

# Iran's dignitaries, world leaders, delegations pay tribute to Ayatollah Khamenei

## International Desk

Iran has begun dayslong funeral ceremonies for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, with foreign dignitaries and religious figures paying their respects at Tehran's Grand Mosalla.

Top Iranian officials, heads of state, foreign dignitaries, and high-ranking delegations from across the world paid their respects to the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, who was assassinated in a US-Israeli strike on the opening day of the recent 40-day war on February 28. Iranian officials and their families, representatives of religious minorities, families of martyrs of the resistance front and Arab tribal leaders also joined the solemn tribute.

The Leader's body, along with those of his companions, was transferred to Tehran's Grand Mosalla early Friday and placed in the main prayer hall ahead of a two-day public farewell ceremony.

Religious scholars and cultural figures from Indonesia and Afghanistan were among the first foreign guests to pay tribute.

Iran's Parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and President Masoud Pezeshkian, key officials in the country's gov-

ernment, all paid their respects.

Turkmenistan's chairman of the People's Council Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Iraqi President Nizar Amedi, Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and army chief General Asim Munir and Iraq's Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani were among foreign dignitaries who paid their respects to the late Ayatollah Khamenei.

Parliament speakers of Iraq, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan, foreign ministers of Nicaragua, Congo and Burkina Faso, president of Egypt's Senate, the secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement, and Omani parliament speaker also paid tribute to the martyred Leader.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said Friday that delegations from nearly 100 countries, along with public figures and civil society groups, would attend the farewell ceremony for the martyred Leader.

"We have high-level delegations from neighboring countries. At least eight heads of government, including presidents or prime ministers, and parliamentary speakers from 12 countries will attend," Baqaei said. "Many other



Members of Indian delegation walk past the coffins of Iran's martyred Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and his family members after paying their respects at the Tehran's Grand Mosalla on July 3, 2026.

● AFP

countries will be represented at the level of foreign ministers, other ministers, or special envoys."

He added that public groups and prominent figures from around 100 countries would also participate in the ceremony. Baqaei said official delegations, public figures and members of parliament from Eastern European countries would attend the farewell ceremony. However, he said countries in Europe that had officially supported the military aggression by Israel and the United States against Iran had not been invited to attend the ceremony.

The public farewell, beginning Friday, follows a private ceremony held Thursday evening. Families of those killed in the recent war and relatives of staff members from the Leader's office gathered to bid farewell to the late Leader.

President Masoud Pezeshkian called on Iranians from all backgrounds to take part in the funeral ceremonies.

"As heroic Iran prepares to bid farewell



to the sincere servant of Islam and the Revolution, I invite all people, regardless of ethnicity, religion, political taste or orientation, to participate with enthusiasm, dignity and in historic numbers, demonstrating a lasting image of national unity and loyalty to the lofty ideals of the Islamic establishment," he wrote in a message posted on X. The multi-day funeral is expected

to draw between 15 and 20 million mourners, according to Iranian officials. Ceremonies will continue on Saturday and Sunday with the body lying in state at the Grand Mosalla before a funeral procession through Tehran on Monday. Further rites are scheduled in the holy city of Qom, followed by ceremonies in Baghdad, Karbala and Najaf in Iraq, before burial in Mashhad on July 9.

## Pezeshkian vows to hold US, Israel accountable for their crimes

### International Desk

Iranian president said on Friday that the US and Israeli aggression against Iran constituted a clear violation of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter, vowing that Tehran would hold them and their supporters accountable for their crimes.

Masoud Pezeshkian made the remarks in separate meetings with foreign delegations from China, Namibia and Afghanistan and officials who traveled to Tehran to attend the funeral ceremony of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Pezeshkian said the US and Israeli attacks killed a number of military commanders, government officials, scientists and innocent civilians. He said strikes on civilian facilities and the killing of civilians represented a blatant breach of internationally accepted rules.

"The actions taken against the Islamic Republic of Iran were a clear violation of the fundamental



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) walks along Emomali Rahmon who arrived in Tehran on July 3, 2026 to attend the funeral ceremony for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

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principles of the UN Charter, pre-emptory norms of international law, the principle of respect for national sovereignty, and all international humanitarian law standards," Pezeshkian said.

He said Iran will pursue the crimes and hold perpetrators and their supporters accountable in international forums and institutions using all legal and diplomatic capacities.

The Iranian president emphasized that Iran remains committed to expanding relations with its neighbors based on good neighborliness, mutual respect and shared interests.

"No country should allow its territory, facilities, or capacities to

be used by aggressors against the Iranian nation," he said.

The Chinese, Namibian and Afghan delegations, in their meetings with Pezeshkian, conveyed condolences from their leaders, emphasized respect for Iran's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and called for expanded bilateral cooperation in political, economic, cultural and other fields.

The Iranian president also held separate meetings with the leaders of Armenia, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Iraq.

During the meetings, Pezeshkian thanked the leaders for their presence in the funeral ceremony of Ayatollah Khamenei and appreciated their empathy and the countries' support for the Islamic Republic during the recent US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

## Araghchi: Armed Forces proved outsiders cannot even protect themselves

Bahrain military dialogue a 'show' to cover up US destabilizing policies: FM spokesperson

### International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reacted to a military conference held by the US Central Command (CENTCOM) in Bahrain, saying that Iran's military forces have proven that outsiders cannot even protect themselves.

"Has CENTCOM brought security or insecurity to our region?" "The answer is clear," Araghchi asked in a post on his X account on Thursday after CENTCOM announced that it had held a regional security meeting hosted by the Bahrain Defense Force with senior military officials from 11 Middle Eastern countries.

According to the CENTCOM statement, Commander Gen. Brad Cooper and senior military officials from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen discussed the region's current security situation and opportunities to enhance military cooperation.

"Equally, our Powerful Armed Forces have proven that outsiders cannot even protect themselves. Peace in our region can only be sustained when comprehensive and inclusive, with no outside interference," Araghchi wrote.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei also on Thursday lambasted the US over the security meeting, warning neighboring countries not to be deceived by Washington's security initiatives and to remain alert to its destabilizing role in West Asia.

"The US administration has repeatedly demonstrated that it places no value on the peace and



● CENTCOM

security of the countries of the West Asia region," he said in a post on X on Thursday.

"Such gatherings are nothing more than a show and a window dressing aimed at covering up the United States' destabilizing policies and unlawful actions in West Asia," Baqaei stressed, responding to a US statement announcing the so-called "Regional Security Dialogue" in Bahrain. "The countries of the region must remain extremely vigilant and cautious, and they must not forget the clear lessons of the consequences of the recent US-Zionist regime military aggression and their destructive actions, which violated the security of the entire region," the spokesman further said.

Iran's warning comes weeks after a US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran, during which Iranian armed forces launched powerful retaliatory strikes and imposed restrictions on traffic through the strategic waterway before a ceasefire and a fragile memorandum of understanding between Tehran and Washington eased tensions.

## Resistance identity in ...

From the perspective of critical international relations theory, this model

carries dual implications. On the one hand, it may enhance the deterrence capabilities of peripheral actors and contribute to balancing unequal power structures. In this sense, the Axis of Resistance serves as an instrument for reducing dependence and strengthening strategic autonomy. On the other hand, this same structure may intensify regional security competition, deepen mistrust among actors, and make conflict-resolution processes more complex. In other words, the very network that some actors regard as a mechanism of deterrence may be viewed by others as a source of instability and a factor

perpetuating cycles of mutual securitization.

At the regional level, the Axis of Resistance can be viewed as a form of informal security order that operates either in competition or in interaction with formal regional security arrangements. By bringing together states and non-state actors, it has established a flexible network capable of adapting to changing regional dynamics. This adaptability constitutes one of its defining characteristics. Unlike conventional alliances, it is not dependent on rigid legal or institutional frameworks but operates primarily through political and ideological ties.

Ultimately, within Ayatollah Khamenei's worldview, resistance is viewed

not merely as a response to external pressure but as a proactive project aimed at redefining the regional and international standing of independent actors. Through the Axis of Resistance, this project seeks to shift the regional balance of power away from a unipolar or hierarchical structure toward a multilayered and network-based equilibrium. Consequently, any understanding of the Axis of Resistance that overlooks its theoretical, identity-based, and strategic dimensions remains incomplete. It should instead be understood as a synthesis of power politics, transnational identity-building, and informal security architecture that continues to shape the evolving dynamics of the contemporary Middle East.



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