

Russian publisher brings martyred Leader's memoir to broad new readership

Arts & Culture Desk

Russia's largest publishing house, AST Publishing, has released a Russian-language edition of 'Cell No. 14,' the prison and exile memoirs of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei expanding the international circulation of one of the most widely discussed autobiographical works tied to Iran's revolutionary history, Iran's Ibn Sina Foundation for Islamic Studies announced on Saturday.

Issued in a 256-page Russian edition under the title 'Камера номер 14,' the book chronicles episodes from the late Iranian leader's detention, surveillance, and years of exile during the Pahlavi era. The publication was prepared in cooperation with the Ibn Sina Foundation for Islamic Studies,

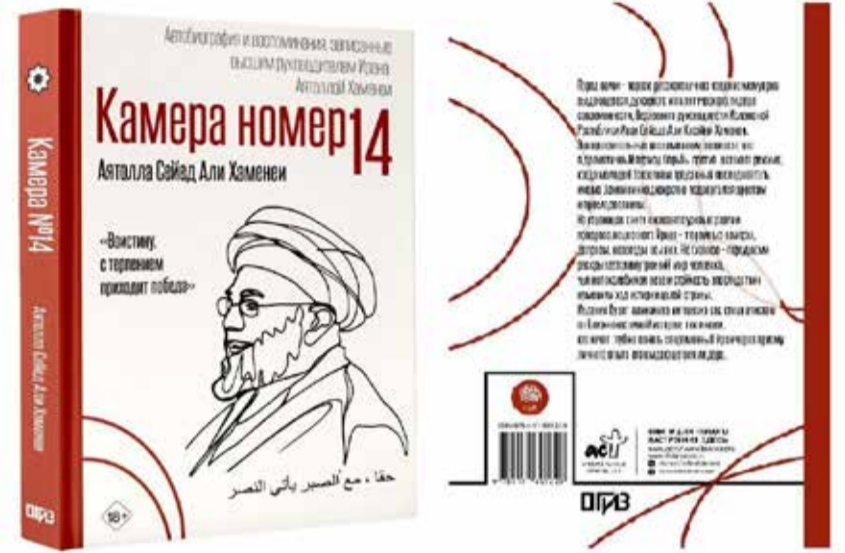
Sadra Publishing, and Islamic Revolution Publications. AST, which commands a major share of Russia's publishing market and distributes tens of millions of volumes annually, printed an initial run of 2,000 copies. The memoir has already reached bookstores and online retail platforms across Russia, according to the foundation.

Originally published in Arabic in Beirut under the title 'Inna Ma'a al-Sabr Nasra' ('Indeed, With Patience Comes Victory'), the work later appeared in Persian as both 'Cell No. 14' and 'The Blood of the Heart That Became Ruby.'

The memoir has since been translated into several languages, including Spanish, French, Portuguese, and English, broadening its international cultural footprint well beyond the

Middle East. The memoir blends autobiographical narrative with reflections on political struggle, imprisonment, faith, and resistance. Publishers described the work as an account aimed particularly at younger readers seeking a closer understanding of the hardships endured by anti-Pahlavi activists and revolutionary figures in pre-revolution Iran.

The release also underscores AST's continuing engagement with Islamic and Iranian texts. The Moscow-based publishing giant has previously issued Russian editions of the Holy Qur'an, Nahj al-Balagha (Imam Ali's sermons and letters), and an audio adaptation of Nahj al-Balagha prepared in partnership with Iranian cultural institutions.



Trailblazing Iranian globetrotter Isa Omidvar dies at 96



Arts & Culture Desk

Isa Omidvar, the veteran Iranian explorer, documentary filmmaker and one half of the famed Omidvar Brothers whose globe-spanning expeditions introduced generations of Iranians to remote cultures across five continents, died on Saturday at the age of 96 after an illness.

Born on December 23, 1929, Omidvar rose to prominence alongside his brother Abdollah Omidvar as one of Iran's first modern world travelers. Beginning in 1954, the duo embarked on a decade-long expedition that carried them from the Arctic and Antarctica to the Amazon rainforest and Africa's trib-

al regions, documenting disappearing communities and indigenous traditions through films, photography and ethnographic research, IRNA reported.

Traveling first on a 500cc British Matchless motorcycle and later in a Citroen vehicle gifted by the French automaker, the brothers adopted the motto "All Different, All Related," a phrase that became synonymous with their cross-cultural mission and humanistic outlook.

Ali Darabi, deputy minister of cultural heritage, described Omidvar as a symbol of "courage, knowledge and an insatiable thirst" for discovery. In a condolence message, he said the brothers "crossed the geograph-

ical and mental borders of their era" and left behind a rare archive of visual records from communities and regions that no longer exist in their original form. Iranian tourism officials said Omidvar had been due to receive a tribute during International Museum Day ceremonies on May 18 at the Omidvar Brothers Museum inside Tehran's Sa'dabad Cultural Complex, where artifacts, travel journals and expedition equipment from the brothers' journeys remain on display.

Deputy Tourism Minister Anoushirvan Mohseni Bandpey said the explorer's legacy would continue to inspire "adventurous and inquisitive generations."

Abdollah Omidvar, who later settled in Chile and became associated with the country's film scene, died in July 2022 at age 90. The Omidvar brothers are widely credited with opening a new chapter in Iranian travel literature and documentary storytelling, bringing Iran's cultural presence to audiences across the world decades before international travel became commonplace.

Ancient tablets reveal Iran's urban civilization, archivist says

Social Desk

Ancient Persian tablets and national archives offer vivid proof of Iran's sophisticated urban civilization and multicultural social fabric, senior cultural figure Ahmad Masjed-Jamei said on Saturday at a ceremony marking National Documents and Written Heritage Day in Tehran.

Speaking at the National Library and Archives of Iran, Masjed-Jamei, a member of Iran's National Archives Council and deputy head of the Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia, said even a single historical document could illuminate "a brilliant civilization," citing Achaemenid-era tablets that shed light on administration, art, and the role of women in ancient Iranian society, IRNA reported.

"These documents show an organized urban system," he said. "You see art in them, and you see several nationalities living together. One document can reveal a brilliant civilization."

Masjed-Jamei pointed to records describing women working in tailoring workshops under female management, saying the tablets captured details of daily life with unusual precision. "You see a woman returning to work after several months, and others realize she has had a child," he said.

He also underlined the political and historical value of official archives, saying Iran's documented records have helped defend the internationally rec-



ognized name of the Persian Gulf. "If today we can defend the title 'Persian Gulf,' it is because it has been officially registered," he said, warning that the destruction of historical records remains one of the main threats facing cultural heritage.

Referring to the return of Achaemenid tablets to Iran after a US court ruling, Masjed-Jamei described the artifacts as especially significant because much of that historical period was not chronicled through conventional historiography.

Gholamreza Amirkhani, head of the National Library and Archives of Iran, called for archives to be integrated more actively into public life rather than remaining dormant in storage.

Member of Iran's National Archives Council and deputy head of the Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia, Ahmad Masjed-Jamei, speaks at a ceremony marking National Documents and Written Heritage Day in Tehran on May 9, 2026. ● IRNA

"The document should enter society," he said. "Its function and application within society are what give it meaning."

Amirkhani also described the institution as a secure national repository for both public and family records, particularly during wartime conditions, saying the archive belonged to "all people with every viewpoint."

Iran doubles blood reserves as donor drive shields thalassemia care nationwide

Social Desk

Iran has doubled its national blood reserves from five to 10 days following a strong public response to donation campaigns, ensuring uninterrupted care for thalassemia patients across the country, the head of the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization said during a visit to Tehran's Zafar Adult Thalassemia Clinic on Saturday.

Ahmad Gharehbaghian said the country's blood supply had reached a "stable" and "desirable" level, allowing hospitals and transfusion centers nationwide to fully meet the needs of

thousands of patients suffering from the hereditary blood disorder, according to IRNA.

He said Iran's national blood network remained fully operational during the recent imposed war, when many thalassemia patients temporarily relocated to other provinces. "Patients faced no problem receiving the blood they needed," he said, adding that transfusion centers across the country coordinated deliveries to host provinces and high-demand regions.

The official said southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan Province, home to the country's largest thalassemia pop-

ulation, maintained sufficient reserves throughout the crisis. When local inventories came under pressure in provinces such as Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Tehran, Gilan and Mazandaran, additional units were dispatched through the national blood-sharing network.

Iran has nearly 20,000 thalassemia patients, many of whom require two to three units of blood every month to maintain normal daily life, Gharehbaghian said. In Sistan and Baluchestan alone, the number of patients is estimated at between 6,500 and 7,000, with monthly demand reaching up to 20,000 units.

He said all blood transfusion services are provided free of charge, while emphasizing that treatment and specialized medical care fall under the responsibility of hospitals and the Health Ministry.

Gharehbaghian also called for broader institutional and charitable support to improve facilities at the Zafar clinic, saying patients often face long travel routes, time-consuming treatment schedules and complications linked to limited healthcare access in remote regions.

He warned that hereditary factors, including consanguineous marriages,



continued to contribute to higher thalassemia rates in several southern and northern provinces, stressing the need for stronger public awareness campaigns.