

Heroes on Shoulders

Iran bids glorious farewell to martyrs of Israeli aggression

National Desk

Iran held a funeral on Saturday for some 60 scientists, commanders and civilians killed during this month's Israel's aggression against Iran with large crowds of mourners dressed in black filling the streets in the capital Tehran.

At least 16 nuclear scientists and 10 senior commanders were among those mourned at the funeral, including Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Commander General Hossein Salami, and IRGC Aerospace Force chief General Amir Ali Hajizadeh.

Their coffins were driven into Tehran's Azadi Square adorned with their photos and national flags, as crowds waved flags and some reached out to touch the caskets and throw rose petals onto them.

Of the 60 people who were laid to rest, four were children.

In attendance were President Masoud Pezeshkian and other senior figures including Ali Shamkhani, an adviser to Iran's Leader, who was seriously wounded in an Israeli attack on his residence.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the martyred Iranians had given their "blood" during the 12-day war with Israel but "not honor".

"Iranians gave blood, not land; gave their loved ones, not honor; they withstood a thousand-ton rain of bombs, but did not surrender," he said on his Instagram account, adding that Iran does not recognize the word "surrender".

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei, who attended the procession, paid flowing tributes to the victims of the Israeli aggression in a message on X.

"Today, the zealous people of Iran carry on their shoulders, with heavy sorrow but standing steadfast and powerful, some of their purest and most patriot-



Mourners take part in a mass funeral held in Tehran on June 28, 2025 for 60 nuclear scientists, commanders and civilians killed in Israel's aggression against Iran.

● SAJJAD SAFARI/IRAN DAILY

ic sons and daughters – commanders, elites, athletes, women and children of this land – who were martyred during the war imposed by the aggressor Zionist regime, and with indescribable respect, they lay them to rest on the soil of their homeland like mythical heroes; so that each one may become a seed for the growth of other heroes," he wrote.

Iran says more than 600 people, mostly civilians, were killed in Israeli and US aggression against Iran.

Israel began its unprovoked aggression against Iran on June 13 with attacks on Iran's military sites, nuclear farclivities and residential areas. The United States also joined the conflict with



strikes on three Iran's nuclear sites last weekend.

According to Iranian Health Ministry figures, 610 people were killed on the

Iranian side in the war before a cease-fire went into effect on Tuesday. More than 4,700 were also injured in the Israeli attacks.

UN envoy: Tehran open to regional nuclear consortium
Iran rejects limits on missile power, stresses enrichment on own soil

Amir Saeid Irvani
● AFP

International Desk

Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations said on Friday that Tehran is open to a regional nuclear consortium as a solution to put an end to decades of tensions over Iran's nuclear program. "Iran has consistently sought a peaceful solution to address any potential concerns regarding its nuclear program. What is essential is that Iran's rights as a responsible member of the NPT are

properly recognized. We seek no more and no less than the rights granted to any other NPT member," Amir Saeid Irvani said in an interview with Al-Monitor news website on Friday.

The Iranian envoy the regional nuclear consortium was discussed during the last round of indirect US-Iran talks and that the Islamic Republic is ready for any nuclear-related cooperation across the region as "a consortium could very well be one of the forms such cooperation might take."

Irvani said Tehran is willing to "collaborate with all countries in our region that operate nuclear reactors — whether on issues of reactor safety or the supply of reactor fuel," provided that such a move is a "complementary initiative" and not a substitute for Iran's domestic nuclear program. "Iran still insists that enrichment must be carried out on its own soil. A consortium might serve as a supplement to our nuclear program, but it is by no means a substitute for it," he said.

"We would be prepared to transfer our stockpiles of 60% and 20% enriched uranium to another country and have them transferred out of Iranian territory in return for receiving yellowcake." Asked if Iran would limit enrichment to the auspices of the consortium operating within Iran, Irvani told the news outlet, "In principle, we have no objection to that; however, we should consider it based on the details of any potential proposals we receive." According to media reports, US West Asia envoy Steve Witkoff had proposed to Tehran in talks preceding the Israeli-US aggression on June 13 the creation of a nuclear consortium potentially including Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and the United States.

No to cap on Iran's missile power

The Iranian diplomat also touched upon the issue of Iran's missile power, saying that the Islamic Republic will not acquiesce to any restrictions imposed on its

missile power.

"Iran will not accept any restrictions on its missile activities. The recent aggression demonstrated clearly that without Iran's military capabilities, the other side would never have been compelled to request a cease-fire," Irvani said.

The Iranian ambassador touched on US President Donald Trump's acknowledgement that the damage inflicted on Israel was "so severe, in fact, that it became one of the decisive factors prompting the regime to request that the United States expedite a cease-fire."

"Therefore, Iran will never agree to relinquish such an effective strategic lever, nor will it allow itself to be disarmed in the face of potential future attacks," Irvani said.

Iran launched a barrage of missiles on the occupied territories in response to the regime's 12-day aggression against Iran. The Israeli regime was then forced to accept a cease-fire to end the conflict with Iran.

Araghchi condemns Trump's 'disrespectful' comments on Iran's Leader

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Saturday condemned as "disrespectful and unacceptable" remarks by the US president who has claimed to have saved the Iran's Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei from assassination during Israel's aggression against Iran.

"If President Trump is genuine about wanting a deal, he should put aside the disrespectful and unacceptable tone towards Iran's Supreme Leader, Grand Ayatollah Khamenei, and stop hurting his millions of heartfelt supporters," Araghchi posted on his account on social media platform X.

"The Great and Powerful Iranian People, who showed the world that the Israeli regime had NO CHOICE but to RUN to 'Daddy' to avoid being flattened by our Missiles, do not take kindly to 'Threats and Insults,'" the foreign minister said.

"The complexity and tenacity of Iranians is famously known in our magnificent carpets, woven through countless hours of hard work and patience. But as a people, our basic premise is very simple and straightforward: we know our worth, value our independence, and never allow anyone else to decide our destiny," the top diplomat wrote.

"If Illusions lead to worse mistakes, Iran will not hesitate to unveil its Real Capabilities, which will certainly END any Delusion about the Power of Iran," he stated. "Good will begets good will, and respect begets respect."

His remarks came three days after the Israeli regime was forced to accept a unilateral cease-fire after being pounded by Iranian missiles for 12 days.

A watchman-turned-actor ...

This report was not only technically dubious but was issued at a time when the international community desperately needed calm and restraint. Assertions such as "reduced technical cooperation by Iran" and "uncertainty regarding the peaceful nature of the nuclear program," released amid explicit Israeli threats, effectively tilted the narrative in favor of the aggressive party, presenting a one-sided version of reality.

More troubling still is Grossi's media-centric approach, transforming the watchman into a visible player in geopolitical contests—contrary to the Agency's technocratic mission. It is self-evident that sensitive technical information should not be broadcast on the global stage without thorough

review and prior opportunities for dialogue and persuasion.

What is the cost of such behaviors? Beyond the loss of lives on both sides of the 12-day war and the erosion of diplomatic processes, perhaps the gravest damage is the collapse of trust in international institutions. These bodies, which should shelter nations from weapons and propaganda, now function as part of the chain that intensifies crises.

Meanwhile, Iran—as the country that has, more than any other actor, refrained from walking away from the negotiation table—has every right to question: Has Grossi and his team truly remained impartial? And will the historical memory of nations recognize this conduct as that of a "neutral watchman"?

In the Iranian diplomatic tradition, a clear distinction has always been made between an institution and its leadership. Today's critique is directed at the IAEA's management, not its existence. We still believe in the necessity of a scientific, non-political, and professionally principled oversight body in the nuclear arena; but restoring trust demands that honesty in discourse and transparency in action replace the current approaches. The conclusion of this note is not to condemn an individual but to call for institutional reflection. The Agency must return to its primary mission: preserving peace through knowledge, not sowing doubt through suspicion. If the watchman becomes an actor himself, then who will guarantee fair judgment?



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

