



Iranian artists react to martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah

Arts & Culture Desk A number of Iranian artists have taken to social media to express their condolences and sympathy with the people of Lebanon following the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary-general of Hezbollah.

However, their tributes have not been without challenge. In a concerning development, many users on Instagram have reported that their posts and stories about Sayyed Nasrallah have been deleted, with some receiving warnings about "dangerous content." Meta, the owner of Instagram and Facebook, has been criticized for this move, with many accusing the company of censoring content related to the resistance movement. This is not the first time Meta has been accused of censoring content related to the martyrdom of resistance leaders, including Brigadier General Qassem Soleimani.



Filmmaker Ebrahim Hatamikia was among the first to react, writing a condolence message and emphasizing that "the path of re-

sistance will continue." Hatamikia wrote, "The Pharaonic regime, as witnessed by history, will disappear, but your path, ideology, and vision of resistance will remain."



Jamal Shourjeh, a veteran screenwriter and director, shared a brief anecdote about his encounter with Sayyed Nasrallah during the production of the TV series Prophet Joseph. Shourjeh wrote, "Indeed, we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return). The martyrdom of the leader of the resistance is a testament to the continuation of the Islamic path until the emergence of the Imam Mahdi. I met Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah during the production of Prophet Joseph, and he welcomed me and the late Farajollah Salahshoor with open arms. I never

thought I would see the day of his martyrdom... Alas, the path of Islam will continue until the emergence of the Imam Mahdi, God willing."



Davood Mirbagheri, another prominent filmmaker, wrote a heartfelt condolence message, stating his spirit will continue to inspire the resistance movement.

Mirbagheri emphasized that the martyrdom of resistance leaders only strengthens their cause and brings them closer to victory. He wrote, "Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, with the phoenix of martyrdom, flew to the realm of eternal love and will rest in the proximity of his pure ancestors. The news of his martyrdom was sudden and painful. I ask God to grant him and his martyred companions the

highest ranks."



Houshang Tavakoli, a veteran actor, reacted to the news by highlighting the significance of the resistance movement in the region and the role of Sayyed Nasrallah as a leader.

Tavakoli stated that the region has been embroiled in war for years and that the resistance movement, led by Sayyed Nasrallah, has been a beacon of hope. He emphasized that the martyrdom of resistance leaders like Sayyed Nasrallah only serves to galvanize the movement and bring about its ultimate victory. Tavakoli said, "The war between the world of Islam and the Zionist regime is ongoing, and the resistance movement, led by Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, has been a shining example of resistance. Every martyrdom of a resistance leader brings

us closer to victory."



Ali Salehi, an actor, expressed his condolences and solidarity with the people of Lebanon through a social media post, writing "Curse on war and warmongers, curse on Israel" and sharing a photo of the devastation in Lebanon.



Hassan Rouholamin, an artist, published a digital artwork titled "Amir" (Commander) in tribute to Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and the martyrs of Hezbollah.

Rouholamin wrote, "Digital artwork (Amir) dedicated to the brave and oppressed commander, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and all the martyrs of Hezbollah."

500 International publishers call on Frankfurt to cut ties with Israel

Publishers for Palestine, an international coalition of more than 500 publishers, issued an open letter demanding that organizers of the Frankfurt Book Fair cut ties with Israel. In the letter, the coalition, which formed last November, called for Frankfurt to "publicly denounce Israel's regime of genocide and settler-colonial apartheid against the Palestinian people," among other demands. The coalition also urged the fair to refuse collaborations with Israeli cultural institutions that support the country's policies, unless those institutions acknowledge the rights of Palestinians under international law. The group specifically condemned Israel's targeting of Palestinian writers, academics, and cultural institutions, which it said is part of a broader effort to erase Palestinian culture, publishersweekly.com reported. Publishers for Palestine also called on the fair to feature Palestinian writers and narratives prominently at its 2024 event, without downplaying the Israeli occupation and its impact on Palestinians. The



coalition formed last November and represents a broad range of publishers from around the world. The members presses in Publishers for Palestine hail from 50 countries, including Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Nigeria, the Philippines, Spain, Tanzania, Turkey, Wales, and others. The US.-based member presses, which include several regular exhibitors at Frankfurt, are

Haymarket Books, Interlink Publishing, Microcosm Publishing, OR Books, Other Press, Seven Stories Press, Sublunary Editions, and Verso Books. The open letter comes shortly before this year's Frankfurt Book Fair, which is slated for October 16-20. Ahead of last year's fair, held just weeks after the October 7 attack on Israel, Frankfurt director Juergen Boos expressed support for Israel with a statement saying that the fair "stands with complete solidarity on the side of

Israel" and intended to highlight Israeli voices at that year's show. Additional programming featuring Israeli speakers crashed into last year's Frankfurt program including an event called "Out of Concern for Israel," organized by PEN Berlin, which took place on the first day of the fair. (The majority of Israeli publishers canceled their appearances at the 2023 fair following the attack.) Last year, fair organizers also canceled a ceremony for Palestinian author Adania Shibli, who was to be awarded the LiB-

eraturpreis for her novel 'Minor Detail', about the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The cancellation prompted a number of major Arab publishing organizations to pull out of last year's fair, although some are expected to return this year. This year's programming highlights, sent to press earlier this week, include "Occupied, Destroyed, Fought over, in Turmoil: Quo Vadis Palestine?," an Oct. 19 conversation with Palestinian novelist and former culture minister Atef Abu Saif moderated by German journalist Kristin Helberg, and a talk from Palestinian author Abdalrahman Alqalqa on writing in exile scheduled for the new Center for Words on Oct. 17. "Every year, people from more than 100 countries attend Frankfurter Buchmesse," a Frankfurt Book Fair representative said in a statement to PW. "The book fair is a platform for democratic discourse and peaceful encounters between publishers, authors, translators, illustrators, and readers from all over the world. Our program reflects this, featuring voices from every corner of the globe."

Iranian artist's work to go under hammer at Rosebery's London

A piece by Iranian contemporary artist Hojat Amani will be auctioned off at Roseberys London Fine Art Auctioneers alongside works by artists from around the world. The upcoming Rosebery's London auc-



tion, titled 'Islamic Art,' will feature modern and contemporary pieces from Iran, Kuwait, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, and Egypt, and will take place on October 2, 2024, ILNA wrote. Amani's works have previously been sold at auctions in the Netherlands, Dubai, and London, and have been exhibited at museums in Los Angeles, Munich, Doha, and the US. In 2021, Amani registered the art of calligraphy on the National Heritage List and was recognized as a calligraphy revivalist. Born in Lorestan, Amani holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Art History (Mid-

dle East) and has completed advanced calligraphy courses under Master Mo'in Al-Kitab Esfahani. Amani's works have been showcased in over 40 group and solo exhibitions in Iran and abroad, and he has held calligraphy workshops in Turkey, London, Lithuania, and Germany. His art has been reviewed by critics, including Edward Lucie-Smith. Amani's style, which blends painting, photography, illustration, and installation, sometimes overlaps with environmental and performance art. His method has been dubbed "process art" and "post-pop."

Iranian short films to compete at Baku festival

The 15th Baku Film Festival in Azerbaijan will play host to two Iranian short films, showcasing the country's cinematic talents. According to reports, the short film 'Taxidermist' directed by Behzad Alavi and Susan Salamat, and the animated short 'The Splint' directed by Mehdi Sadeqi, will compete in the International Competition section, ISNA reported. The Baku International Film Festival will take place from October 4 to 8 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Established in 2004 by the Azerbaijan Young Filmmakers Center, the festival

has grown to become one of the most prestigious film festivals in Azerbaijan. The event aims to attract more viewers and introduce local writers and filmmakers to international trends and approaches.

