

Leader pardons, commutes sentences of more than 2,000 convicts

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei pardoned or commuted the sentences of more than 2,000 convicts ahead of Eid al-Ghadir, a major Muslim festival, the judiciary has announced.

The clemency, approved at the request of Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei, applies to inmates convicted by general and revolutionary courts, military tribunals, and government penal institutions, Press TV reported.

Judiciary official Ali Mozafari said Friday that eligible convicts must have no private plaintiff, no effective criminal record, and demonstrated signs of reform after serving part of their sentence. Age, family circumstances, and the nature of the offense are also considered.

"The principle in the judiciary is the full execution of sentences," Mozafari said.

"But when it becomes clear during enforcement that a person has reformed and continued punishment is unnecessary, pardon or sentence reduction becomes possible."

Most of the 2,000 pardoned convicts will be released immediately, Mozafari added.

Mozafari drew clear red lines, stating that convicts of security crimes, espionage, actions against internal or external national security, and those who have threatened public security will not be pardoned under any circumstances.

"In the current situation where the Islamic Republic of Iran is engaged in a imposed war with global arrogance, the United States, and the Zionist regime, dealing with crimes against national security is carried out with full decisiveness, and this category of convicts is excluded from any reduction or pardon," he said.

Cases with private plaintiffs also cannot receive clemency until the plaintiff's consent is obtained.

Such pardons are routinely announced on major religious and national occasions. Eid al-Ghadir, celebrated on the 18th of Dhu al-Hijjah, marks the occasion when Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) appointed Imam Ali (PBUH) as his successor.

Provincial pardon commissions and a central commission reviewed eligible cases despite time constraints caused by holidays and the country's war footing, Mozafari said. He emphasized that decisions are based solely on legal criteria and that no outside pressure or demands influence the process.

"No pressure, demand, or consideration outside legal frameworks has any effect on the review process," he said. The clemency comes as Iran continues



Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei
 IRNA

to face heightened terrorism from the United States and Israel. Mozafari reiterated that those convicted of crimes

against state security remain entirely outside the scope of any sentence reduction or forgiveness.

Tehran, Dushanbe seek deeper cooperation on biodiversity protection



Social Desk

Iran and Tajikistan agreed to expand environmental cooperation during talks in Samarkand on Wednesday, with officials highlighting joint efforts to protect biodiversity, monitor pollution, and safeguard endangered species, according to Iran's Department of Environment (DOE).

Shina Ansari, Iran's vice president and head of the Department of Environment, met the Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Bahodur Sheralizoda, on June 4 on the sidelines of meetings linked to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and regional environmental forums in the historic Uzbek city, IRNA reported. The two officials discussed areas of

The vice president of Iran and head of the Department of Environment, Shina Ansari (L), meets with Bahodur Sheralizoda, Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, on the sidelines of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) meetings in the Uzbek city of Samarkand on June 4, 2026.

● DOE

common concern at regional and international levels and explored ways to strengthen cooperation on biodiversity conservation, wildlife protection and pollutant monitoring.

"Iran and Tajikistan can effectively cooperate in the fields of biodiversity conservation, protection of wildlife and endangered species, and pollutant monitoring," Ansari said

during the meeting. She also raised the prospect of joint work under emerging international efforts to curb plastic pollution.

Sheralizoda voiced support for broader environmental engagement between the two countries and said Tajikistan was prepared to host Iranian biodiversity experts and specialists for technical visits and exchanges of experience.

The discussions underscored growing environmental ties between Tehran and Dushanbe as both countries confront shared challenges ranging from ecosystem degradation to climate-related pressures. Officials framed scientific cooperation and knowledge-sharing as key tools for strengthening environmental resilience across the region.

Ansari traveled to Samarkand to attend regional and global environmental meetings, including the sixth gathering of environment ministers from member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). On the sidelines of the visit, she also toured cultural and religious sites in the city and met members of the local Shiite community during Eid al-Ghadir celebrations.

The talks added fresh momentum to Iran-Tajikistan cooperation, with both sides signaling readiness to translate shared environmental priorities into practical collaboration.

Iranian short film wins top prize at Birmingham Kurdish festival



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmaker Edris Mahmoudian's short drama 'Limo Knew Everything' won the Best Short Film award at the first Birmingham Kurdish Film Festival (BKFF), which concluded on May 31 in Birmingham, England.

The 21-minute film, written and directed by the Mahabad-born filmmaker, emerged as the top winner at the festival's closing ceremony, attended by British cultural and artistic figures. Launched on May 28, the Birmingham Kurdish Film Festival

was established to showcase Kurdish cinema and provide an international platform for Kurdish filmmakers from across the globe. Set in a rural household, 'Limo Knew Everything' unfolds around a family's anticipation of the birth of a son after eight daughters. Through a vibrant ensemble of women, restless movement, and an immersive camera, the film draws viewers into the pulse of everyday life, where hope hangs in the air like a whispered promise.

The latest accolade adds to the film's growing

international recognition. Earlier this year, it received a Jury Commendation at the Fifth Kurdish Film Festival of the Netherlands. It had previously earned Special Jury Mentions at the 11th Duhok International Film Festival in Iraq, the 41st Tehran International Short Film Festival, and the 21st Image of the Year Festival, while also collecting awards for Best Director and Best Sound at the Lahijan Open-Air Film Festival.

The cast includes Zhaleh Niloufari, Kamal Nojavan, Helya Alaei, Aram Amini, Mahpareh Amini, Dordaneh Razmara, Nastaran Sohrabi-Nia, Farinaz Naderi, Asal Mohammadi, Gazizeh Ebrahimi, Melina Mahboubi, Baran Mohammadi, and Rozhan Bayazidi.

Mahmoudian, who holds a degree in historic preservation, has been active in cinema since 2009 and previously directed the short films 'Kite' and 'Now a Girl Is My Homeland'.

British publisher to release Tehran war diaries for global readers

Arts & Culture Desk

British independent publisher NOP is set to release 'When the Sparrows Grow Anxious' (diaries from Tehran at war), a firsthand account by Iranian writer and researcher Ali Asghar Seidabadi that chronicles daily life in Tehran during the 40-day conflict involving US and Israeli attacks on Iran.

Seidabadi began writing the diary on February 28, 2026, and continued through the day

after the ceasefire. Originally addressed to an international network of children's and young adult authors, the book combines 50 daily entries with reflections and conversations involving 44 writers and artists from countries including the United States, Britain, Japan and France.

The English-language edition offers an intimate portrait of Tehran as residents navigated uncertainty while preserving the rhythms of everyday life.

Through observations, memories and personal reflections, Seidabadi explores how war reshapes time, language, family bonds, friendship, humor, fear and hope.

NOP said the book aligns with its mission of amplifying distinctive voices and overlooked narratives. In a statement, the publisher described the work as a record of "the texture of ordinary life under extraordinary pressure," allowing readers to witness how people continue

to care about "birds, food, jokes, books, neighbors and the weather while history presses against their windows."

The publisher said it chose the project because it offers a rare, ground-level perspective on a city often discussed internationally but less frequently heard in its own voice. The diary, it added, reaches beyond the boundaries of a single city and conflict to examine what it means to remain human when public events intrude upon private lives.

"The consequences of war are not experienced only in headlines," NOP said. "They are present in kitchens, streets, silences and the small acts of endurance that sustain daily life."

The book's cover draws on an image by IRNA photographer Akbar Tavakoli, while the digital edition features photographs by IRNA contributors and other Iranian photographers.

A Persian-language edition is also scheduled for publication in Iran by Agar Publishing.

