

On National Cinema Day;  
Iranians salute film  
as refuge in wartime

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# Iran Daily

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# Tehran espouses Qatar's self-defense right after Israeli onslaught

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Active diplomacy,  
stronger ties with East,  
Iran's response to  
snapback

By Rouhollah Lak-Aliabadi  
Iranian lawmaker

OPINION  
EXCLUSIVE

In recent weeks, the debate over the return of UN sanctions on Iran via the so-called snapback mechanism under the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, and its potential consequences has become one of the most widely discussed issues in Iranian media. Some argue the move will have little impact, offering various justifications, while others have tended to blow it out of proportion.

To claim that the instigation of snapback will have no consequences at all would be misleading, since such a stance would effectively undermine the very purpose of the JCPOA. That agreement was designed to suspend or annul six United Nations Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on Iran. If those resolutions had posed no difficulties, there would have been no need for such lengthy negotiations in the first place.

At the same time, the impact of snapback should not be exaggerated either. Suggestions that the return of these resolutions would spell national collapse are clear examples of doom-mongering. Such exaggeration, especially when adversaries harbor hostile and aggressive intentions, is tantamount to playing into the enemy's hands and only helps them achieve their goals.

Iran's current situation is undeniably difficult as the country faces sweeping unilateral sanctions from the United States and the West. In these circumstances, the activation of the snapback mechanism could well intensify existing pressure. This makes it all the more important to act wisely. In tough times, tough decisions must be made. The behavior, actions and language of officials should avoid fueling an adverse psychological climate at home.

As Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei recently reminded the government, Iran finds itself in a state of "neither war nor peace." In such conditions, sowing despair among the public must be avoided. Anxiety about the country's future is already hampering investment. Overstating problems only clouds the atmosphere further and risks spreading a deeper sense of hopelessness.

Officials have a duty to speak honestly. Snapback will undoubtedly bring negative consequences, but they must not be overstated. Sometimes political and media figures lay it on thick when discussing sanctions; others, conversely, dismiss them as meaningless. Neither extreme is accurate or logical.

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## Cooperation with IAEA cannot be same as before: *Araghchi*

'Iran-IAEA deal would be void if Europe activated snapback mechanism'

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Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi (L) meets with his Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty (C) and Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi in Cairo, Egypt on September 9, 2025.

AFP



Ideals cannot be  
assassinated

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Tehran, Moscow  
agree to catalog  
Persian manuscripts  
at St. Petersburg  
library

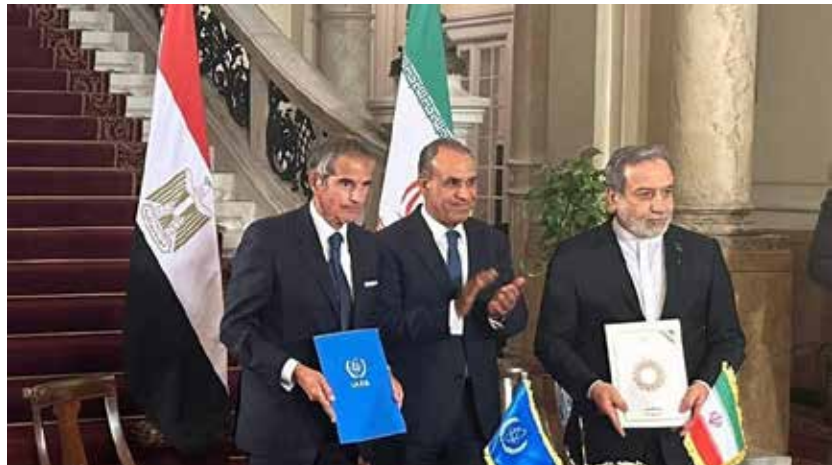
Iranian Cultural Week  
to be held in Russia

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# Cooperation with IAEA cannot be same as before: Araghchi

## 'Iran-IAEA deal would be void if Europe activated snapback mechanism'



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director-General Rafael Grossi (L) hold agreement documents in Cairo, Egypt, on September 9, 2025.

● IRNA

### International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Thursday the UN nuclear agency has accepted that cooperation with Tehran cannot be the same as before and must be defined within a new framework.

Remarks by the Iranian foreign minister came days after Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA) reached an agreement for the resumption of cooperation between the two sides, which was described as "an important step" by the agency's chief. The agreement was signed between Araghchi and the UN nuclear watchdog's Director-General Rafael Grossi in Egypt's capital Cairo on Tuesday. During a televised interview on Thursday, Araghchi said that the IAEA has officially confirmed that new conditions

have emerged, and therefore the nature of cooperation between the two sides cannot be the same as before.

Tehran suspended cooperation with the agency in the aftermath of unprovoked Israeli-American attacks against key Iranian nuclear facilities in June and stipulated that any inspections of its nuclear sites must be approved by Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

Iran says an IAEA resolution declaring Iran in breach of its non-proliferation obligations paved the way for the attacks by Israel and the US on its nuclear facilities.

The Iranian top diplomat said that under the new agreement, the UN agency is not currently allowed to inspect the nuclear sites until Iran carries out a set of environmental and safety measures

at the facilities.

### Snapback mechanism

Araghchi said that the validity of the agreement remains intact as long as no hostile action is taken against the Islamic Republic — including the activation of a so-called "snapback" mechanism by the three European powers. The agreement comes against the backdrop of an ongoing threat by European powers to re-impose wide-ranging sanctions against Iran that were lifted under a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major powers.

Those European powers - France, Britain and Germany, known as the E3 - have initiated the so-called "snapback" process that is due to run until late this month. They have said they will only hold off on completing it if Iran allows oversight of Iran's nuclear sites to resume, accounts for its highly enriched uranium stockpile and holds nuclear talks with the United States.

Araghchi said that the activation of the mechanism will not solve the problem but will make it more complicated and difficult — just as a military action had

the same consequence.

### Stockpile of enriched uranium

Araghchi also said a stockpile of enriched uranium remains beneath the rubble of the nuclear sites bombed by Israel and the US.

The status of the stockpile — particularly 408 kg of enriched uranium — has been a key concern of western powers in the wake of the 12-day aggression against Iran in June.

He said that the nuclear materials were all "located under the debris of the bombed installations."

The Iranian foreign minister added that Iran's Atomic Energy Organization was "assessing whether these materials are accessible or not."

US President Donald Trump claimed that the program had been "obliterated" after the US briefly joined Israel's attacks, bombing Iran's main enrichment facilities, Fordow and Natanz, as well as another nuclear site and storage facility in Isfahan.

Tehran was in the midst of nuclear talks with the Trump administration when Israel launched its attack in June.

## Tehran espouses Qatar's self-defense right after Israeli onslaught

### International Desk

Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations strongly condemned on Thursday a recent aggression by the Israeli regime against Qatar, saying Tehran resolutely advocates for Doha's right to self-defense over the deadly attack. "The Islamic Republic of Iran unequivocally and decisively condemns the terrorist aggression and armed attacks by the Zionist regime against the government of Qatar, which resulted in the martyrdom and injury of a number of Palestinian and Qatari civilians, and declares the solidarity and support of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the government of Qatar," Amir Saeed Iravani said.

Iravani made the remarks in a statement prepared for an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to discuss Israel's September 9 strikes on the Qatari capital of Doha, which assassinated several top officials of Palestinian Hamas resistance group as well as Qatari civilians.

"Iran firmly supports the right of the government of Qatar to legitimate

self-defense, based on international law and the UN Charter, in response to such reckless violations, and affirms its right to take all necessary political, diplomatic, and legal measures to protect its citizens, sovereignty, and territorial integrity."

The Iranian diplomat underlined that the Israeli attack on Qatar and other regional countries is a clear violation of the fundamental principles of the UN Charter and international law.

"The continuation of the Zionist regime's genocide in occupied Palestine, its repeated aggressive and terrorist actions against Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, its criminal attack against Iran, and now its military attack on Qatar, show that this regime is an immediate and real threat to regional and international peace and security," Iravani said.

Qatar has been a key regional mediator in negotiations between Hamas and Israel, whose prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, threatened on Wednesday to try to kill Hamas leaders in Qatar again if Doha "does not expel" the group's officials.

Hamas confirmed that its senior negotiators survived the attack, but five



A damaged building is seen after an Israeli attack which targeted a meeting of officials of Hamas resistance group in Doha, Qatar, on September 9, 2025.

● REUTERS

members of the group were killed. Qatari security officer Badr Saad Muhammad Al-Humaidi was also among those killed in the Israeli attacks on Monday.

The Israeli attack was condemned by world leaders and international rights organizations.

Qatar's prime minister called for Netanyahu to be "brought to justice" over the Israeli violation of international laws.

"I think that what Netanyahu has done yesterday, he just killed any hope for those hostages," Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told CNN. Doha is "reassessing everything" around their involvement in future cease-fire talks and discussing next steps with Washington, he added in comments cited in CNN's live blog after an interview with the broadcaster.



Qatar has hosted Hamas's political bureau since 2012, and has been a key mediator in Gaza talks alongside Egypt and the United States.

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, sought to justify the decision, telling an Israeli radio station, "It was not an attack on Qa-

tar; it was an attack on Hamas." Hamas political bureau member Hosam Badran said Israel "represents a real danger to the security and stability of the region."

"It is in an open war with everyone, not just with the Palestinian people," he said.

## Global action urged after Israel's deadly blitz on Yemen

### International Desk

The Iranian Foreign Ministry vehemently censured Israel's "criminal" airstrikes on Yemen's infrastructure and residential areas, including media headquarters, calling on the United Nations Security Council and the international community to take urgent action against the regime's atrocities. "The repeated acts of aggression by the Zionist regime against regional countries, along with the ongoing genocide and killing of innocent people in the occupied Palestine, have not only subjected globally accepted normative, legal foundations to unprecedented erosion, but have also trampled upon all moral and human principles," the ministry said in a statement.

A day after bombing Qatar's Doha, Israeli airstrikes on the Yemeni provinces of Sana'a and al-Jawf on Wednes-

day killed at least 46 people, including journalists, and wounded 160 others. In a statement, Israel's military confirmed the attack, saying it struck sites in the two areas.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry condoled with Yemen over the deaths of innocent people during the Israeli regime's military aggression, praising the nation's courageous solidarity with the oppressed Palestinians.

It further emphasized the need for unity and cooperation among Islamic countries to confront the usurping entity's expansionism and war-mongering.

The Israeli air raids on Yemen targeted civilian sites, among them the offices of the 26 September and al-Yemen media outlets, killing journalists and bystanders.

Yemen's official Saba news agency said the attack was part of Israel's "blatant attempts to silence the free media that

continues to expose its crimes and its rampant violence in Palestine, Yemen, and other countries in the region."

The latest violence came after Yemen's prime minister Ahmed Ghaleb Nasser al-Rahawi, nine ministers and two cabinet officials were killed in an Israeli strike as they attended a government meeting in the Sana'a area last month.

The killings were the most high-profile acts of assassination of Yemeni officials during nearly two years of conflict with Israel over the Gaza war. The Yemeni Armed Forces began their campaign against Tel Aviv, attacking Israeli-linked ships as well as striking targets in the occupied territories in November 2023, a month after the regime unleashed its genocide in Gaza. Israel has carried out rounds of deadly airstrikes across Yemen in flagrant violation of international law and the United Nations Charter.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist





# President inaugurates 72 projects in Ardebil, pledges millions for development

**Economy Desk**

Seventy-two infrastructure projects were inaugurated in the northwestern province of Ardebil on Thursday during a visit by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. The projects, launched with €180 million (\$211 million) in foreign currency investment and 187 trillion rials (\$188.3 million) in domestic public and private funding, are expected to create about 4,700 jobs, IRNA reported. Key projects included Iran's first private serum production plant with an annual capacity of 60 million bottles, a methanol-producing petrochemical facility, 7,800 hectares of irrigation network downstream of the Khoda Afarin dam, and a 30-hectare greenhouse complex. During a meeting with investors and business leaders, Pezeshkian pointed

to Ardebil's special advantages, saying "capable people and unique capacities exist in this province, and it is enough to adopt a new approach to solve the problems." He voiced concern over the country's continued dependence on crude oil exports, arguing that such reliance leaves Iran vulnerable to external pressures and sanctions. He also expressed dismay that, despite the nation's abundant natural resources, skilled workforce, and industrial potential, Iran has not yet achieved economic independence and sustainability without leaning on oil revenues. Work also began on 75 new economic and infrastructure projects with €860 million (\$1 billion) in foreign investment and 320 trillion rials (\$322.2 million) in domestic funds, projected to generate 9,000 jobs. An agreement was signed between

private investors and related state organizations for the establishment of a large greenhouse unit in Parsabad and a major livestock farm in Germe county. Pezeshkian later attended meetings with educators, investors, political, cultural and social figures, and the provincial planning and development council. At the end of his trip, Pezeshkian announced that nearly 800 trillion rials (\$805.6 million) would be allocated for investment and development in Ardabil under 38 projects. He noted that the agreements and directives resulting from the visit span a wide range of sectors, including water, electricity, transportation, healthcare,



and agricultural development. Within this framework, between 36 and 38 targeted projects have been formally signed.

## Iran Plast 2025 marks strategic push for regional trade, petchem growth



**Economy Desk**

Iranian deputy oil minister, Hassan Abbaszadeh, visited the 19th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery, and Equipment on Thursday, describing the event as a milestone for expanding trade cooperation with neighboring countries. Abbaszadeh, who doubles as the CEO of the National Petrochemical Company, said the "targeted presence of specialists and stakeholders" was a key feature of this

year's event, enabling effective business connections within the petrochemical sector, IRNA reported. The 19th edition of the exhibition, known as Iran Plast 2025, which is one of the prominent events in the plastics and petrochemical industries, was held in Tehran from Sept. 8-11 with the aim of strengthening the domestic market and facilitating global marketing for Iran's petrochemical sector. Abbaszadeh attended the final day of the event and highlight-

ed foreign traders, downstream challenges, and innovative knowledge-based products as key achievements of this year's exhibition. "Even on the last day of the exhibition, we saw a broad presence of specialized visitors, reflecting the significance of this event for industry players," he said. He highlighted the exhibition's focus on attracting professional visitors and facilitating interactions between domestic producers and foreign traders. Many participants were able to establish meaningful connections, especially with traders from neighboring countries who were invited specifically to attend, according to Abbaszadeh. This approach aligns with President Masoud Pezeshkian's emphasis on prioritizing regional markets and has brought positive results for the petrochemical industry, he added. Another major achievement of IRAN PLAST 2025 was the presence of knowledge-based companies, which showcased a variety of innovative products, many of them

produced for the first time. Some of these offerings could replace chemical additives that may face global restrictions in the future, he said. "This achievement is very promising, as the global treaty on plastic pollution will impose strict limits on the use of chemical additives, especially in contact with food," Abbaszadeh said. He pointed to the display of bio-additives and plant-based materials that substitute chemical compounds in this event, underscoring the leading role of Iranian knowledge-based firms despite sanctions that limit the import of such technologies and the transfer of know-how. Compared with previous years, he said, the quality of downstream industry production has improved, with many companies reaching export standards. "Conversations with exhibitors revealed that a significant portion of their output is exported, demonstrating progress and rising standards in the sector," he concluded.

## Iran, Russia close in on gas transfer pact under joint energy ties: Envoy

**Economy Desk**

Iran and Russia have made significant progress on transferring gas to Iran as part of their joint energy cooperation, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali said. "One of the important matters agreed upon between Tehran and Moscow in joint energy cooperation is the gas transfer to Iran, and initial steps have been taken. It is now on the verge of finalization," Jalali said, IRNA reported on Thursday. The announcement followed recent talks between Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin in China, during which all aspects of bilateral relations, particularly economic projects, were discussed. "Based on these discussions, a Russian delegation will visit Tehran next week to finalize these matters. The details of the negotiations are in their final stages, and after completion, information will be provided," the envoy added. During their several-hour meeting on September 1, Pezeshkian and Putin addressed various issues, with a focus on a comprehensive long-term agreement between the two sides. Iran is expecting to begin receiving Russian gas transferred through Azerbaijan, the Iranian ambassador told the Russian state-run media outlet TASS last month. According to the envoy, the two countries must first reach an agreement on price and "once that's finalized, the entire operation can proceed." The forthcoming deliveries stem from a deal inked in April 2025 between Tehran and Moscow, which in turn followed a memorandum of understanding signed between the Russian state-run energy giant Gazprom and its Iranian counterpart, the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC).

## Tehran, Beijing in talks to expand solar power, renewable energy storage: Official

**Economy Desk**

Iran is negotiating with several Chinese companies to develop solar power plants and build energy storage systems, a senior official at the state-run Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Management Company (Tavanir) said on Thursday. Mohammad Allahdad, deputy for transmission and foreign trade at Tavanir, said Chinese firms are global leaders in installing solar cells and battery energy storage systems (BESS), IRNA reported. He added that talks had been held with two major Chinese companies active in the solar sector. "China has by far the world's largest solar capacity, and storage facilities have been installed alongside them," Allahdad said. The government and the Energy Ministry have prioritized renewables development, particularly solar power, given Iran's large

number of sunny days, he said. As Iran begins expanding its solar capacity, energy storage systems will be required to boost efficiency. "Solar plants can only operate during the day, but if storage is used, energy from these plants can also be consumed at night," Allahdad said. He noted that Chinese companies also have strong capabilities in building pumped-storage plants and have already cooperated with Iranian partners on two dam projects. Under the current talks, Tehran expects to cooperate with Chinese firms to transfer technical know-how on storage manufacturing while simultaneously developing solar power plants. "This way, both the technical knowledge of building storage systems will be transferred to the country and the development of solar plants will be pursued," Allahdad said. Separately, Akbar Hasanbeklou,



managing director of the Tehran Province Electricity Distribution Company, announced the construction of a 350-megawatt solar power plant in Varamin in Tehran Province by a Chinese company, with an inauguration ceremony scheduled in the coming days. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the rapid growth of wind and solar gen-

eration is the main driver of renewables' expansion, with output surpassing 4,000 terawatt hours in 2024 and projected to exceed 6,000 terawatt hours by 2026. The agency says renewables will meet more than 90% of global electricity demand growth through 2026, with hydropower expansion also contributing to the rise.

## Active diplomacy, stronger ...

The reality is that the United States has already imposed almost every sanction possible, taking full responsibility for their enforcement. Yet UN sanctions cannot be dismissed altogether. While their enforcement mechanisms may be weaker than Washington's, once the UN authorizes sanctions, all member states are given the green light to implement them. Even if European parties to the JCPOA - France, Britain and Germany - were to trigger snapback, Iran would not stand still. The country intends to press ahead both on the battlefield and in the diplomatic arena, maintaining and expanding ties with friendly and neighboring states to prevent enemies from attaining their hostile objectives. Now, Israel and its support-

ers are working hard to portray the Islamic Republic as a global security threat, seeking thereby to mount international pressure. But through a measured and well-calibrated diplomatic strategy, Tehran can head off such efforts. In particular, cooperation with Eastern powers, such as Russia and China, offers an avenue to cement alliances against hostile policies. The recent Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in China demonstrated Western unease—especially in Washington—at growing Eastern cooperation. US President Donald Trump himself issued a sharp reaction. Against this backdrop, active diplomacy and deeper engagement with Eastern partners stand out as a practical strategy for offsetting sanctions and countering Western and American hostility.



# Ideals cannot be assassinated



By Javad Shamloo  
Journalist

## OPINION

Abu Ubaida, the spokesperson for Hamas's military wing al-Qassam Brigades, was reportedly assassinated in an Israeli terrorist attack. We knew him as clear-eyed and wearied, with words that hit hard and a pointing finger raised only against the enemy as a sign of threat. Yet, in recent months, Abu Ubaida had come to mean something else. For supporters of the Resistance Axis, he was like a survivor.

He was one of Hamas's key figures who, unlike Haniyeh, Sinwar, Zaif, and other Hamas commanders, was still alive and, for some, symbolized Hamas's survival. The occupying regime's main response to the epic of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm was to clamp down on individuals and kill Resistance commanders. The regime views the Resistance Axis as a collection of individuals set on wiping out this utter darkness. It has never wanted to understand — and even if it has, has never admitted in word or deed — that the dream of ending the occupation of Palestine is not merely the wish of a certain number of nationalists, Islamists, or Shias in Palestine and across the region, but rather a deep and long-standing desire that could be the common ground of all the diverse peoples of West Asia.

It must be acknowledged that this common, widespread ideal of liberating Palestine cannot come close to realization without the support of the region's governments and states, and much of the success the Resistance Axis has so far racked up is due to the Islamic Republic of Iran as a state structure. However, it is clear that a movement deeply rooted in the public outlook of several nations can never be wiped out by assassinating its leaders, even if it temporarily scales back its military activity and lies in wait for a chance to rise again — much like Hezbollah rightly stepped up after the martyrdom of the Resistance's Sayyed.

Putting this broad view aside, now that we are on the cusp of the second anniversary of the historic Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, has the Resistance Axis, militarily speaking, reached its end? It's undeniable that this Axis has lost a great number of experienced and capable commanders (Abu Ubaida being the latest martyr); Severe damage has been dealt to its manpower, equipment, and military infrastructure, especially in Gaza and Lebanon; And the fall of Damascus has made the frontline's connection to its rear difficult. Can these events be taken as a sign of the Resistance's defeat, or the enemy getting its way — even if only temporarily?

To answer, we must weigh the Zionist enemy's gains against the price it has paid for them. First: nearly two years have gone by since October 7, 2023, and Israel's unprecedented international isolation remains the most prominent consequence of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm and the events that followed. A regime that once portrayed itself as "the only democracy in the Middle East" with



the unwavering backing of the West now faces waves of global distrust and criticism.

The harshness of these critiques has forced the tasteless White House occupant to acknowledge that the regime can no longer carry on with the Gaza genocide. Donald Trump admitted, "[The Zionists] will have to end this war, and there is no doubt that it harms Israel. Israel may win the war, but it is not gaining influence in the world of public relations, and that is harmful to it." He added that the Zionist lobby is losing leverage in Congress.

European countries, long strategic partners of Tel Aviv, have seen massive public protests break out against the continuation of the war and the slaughter of civilians in Gaza one after another. Some governments had no choice but to put on hold arms sales or reconsider diplomatic ties with Israel.

Most recently, Belgium's foreign minister declared in French on X (formerly, Twitter), "Palestine will be recognized by Belgium during the UN session. And firm sanctions are being imposed on the Israeli [cabinet]. European support will be given to measures suspending cooperation with Israel. Twelve strong sanctions will be imposed at the national level, including a ban on the import of products from settlements, a review of government procurement policies with Israeli companies, [and] restrictions on consular assistance to Belgians living in settlements deemed illegal under international law."

International bodies such as the Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court have repeatedly called for investigations into Israeli war crimes. What was once hard to imagine is now firmly on the agenda of global legal institu-

tions. The more Israel sinks into this quagmire of isolation, the more it loses moral and political legitimacy worldwide. How can the assassination of Resistance commanders ever make up for such a cost?

The costs Israel has paid aren't limited to the destruction of its global reputation. Militarily, the occupying regime has failed to shore up its security against attacks from Hamas, Yemen, Hezbollah, and Iran. While the military, economic, and political damage the regime has suffered in these attacks won't necessarily lead to its immediate downfall, it proves to the peoples of the region and even to the residents of the occupied territories that Israel is vulnerable. The memory of this currently two-year battle will not be erased from the minds of West Asia's peoples and Palestine's residents but will serve as a catalyst for fiercer storms,

more true promises, and sharper swords.

Apart from this mental and historic impact, the regime faced multiple political, social, and military blows after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm — the details of which are beyond our scope here and familiar to the reader. These very damages led the regime to call for a cease-fire after 12 days of war with Iran. Today, Israel is more trapped than ever between the contradictions of temporary military successes and lack of lasting legitimacy, and the shield of the regime's reputation, much like its Iron Dome, is in a laughable state. Even if the storm lies in wait, it is in fact reigniting and preparing for another uprising from the ashes; Ideals cannot be assassinated.

*The article first appeared in the Persian-language newspaper Resalat.*



Images of the reportedly assassinated Qassam Brigades spokesman Abu Ubaida, on the right in this mural in Bourj al-Barajne, southern Beirut, are a common sight in Palestinian refugee communities in Lebanon.  
● DIEGO IBARRA SANCHEZ/  
THE NEW YORK TIMES



International bodies such as the Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court have repeatedly called on investigations into Israeli war crimes. What was once hard to imagine is now firmly on the agenda of global legal institutions. The more Israel sinks into this quagmire of isolation, the more it loses moral and political legitimacy worldwide. How can the assassination of Resistance commanders ever make up for such a cost?



People raise Palestinian flags as they gather around a statue of the late South African President Nelson Mandela to celebrate a landmark case filed by South Africa at the International Court of Justice, accusing Israel of genocide, in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah on January 10, 2024.  
● MARCO LONGARI/AFP





# US should be skeptical about ‘Iran-backed’ fighters

By Harrison Berger  
Independent journalist

## OPINION

Israel carried out air strikes on August 28 that killed the civilian political leaders of Yemen's Ansarullah (Houthi) movement. Though they grossly violated international law, the bombings were nonetheless celebrated in Washington.

Corporate media like The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal reported the strikes as a "symbolic and psychological blow" that demonstrated "improved Israeli intelligence" against the Houthis and their Iranian sponsors, while neocons like Mark Dubowitz of the mysteriously funded Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a pro-Israel think tank, applauded the attack on the "Houthi-controlled terror leadership".

But despite the "mission accomplished" attitude from Israel and its neoconservative loyalists in America, the attacks will likely do very little to stop the Houthis, whose campaigns reflect Yemen's own history of resistance rather than Iranian control. The group remains extraordinarily independent, producing much of its own weaponry and pursuing a strategy driven by its own political grievances with Israel and the United States.

Their central grievance is the US-backed Israeli genocide and famine currently being perpetrated against the Palestinians in Gaza, with whom the Houthis identify — because, as political scientist Norman Finkelstein explains, "What was done to Gaza was done to them."

Before Israel set out to fulfill the demands of its ultra-nationalist politicians to "destroy all of Gaza's infrastructure to its foundation" and "erase the Gaza strip from the Earth," Yemen was the country considered to have the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, with over 23 million people in need of humanitarian assistance by 2022. Yemen's humanitarian crisis, like Gaza's today, has been entirely man-made. More specifically, it has been perpetrated by Saudi Arabia, the US, and Israel. They imposed a brutal blockade and bombing campaign that reportedly caused the deaths of nearly 377,000 people in Yemen between 2015 and 2021, more than 85,000 of whom were children who starved to death.

The Houthis' identification with the Palestinians of Gaza is therefore neither rooted in religious "fundamentalism" nor in subservience to Tehran — it reflects a deep sense of solidarity forged through parallel suffering at the hands of US-backed clients in the Middle East. This explains why, despite the assassination of its civilian leadership, the Houthis have vowed to "escalate [their] operations as long as Israel continues its policy of genocide and starvation".

The corporate media largely ignores these motivations, obfuscating the political grievances of Israel's enemies by recasting them as irrational and intrac-



Protesters, mainly Ansarullah (Houthi) supporters, demonstrate in support of Palestinians in Gaza, at Sabeen Square in Sanaa, Yemen, on August 29, 2025.  
● REUTERS

table. Treating the Houthis as mere Iranian proxies has about as much explanatory power — and serves the same propagandistic function — as George W. Bush's claim that America suffered the 9/11 attacks because "they hate us for our freedoms." By erasing the role of US military action on behalf of Israel in generating the very groups that threaten it, Israel and its American lobby are able to portray Houthi attacks as further evidence of a region-wide Iranian conspiracy to destroy Israel. This Axis of Resistance, the story goes, simply can't be reasoned with and potentially threatens the United States as well, therefore requiring unlimited funds and unconditional support from American taxpayers.

As the Israeli cabinet pushes President Donald Trump to attack its regional adversaries, Washington ought to be skeptical of Israel's intelligence about them, especially regarding the purported threat posed by the so-called "Iran-backed" network of fighter groups. It was with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's encour-

agement that the US launched its own air campaign against Yemen in March, an intense bombing which failed to deter Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping lanes but killed hundreds of civilians. That bombing campaign revealed, among other things, that US and Israeli intelligence on Yemen remains outdated and often wildly inaccurate. Revealing their ignorance of Houthi operations, the Pentagon may even have relied on anonymous X accounts to coordinate targeting, a method that led directly to air strikes that killed innocent civilians.

Further evidence of US and Israeli ignorance is the continued deployment of expensive MQ-9 Reaper drones over Yemen, dozens of which have been shot down by Houthi surface-to-air missiles. That the Pentagon is willing to risk hundreds of millions of dollars on these missions underscores how little Washington actually knows about Houthi capabilities and positions.

Yet despite the demonstrable shortcomings of Israeli and American intelligence, US analysts continue to treat the

Houthis as directed by Iran and motivated by Islamic fundamentalism. Even attacks on American MQ-9 drones are routinely cited as proof of Tehran's vast arms-smuggling network, which we are told supplies the Houthis with the SAM missiles to bring the drones down.

But as reporting from Drop Site News and other independent media has shown, the Houthi movement produces a substantial portion of its own weaponry, rendering it largely independent of foreign support. That the Houthis keep their arsenals and bases well-hidden and fortified helps to explain why Israel chose to target the Houthis' civilian political leadership rather than its military commanders.

Houthi self-sufficiency exposes a striking irony: While the Houthi arsenal is in large measure indigenously produced, Israel's weaponry is mostly foreign-made and funded by American taxpayers. Like the bombs that drop every month or so in Syria and Lebanon and every day in Gaza, the bombs that fall on Yemen are financed by Washington.

The persistence of Houthi operations, despite assassination campaigns, bombings, and sanctions, demonstrates that their movement will not be stopped with bombs and bullets. As Trump himself acknowledged after concluding his own air strikes on Yemen, even though "we hit them very hard," the Houthis have "a great capacity to withstand punishment," adding that "there's a lot of bravery there."

The fortitude and capabilities of the Houthis cannot be explained away by alleged Iranian control. To reduce them to Tehran's puppets is to erase their actual grievances and the solidarity with Gaza that drives their campaign.

It is precisely their shared suffering — not foreign directives — that explains why the Houthis have been more willing than any other group in the region to take up arms for Gaza, and why Washington's blank-check support for Israel's wars will not stop them. Indeed, it will only deepen their resolve.

The article first appeared on The American Conservative.



The campaigns of the Ansarullah (Houthis) reflect Yemen's own history of resistance rather than Iranian control. The group remains extraordinarily independent, producing much of its own weaponry and pursuing a strategy driven by its own political grievances with Israel and the United States. Their central grievance is the US-backed Israeli genocide and famine currently being perpetrated against the Palestinians in Gaza, with whom the Houthis identify — because, as political scientist Norman Finkelstein explains, "What was done to Gaza was done to them."



A student stands in the ruins of one of his former classrooms, which was destroyed in June 2015, at the Aal Okab school in Saada, Yemen. Students continue their lessons in UNICEF tents nearby.  
● GILES CLARKE/UNOCHA



# US should be skeptical about ‘Iran-backed’ fighters

  
**By Harrison Berger**  
*Independent journalist*

Israel carried out air strikes on August 28 that killed the civilian political leaders of Yemen's Ansarullah (Houthi) movement. Though they grossly violated international law, the bombings were nonetheless celebrated in Washington.

Corporate media like The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal reported the strikes as a "symbolic and psychological blow" that demonstrated "improved Israeli intelligence" against the Houthis and their Iranian sponsors, while neocons like Mark Dubowitz of the mysteriously funded Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a pro-Israel think tank, applauded the attack on the "Houthi-controlled terror leadership".

But despite the "mission accomplished" attitude from Israel and its neoconservative loyalists in America, the attacks will likely do very little to stop the Houthis, whose campaigns reflect Yemen's own history of resistance rather than Iranian control. The group remains extraordinarily independent, producing much of its own weaponry and pursuing a strategy driven by its own political grievances with Israel and the United States.

Their central grievance is the US-backed Israeli genocide and famine currently being perpetrated against the Palestinians in Gaza, with whom the Houthis identify — because, as political scientist Norman Finkelstein explains, "What was done to Gaza was done to them."

Before Israel set out to fulfill the demands of its ultra-nationalist politicians to "destroy all of Gaza's infrastructure to its foundation" and "erase the Gaza strip from the Earth," Yemen was the country considered to have the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, with over 23 million people in need of humanitarian assistance by 2022. Yemen's humanitarian crisis, like Gaza's today, has been entirely man-made. More specifically, it has been perpetrated by Saudi Arabia, the US, and Israel. They imposed a brutal blockade and bombing campaign that reportedly caused the deaths of nearly 377,000 people in Yemen between 2015 and 2021, more than 85,000 of whom were children who starved to death.

The Houthis' identification with the Palestinians of Gaza is therefore neither rooted in religious "fundamentalism" nor in subservience to Tehran — it reflects a deep sense of solidarity forged through parallel suffering at the hands of US-backed clients in the Middle East. This explains why, despite the assassination of its civilian leadership, the Houthis have vowed to "escalate [their] operations as long as Israel continues its policy of genocide and starvation".

The corporate media largely ignores these motivations, obfuscating the political grievances of Israel's enemies by recasting them as irrational and intrac-



Protesters, mainly Ansarullah (Houthi) supporters, demonstrate in support of Palestinians in Gaza, at Sabeen Square in Sanaa, Yemen, on August 29, 2025.  
● REUTERS

table. Treating the Houthis as mere Iranian proxies has about as much explanatory power — and serves the same propagandistic function — as George W. Bush's claim that America suffered the 9/11 attacks because "they hate us for our freedoms." By erasing the role of US military action on behalf of Israel in generating the very groups that threaten it, Israel and its American lobby are able to portray Houthi attacks as further evidence of a region-wide Iranian conspiracy to destroy Israel. This Axis of Resistance, the story goes, simply can't be reasoned with and potentially threatens the United States as well, therefore requiring unlimited funds and unconditional support from American taxpayers.

As the Israeli cabinet pushes President Donald Trump to attack its regional adversaries, Washington ought to be skeptical of Israel's intelligence about them, especially regarding the purported threat posed by the so-called "Iran-backed" network of fighter groups. It was with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's encour-

agement that the US launched its own air campaign against Yemen in March, an intense bombing which failed to deter Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping lanes but killed hundreds of civilians. That bombing campaign revealed, among other things, that US and Israeli intelligence on Yemen remains outdated and often wildly inaccurate. Revealing their ignorance of Houthi operations, the Pentagon may even have relied on anonymous X accounts to coordinate targeting, a method that led directly to air strikes that killed innocent civilians.

Further evidence of US and Israeli ignorance is the continued deployment of expensive MQ-9 Reaper drones over Yemen, dozens of which have been shot down by Houthi surface-to-air missiles. That the Pentagon is willing to risk hundreds of millions of dollars on these missions underscores how little Washington actually knows about Houthi capabilities and positions.

Yet despite the demonstrable shortcomings of Israeli and American intelligence, US analysts continue to treat the

Houthis as directed by Iran and motivated by Islamic fundamentalism. Even attacks on American MQ-9 drones are routinely cited as proof of Tehran's vast arms-smuggling network, which we are told supplies the Houthis with the SAM missiles to bring the drones down.

But as reporting from Drop Site News and other independent media has shown, the Houthi movement produces a substantial portion of its own weaponry, rendering it largely independent of foreign support. That the Houthis keep their arsenals and bases well-hidden and fortified helps to explain why Israel chose to target the Houthis' civilian political leadership rather than its military commanders.

Houthi self-sufficiency exposes a striking irony: While the Houthi arsenal is in large measure indigenously produced, Israel's weaponry is mostly foreign-made and funded by American taxpayers. Like the bombs that drop every month or so in Syria and Lebanon and every day in Gaza, the bombs that fall on Yemen are financed by Washington.

The persistence of Houthi operations, despite assassination campaigns, bombings, and sanctions, demonstrates that their movement will not be stopped with bombs and bullets. As Trump himself acknowledged after concluding his own air strikes on Yemen, even though "we hit them very hard," the Houthis have "a great capacity to withstand punishment," adding that "there's a lot of bravery there."

The fortitude and capabilities of the Houthis cannot be explained away by alleged Iranian control. To reduce them to Tehran's puppets is to erase their actual grievances and the solidarity with Gaza that drives their campaign.

It is precisely their shared suffering — not foreign directives — that explains why the Houthis have been more willing than any other group in the region to take up arms for Gaza, and why Washington's blank-check support for Israel's wars will not stop them. Indeed, it will only deepen their resolve.

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A student stands in the ruins of one of his former classrooms, which was destroyed in June 2015, at the Aal Okab school in Saada, Yemen. Students continue their lessons in UNICEF tents nearby.  
● GILES CLARKE/UNOCHA



# Wrestling World Championships: Iran to chase elusive Greco-Roman crown in Zagreb

## Sports Desk

Iran will bid for its first team title in 11 years when the Greco-Roman portion of the Wrestling World Championships gets underway Thursday in Zagreb, Croatia.

With two reigning Olympic champions, as well as the defending world superheavyweight gold medalist on the 10-man roster, head coach Hassan Rnagraz will hope to see his team, having finished runner-up to Azerbaijan in the past two editions, go all the way to lift the trophy for only a second time in the history of the competition.

A gold medalist at the Paris Olympics, Mohammad-Hadi Saravi will headline the 97kg event, poised to walk away with the ultimate prize for a second time in his career following back-to-back bronze-winning campaigns.

Joining the top-seeded Iranian in the mix will be the Armenian sensation Artur Aleksanyan – a four-time world champion who was beaten by Saravi in the Paris final – defending gold medalist Gabriel Rosillo of Cuba, and Kyrgyzstan's Uzur Dzhuzup-

bekov, who won a joint-bronze alongside the Cuban in Paris. Saeid Esmaili will be the ultimate favorite to claim the 67kg title in the Croatian capital.

The 22-year-old Iranian stunned the wrestling world in his major senior debut by delivering thrilling performances on his way to the Olympic gold last year.

Esmaili will face competition from the 2023 finalists Luis Orta of Cuba and Azerbaijan's Hasrat Jafarov, who shared the third podium in the Olympics.

Reigning world champion and Olympic bronze medalist Amin Mirzazadeh will eye a third successive world final in the 130kg category.

Many believe the Iranian would have won the gold in Paris, had it not been for a quarterfinal loss to Cuban great Mijaín López, who went on to bag a remarkable fifth Olympic title.

With López calling time on his illustrious career after the Games, Mirzazadeh will again be the wrestler to beat in the superheavyweight class. However, Russian European champion Sergey Semenov, competing as a neutral athlete, second-seeded Turkish Hamza Bakir, and Ka-

zakhstan's Alimkhan Syzdykov will still fancy their chances of providing a stern test for the Iranian.

Former world junior champion Alireza Mohmadi will be among the top contenders in the 87kg event following an impressive run over the past two years, during which the young Iranian won the world 82kg silver in 2023 before finishing runner-up to Bulgarian Semen Novikov at the Olympics.

Olympic bronze medalist Dávid Losonczi of Hungary, who defeated Novikov to the European gold in May, Serbian Aleksandr Komarov and Denmark's Turpal Bisultanov, who also won an Olympic bronze last year, will join Mohmadi in vying for the 87kg glory.

Meanwhile, Gholamreza Farrokhi will look to build on his commanding victory over reigning world champion Mohammadali Geraei in the Iranian world trials when representing the country in the 82kg class, while Danial Sohrabi will step into the 72kg event fresh off his gold medal at the Asian Championships in March.

Mohammad-Mahdi Keshtkar



Olympic champion Saeid Esmaili performs a lift during a training session in Tehran, Iran, on September 7, 2025.  
● FARSHAD BANDANI/LAWFIR

(63kg) and Alireza Abdevali (77kg) know they need to significantly improve on their silver-winning performances at the Asian event if they are to leave Zagreb with a medal.

Eager to carry their age-group

momentum into their senior world breakthroughs, Payam Ahmadi and Ali Ahmadi Vafa could both emerge as surprise champions in their respective divisions.

Ahmadi will compete in the

55kg contest as the world and Asian under-20 champion, while Ahmadi Vafa will be part of the 60kg class, having won world junior and U23 titles in 2024, followed by a Ranking Series bronze in February.

## AFC Women's Champions League: Khatoon to play defending champion Wuhan Jiangda in group phase



## Sports Desk

Iranian club Bam Khatoon will face defending champion Wuhan Jiangda in Group B of the AFC Women's Champions League.

The draw for the second edition of the continent's flagship women's club competition took place the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur on Thurs-

day, where 12 teams were divided into three groups – set to battle in a centralized league format between November 9 to 23.

Khatoon and Jiangda will be joined by East Bengal FC of India and Uzbekistan's PFC Nasaf in the same group, with the exact fixtures list yet to be confirmed by the Asian football governing body.

Wuhan Jiangda, which defeated Melbourne City in the shootout in May to lift the trophy at the inaugural edition, will host all games in Group B.

The top two teams in each group will be joined by two best third-place finishers in the last-eight round.

Group A will see top-seed Melbourne City square off against group host Ho Chi Minh City FC of Vietnam, Philippines' Stallion Laguna FC and Lion City Sailors FC of Singapore.

The Group C challenge will be between Suwon FC Women of South Korea, Japan's Tokyo Verdy Beleza, Naegohyang Women's FC of North Korea and Myanmar's ISPE WFC, which will host the group.

A 12-time Iranian top-flight champion, Khatoon, which has won the domestic league in the past four seasons, finished runner-up to Melbourne City in the group table to progress to the knockout phase last season, before suffering a 1-0 loss to South Korea's Incheon Red Angels in the quarterfinals.

## Iran U21 beats Japan to head into Asian canoe polo semis



## Sports Desk

The Iranian men's team defeated Japan 8-1 to progress to the last four at the under-21 contests of the Asia Canoe Polo Championships in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

Amirreza Kiani scored three

times, with Aryan Nasiri and Mohieddin Karimi finding the net twice apiece, while Sepanta Mohseni was also on the scoresheet to lead Iran into today's semifinal against the host country.

Iranian boys began their campaign with an 8-4 vic-

tory over Hong Kong before suffering a last-gasp 5-4 setback against Chinese Taipei, but still managed to advance to the last eight as the runner-up thanks to a 6-0 win against in their third outing in the group stage.

## Iranian handball boys eyeing glory at inaugural Asian U-17 Ch'ship

## Sports Desk

Iran will be among the hopefuls at the inaugural Asian Men's U-17 Handball Championship, starting Monday in Amman, Jordan.

Iran is in Group D of the competition alongside Asian handball powerhouse South Korea, Maldives, and Syria.

Iranian boys will get their underway against Maldives on the opening day of the event, and then take on Syria a day later, before facing South Korea on Wednesday.

The finalists of the 13-team event will qualify for the 1st IHF Men's U-17 Handball World Champi-

onship, scheduled to take place in Morocco from October 24 to November 1.

Group A features Bahrain, Kuwait, and Hong Kong, with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and China in Group B.

Jordan, Chinese Taipei, and India complete the lineup in Group C.

The championship was previously scheduled to be held from July 1-11, but was postponed due to the conflict between Iran and Israel.

The Iranian squad left Tehran for the Jordanian capital on Friday, having played to a win and a loss against Qatar in a couple of warmup games last week.

Iran suffered a 28-21 defeat in the first game before coming out on top by a commanding 39-24 scoreline in its second outing in Doha.

The following is the Iranian 18-man squad in Amman:

Mohammad-Hossein Kamali, Mahdi Ahmadi, Reza Khademi, Arshia Javidi, Mohammadreza Hemmati, Ali Ghayour, Amirhossein Nik-Eqbal, Mohsen Hadizadeh, Mehrshad Mansouri, Arian Khaleqi, Mohammad-Pouya Parouhan, Hassan Joudaki, Mohammad Keshavarz, Danial Mirhosseini, Shayan Sousani, Saleh Hesezhadeh, Mohammad-Ebrahim Khanlari, and Farshad Nowruzpour.





# Woman artist from Abarkuh devotes life to preserving kilim tradition



## Iranica Desk

The artistic and handicraft community of Iran mourned the loss of a remarkable lady whose art and creativity stood as enduring symbols of the identity and capability of Iranian women. Roqayeh Ardichi, a distinguished veteran of kilim weaving and an artist from Abarkuh in Yazd Province, passed away recently after dedicating many years to the pursuit and advancement of traditional arts.

Maliheh Fakhari, a respected journalist, remarked in a note that Roqayeh's works went far beyond mere decorative arts; they served as a profound window into the culture, history, and creativity of Iranian women, leaving behind an eternal legacy of authenticity and artistic innovation for generations to come, chn.ir wrote.

Roqayeh's journey with kilim weaving began in her childhood, where she would watch her mother weave these intricate rugs. This simple yet formative experience marked the start of a lifelong passion. She once stated, "When I was a child, I had no entertainment, and I always sat beside my mother, watching her weave kilims. In fact, I did not learn this art from anyone directly; rather, I learned by observing others weave."

Her active participation in both domestic and international exhibitions played a vital role in introducing Iranian kilim art to a global audience. Beyond showcasing her own creations, she generously shared her knowledge and expertise with younger generations through workshops and educational conferences, ensuring the survival and flourishing of kilim weaving and Iranian handicrafts. She is also celebrated as the first art and handicraft teacher in Yazd.

Today, many of her students are recognized as independent and successful artists who carry forward her legacy. Moreover, all her daughters learned the craft from her and continue to earn their livelihoods through this traditional art.

Roqayeh's creations were more than products of personal creativity; they narrated the history and culture of her region and represented the enduring art of Iranian women. Her kilims masterfully blended tradition and innovation, with every pattern and color expressing the cultural identity and history of Iranian women. Each piece portrayed stories of life, patience, and creativity, imbuing her art with vitality and soul.

Over the course of her artistic career, Roqayeh received numerous awards and certificates of appreciation, each recognizing



ing her exceptional skill, creativity, and significant influence on traditional Iranian arts. She remained at the forefront of reviving kilim weaving and handicrafts in Yazd throughout her life.

Though illiterate, Roqayeh narrated stories unrecorded on paper through the language of her heart and hands. Her

kilims functioned like paperless books, intricately woven with the history, culture, beliefs, and lives of the people of Abarkuh. This simplicity and detachment from formal education lent her art a unique authenticity, making her works resonate with sincerity and pure beauty. She was neither an academic researcher nor a theorist;

rather, she crafted her art with remarkable skill and precision. What set her apart from other weavers was her extraordinary speed — locals and fellow artists alike regarded her as the "fastest kilim weaver" in the region. This remarkable pace was not only due to her technical expertise but also stemmed from decades of close familiarity with the loom, thread, and dyes. Her kilims were not merely everyday rugs; each woven pattern contained profound and deeply rooted meanings. Rather than relying on preset designs or templates, Roqayeh drew upon memory and intuition to compose her works. It was as though every kilim was a story told through the language of patterns and colors, intended to be passed on to future generations.

Her kilims were especially celebrated for their vibrant combination of natural colors. She used traditional plant-based dyes, which enhanced the durability and authenticity of her work. In her palette, red symbolized the passion and vitality of life, blue conveyed calmness and tranquility, black reminded viewers of life's hardships, and green stood for hope and renewal. This expressive color language, combined with her intricate patterns, transformed each kilim into a silent, illustrated narrative embodying the

culture and spirit of her people. Throughout her century-long life, Roqayeh witnessed profound transformations in Iranian society and culture but remained unwavering in her love for kilim weaving. Even in her advanced age, she continued weaving until the final years of her life, regarding her craft as inseparable from her very breath and being.

What Roqayeh left behind is not just a collection of colorful and authentic kilims but a timeless example of patience, dedication, and creativity of Iranian women in safeguarding traditional arts. She proved that even without formal literacy, one can create works filled with heart and skill whose cultural and historical significance transcend that of any written text.

The passing of Roqayeh Ardichi marks the loss of a phenomenal woman who devoted her entire life and artistic talent to preserving the identity, culture, and intangible heritage of Iran. Now, the artistic community and lovers of traditional arts share in the sorrow of her loss, yet her memory and creations will continue to inspire generations of kilim artists to come. The life and art of Roqayeh Ardichi remain an unparalleled and enduring beacon for women on the path of creativity, artistry, and the preservation of Iran's rich cultural heritage.

# Ash-e Sholi stands as Yazd's beloved seasonal Persian soup



## Iranica Desk

Located in the desert region of Iran, Yazd Province experiences slightly cold and humid winters alongside warm and arid summers. Due to this specific climate, the lifestyle in desert areas reflects unique adaptations; in other words, the climatic conditions

strongly influence daily living and culinary customs.

The people of this region prepare different types of Ash (a thick Persian soup) depending on the season. In warm summers, they cook a variety of Ash types, while in the cold winters, they focus on sweet foods and other famous

sweets and cookies, with choices influenced by the temperature, humidity, or dryness. Most of Yazd's traditional dishes hold significant cultural meaning and are served during specific events and ceremonies. Among these, Ash occupies a special place in the cuisine of Yazd, with Ash-e Sholi being one of the most popular varieties in the area.

Despite its simple preparation, Ash-e Sholi is widely renowned and remarkably delicious among Yazd's traditional foods. Its ingredients vary according to the season. The main components typically include beans, beet or turnip, chickpeas, onion, dried mint, flour, lentils, oil, salt, turmeric, and vinegar. Additionally, traditional Yazdi cooks enrich Ash-e Sholi with special vegetables such as spinach, dill, leek, parsley, and fenugreek. While Ash-e Sholi is an econom-

ical dish, all Yazdi families know it well and commonly enjoy it as an evening meal throughout the year. The flavor of Ash-e Sholi can range from sour to a mix of sour and sweet, depending on personal taste. The main seasoning is vinegar made from pomegranate or grape, which gives the soup its distinctive flavor. These vinegars can also be replaced by Qaraqurut (a highly acidic brittle dairy product) or pomegranate sauce. They may be added during serving, along with fried mint and onion, which are commonly used as garnishes to enhance both appearance and taste.

After eating Ash-e Sholi, Yazdi people often drink tea, candy tea, or eat Yazdi Baklava to balance its cooling properties. Ash-e Sholi is also prepared in Kerman, where it is called Omachu, although slight differences exist in the types of spices used.







# Tehran, Moscow agree to catalog Persian manuscripts at St. Petersburg library

## Iranian Cultural Week to be held in Russia

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Abbas Salehi agreed with the National Library of Russia (NLR) and the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts in St. Petersburg to compile a catalog of Persian manuscripts preserved in the country, according to the ministry. The agreement was reached during Salehi's visit to the 18th-century library, one of the world's five largest public collections. The effort aims to document Persian-language manuscripts stored in Russia, expanding scholarly access and deepening research ties between Tehran and Moscow, IRNA reported. Salehi toured the library's historic halls, where shelves and interiors have remained largely unchanged since the late 1700s. He was accompanied by Denis O. Tsyppkin, the library's director, along with Iranian cultural officials. The minister described the institution as a "treasure" and "heritage for human-

ity," pointing to its role in preserving Iranian studies.

At a separate meeting in St. Petersburg, Iran and Russia also agreed to stage an Iranian Cultural Week in Russia in 2026, building on their expanding partnership in the arts and cultural exchange.

The proposal was tabled during talks between Salehi and Russia's Culture Minister Olga Lyubimova, who welcomed the initiative after the success of Russian Cultural Week in Iran earlier this year.

The Iranian minister traveled to St. Petersburg at the invitation of his Russian counterpart to address the XI St. Petersburg International United Cultures Forum (September 10-13). During his trip, he also met senior Russian cultural officials, visited the State Hermitage Museum, and attended prayers at the city's historic Grand Mosque.

Salehi said the upcoming cultural week would form part of the Comprehensive Strategic Treaty signed by the two



*Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Abbas Salehi (L) and National Library of Russia head Denis O. Tsyppkin hold a copy of 'The Persian Gulf,' a research volume compiled by Iranian scholar Javad Norouzi, during a ceremony at the library in Moscow, September 12, 2025.*

● IRNA

nations, which lays out a roadmap for cooperation in cinema, literature, book fairs and other cultural fields.

Both ministers tied the initiative to broader political ties, referring to the recent meeting between Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit. Salehi linked the manuscripts project to the same strategic agreement signed between Iran and Russia in January 2025, noting that cooperation on preserving cultural heritage was a natural extension of that pact. "We estimate that Iran holds at least one million manuscripts,



of which 400,000 have so far been identified," he said.

Tsyppkin voiced readiness to step up collaboration, including exchanges of senior scholars and young researchers. He emphasized the Russian library's in-

terest in opening its Persian collection to greater international study.

Salehi presented Tsyppkin with a copy of "The Persian Gulf," a research volume compiled by Iranian scholar Javad Norouzi.

## On National Cinema Day; Iranians salute film as refuge in wartime



### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran marked National Cinema Day on September 12 with filmmakers, actors and cultural groups recalling the role of cinema during the country's recent 12-day war and honoring the medium's place in national life. The date, fixed in the cultural calendar since the late 1990s, has become

an annual reminder of the seventh art's impact on Iran's social and historical memory. The commemoration has taken on fresh meaning in 2025. During the recent brief but intense war between Israel and Iran, cinemas stayed open despite bombardments, serving as gathering spots for residents determined to carry on with daily life. In those 12 days, more than 179,000 people went to the movies across the country, official data show. For many, the movie house was more than a place of diversion. It became, in the words of one director, "a refuge" and a symbol of unity when fear and uncertainty stalked the streets, inn.ir reported.

Audiences who filled theaters in those nights sent a message that Iran's urban life would not grind to a halt. "The lights never went out," said a Tehran-based producer.

People sitting together in rows, he added, reminded citizens that "the enemy's plan to divide us fell flat." That sense of shared endurance has fed into this year's celebrations, giving them an undertone of remembrance as well as festivity.

Filmmakers responded quickly to the fighting. Short documentaries, animation and experimental works poured in through the campaign 'Homeland Filmmaking Through My Eyes,' organized by the Iranian Youth Cinema Society.

Hundreds of submissions were recorded, many of which will screen at this winter's Fajr International Film Festival and the Tehran International Short Film Festival. Established directors also picked up their cameras. Among them was Mohammad Hossein Mahdavian, who recently wrapped production of 'Midnight Adven-

tures,' a feature based on a real-life bombing attempt outside a Tehran hospital. The national mood of defiance was amplified by statements from actors and screenwriters, who took to social media with videos and posts. Their messages stressed patriotism and condemned the attacks, reinforcing cinema's role as both entertainment and social commentary. "Our job is to stand with people and tell their stories," said one actress whose video message circulated widely.

Trade unions joined the commemorations. In a statement, the Worker House described cinema as "a common language of nations" and urged continued support for what it called a "truthful and people's art." It praised post-revolution Iranian cinema for portraying sacrifice and resistance during the Iran-Iraq war and said today's

directors carry a similar duty in portraying the country's workers, families and social challenges.

Iran's movie industry has long been recognized beyond its borders. Since the 1990s, it has claimed top awards at Cannes, Berlin, Venice and Locarno, while also winning two Oscars for Best Foreign Language Film through Asghar Farhadi's 'A Separation' and 'The Salesman.' The success has given Iranian cinema a global stature that contrasts with its modest budgets and domestic struggles.

For many here, National Cinema Day is not just an entry on the calendar but a salute to an art form that has chronicled war, hardship and hope. As one critic put it during a panel in Tehran: "Cinema has been our collective memory. It helps us endure, and it keeps us together."

## Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company – Public Tender Notice



Row	Type of Notice	Notice Number	Subject	Submission Deadline
1	Public Tender	48615613	Supply of 1,000 tons of imported pre-fused calcium aluminate	2025/09/27 (05/07/1404 in Persian calendar)

For receiving documents and obtaining further information regarding public notices, quality assessment, tenders, and auctions, please visit the company's website at [www.msc.ir](http://www.msc.ir), Tenders section, and follow the provided guide to select the desired notice.

Information about other notices is accessible through the company's website and the official page for company notices on social media at @msc\_Ads or via the following contact numbers:  
031-52733690 – 09010042627.

Communications Department, Mobarakeh Steel Group, Isfahan (1404-28)

## 'Black Rabbit, White Rabbit' to vie in Chicago competition

### Social Desk

Iranian Director Shahram Mokri's latest feature 'Black Rabbit, White Rabbit' has been picked for the main competition at the 61st Chicago International Film Festival, running from October 15 to 26 in the US. The film, written by Mokri with screenwriter Nasim Ahmadvand, is produced by Negar Eskandarfar and features veteran actor Babak Karimi alongside Hasti Mahmaei. It will vie with 13 other entries, including François Ozon's 'The Stranger' from France, Radu Jude's 'Kontinental '25' from Romania and Milagros Mumenthaler's 'The Currents,' a Swiss-Argentine co-production. 'Black Rabbit, White Rabbit' follows a woman who, after surviving a car accident, begins to sense uncanny shifts in her surroundings. Filmed in Tajikistan with a mixed Iranian and Tajik cast, it is performed in Persian, Tajik and Russian. The film is a joint production of Tajikistan and the United Arab Emirates, with global distribution handled by Dreamlab, the international sales company led by Nasrin



Mirshab.

The Chicago screening comes weeks after the movie's world premiere on September 21 at South Korea's Busan International Film Festival, where it appears in the competitive "Vision" section. Mokri's work is also set for the main competition of the 69th BFI London Film Festival in October. Mokri is known for his experimental narrative style and long takes in films such as 'Fish & Cat' (2013), which won a prize in Venice, and 'Careless Crime' (2020). In 'Black Rabbit, White Rabbit,' he again explores altered perceptions of reality. "We wanted to show how reality can suddenly feel unfamiliar and uncanny," he said in an interview about the project.