representative to the 2025 Academy Awards, beating out two other finalists.

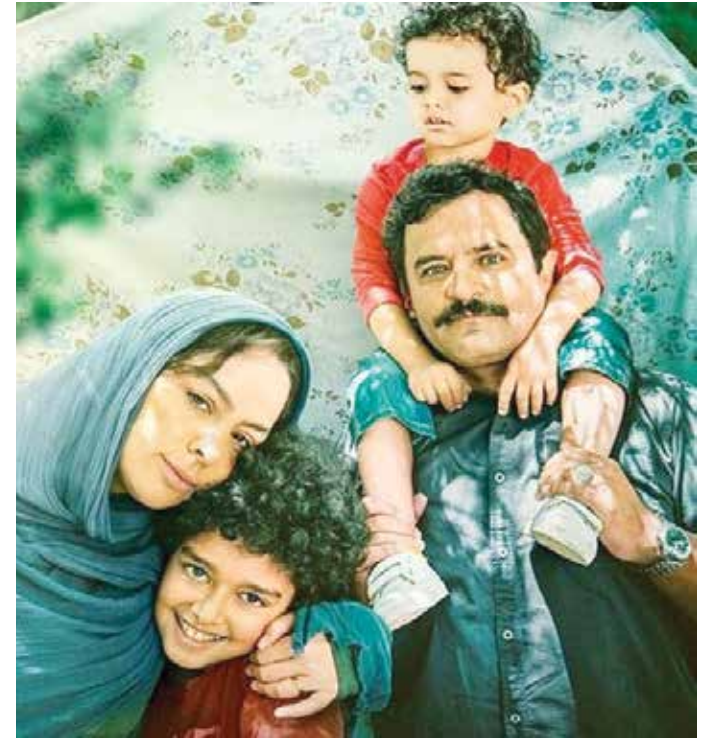
According to a statement by the Farabi Cinema Foundation, the selection committee chose the film, directed by Babak Khajeh Pasha and starring Maral Baniadam, after a 10-day review process, IRNA reported.

The committee, comprising nine members, including film directors and industry professionals, picked 'In the Arms of the

Tree' from among three finalists, which also included the documentary 'Isatis' by Alireza Dehghan and the film 'Waste Town' by Ahmad Bahrami.

The selection was made after a final meeting of the committee, during which Shabnam Moqaddami was unanimously chosen as the spokesperson.

The film's selection comes as a surprise to some, as Parviz Shahbazi's new film 'Roxana' was rumored to be a strong contender for the Oscar nod. However, 'In the Arms of the Tree' ultimately won out, and will now represent Iran in the 97th Academy Awards.



Iranian 'Unparallel World' awarded at UK festival



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Iranian short film 'Unparallel World', written and directed by Mohammad Yaraqi, won the best international short film at the 29th Portobello Film Festival in the UK.

The festival took place from August 29 to September 15, Mehr News Agency reported.

Last month, it was screened at the 20th Budapest Short Film Festival (BuSho) in Hungary, one of the country's most prestigious short film festivals.

The exclusive broadcasting rights for 'Unparallel World' have been acquired by Italian company Alpha Film.

The film stands as the short film with the highest number of actors ever featured in the history of Iranian cinema.

The social drama tells the story of a six-year-old girl's life in a class-based society and highlights the harsh realities of child labor. The film's synopsis reads:

"The events that are happening today are not happening in a parallel or unreal world, and we are all responsible or influential in their occurrence."

Iran, Iraq sign book fair cooperation deal



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran and Iraq signed a cooperation agreement to boost collaboration between their international book fairs.

The deal was inked on the sidelines of the 25th Baghdad International Book Fair, where Iran is participating, IRNA reported.

Under the five-year agreement, both countries will provide each other with a free 24-square-meter pavilion at their respective book fairs.

The agreement also includes provisions for facilitating publishers' participation in each other's book fairs, expanding exhibition

cooperation, and organizing specialized seminars to promote publishing capacities in both countries.

The Baghdad book fair, themed "Iraq Reads," runs from September 12 to 22 and has attracted book lovers from across the region.

Iran's pavilion, in its fourth appearance at the fair, showcases 1,500 titles across various genres, including Islamic studies, literature, Iranology, children's books, and Persian education.

Plus, 23 Iranian publishers and cultural institutions are also taking part in the book fair, presenting their publications.

Agonizing contradictions in ...

The United Nations and other international bodies, including the European Union, have consistently emphasized the necessity of maintaining peace and human rights in their statements. However, in practice, these organizations sometimes appear to be influenced by the political and economic interests of their member states. For instance, while the UN Security Council quickly acted regarding

Ukraine, its responses to Israeli attacks on Gaza have been slower. Such behavior not only undermines public trust in these organizations but also contributes to creating a duality in the global perception of different issues.

Media outlets associated with international peace organizations also play a significant role in this context. The media coverage of the Ukrainian crisis, given the geographical

proximity and historical ties between European countries and Ukraine, has been much broader and more sensitive compared to the Palestinian crisis. Reports and images related to the war in Ukraine frequently dominate the news, while humanitarian crises in Palestine receive far less attention. This imbalance in media coverage can exacerbate feelings of discrimination and inequality within the global community.

In the Ukrainian crisis, images of victims and Ukrainian refugees are repeatedly showcased, evoking significant empathy, while in the Palestinian crisis, many victims are overlooked. Numerous European countries have supported humanitarian aid to Ukraine, whereas support for Palestine has been severely limited and even criticized. This contradiction contributes to creating an unequal image of humanity and human rights.

These dualities not only lead to distrust on an international level but also fuel dissatisfaction and a sense of injustice among nations. Palestinians feel that the global community is indifferent to their plight, while Ukrainians are at the center of attention. This perception of discrimination can escalate tensions and lead to new crises. On the International Day of Peace, there is a need for in-

ternational organizations and European countries to adopt a new perspective on global crises and adhere to the fundamental principles of human rights and justice. Achieving sustainable peace requires equal and fair treatment of all nations—not just in words but in actions as well. If the global community wishes to attain true peace, it must view all victims with equal regard and avoid any form of discrimination.