

Minister hails artists documenting Leader's funeral ceremony



● MEHR

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Seyyed Abbas Salehi, praised artists for documenting and narrating the farewell ceremonies for the martyred Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, describing their work as an example of the "mission of artists."

According to Mehr News Agency, Salehi made the remarks during a visit with teams responsible for visually documenting the farewell ceremonies. Referring to

statements by the Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei on the need for a "mission of artists" alongside a "people's mission," he said that artistic participation in portraying the farewell ceremonies reflects the realization of that vision. He added that discussions with colleagues and observations of the activities carried out by the Iranian Youth Cinema Society demonstrate the early signs of this artistic mission taking shape through creative and national storytelling of the farewell ceremonies.

Salehi noted that around 200 artists are engaged in recording and illustrating the farewell ceremonies. At the same time, members and filmmakers of the Iranian Youth Cinema Society are documenting this historic event in more than 150 cities and villages across the country. He further stated that visual documentation networks are also active in the cities of Qom and Mashhad, as well as in Iraq, indicating that the artists' mission is continuing to expand. The minister emphasized that

the visual record being created in connection with the farewell ceremonies for the martyred Leader represents a seed being planted today — one that could grow into lasting achievements in the fields of revolutionary art and the documentation of national events. Salehi thanked the Iranian Youth Cinema Society, the Cinema Organization, and everyone working to advance this broad artistic initiative, expressing hope that these efforts will continue with even greater impact.

A walk through Shirez Canyon in Lorestan Province

Iranica Desk

Nestled in the heart of western Iran, Shirez Canyon is one of Lorestan Province's most spectacular natural attractions. Renowned for its dramatic cliffs, pristine landscapes, and rich historical heritage, the canyon has emerged as a must-visit destination for nature enthusiasts, hikers, and adventure travelers seeking to explore one of Iran's hidden gems.

Located near the city of Kuhdasht, at the meeting point of the provinces of Lorestan, Kermanshah, and Ilam, Shirez Canyon has become one of western Iran's most popular natural landmarks. The canyon is distinguished not only by its dramatic scenery but also by its rich historical and archaeological significance.

Situated in the Oladghobad region, the canyon begins near Godargeh village and stretches for approximately five kilometers.

beauty. One of the canyon's most notable attractions is Shirez Waterfall, located midway along the route. The soothing sound of cascading water, combined with the surrounding greenery, offers visitors a peaceful and refreshing experience. During spring, blooming wildflowers and vibrant foliage transform



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the canyon into one of the region's most picturesque destinations. Beyond its natural wonders, Shirez Canyon is also home to important historical and archaeological re-

spective geological formations. The canyon attracts thousands of visitors each year, highlighting the need for environmental protection and responsible tourism. Authorities and conservationists encourage visitors to respect nature, preserve archaeological sites, and follow sustainable tourism practices to ensure that this unique

heritage remains intact for future generations. Spring, particularly during March, April, and May, is considered the ideal season to visit Shirez Canyon. Mild temperatures, lush greenery, and colorful wildflowers create perfect conditions for sightseeing and outdoor activities.

Getting there

Travelers can reach Kuhdasht by private vehicle or public transportation from major Iranian cities such as Tehran and Isfahan. From Kuhdasht, directional signs and GPS navigation can guide visitors to Godargeh village and the canyon entrance.

Accommodation

Accommodation options near the canyon are limited. Visitors are advised to reserve a hotel or guesthouse in Kuhdasht before traveling. Camping is also possible in designated areas around the canyon for those seeking a closer connection with nature.



A river flows through the canyon before joining the Seymareh River. Towering rock walls rising between 150 and 200 meters create a spectacular and mysterious landscape. Formed over thousands of years through natural erosion, these cliffs have also given rise to numerous springs and lush vegetation, enhancing the area's pristine

evidence discovered in the area suggests that cave-dwelling communities inhabited the region in ancient times. Another landmark is the famous Stone Minaret, a natural rock column formed through millions of years of erosion. Standing approximately 80 meters high with a diameter of 10 meters, it is one of the canyon's most impres-

Plan to register farewell to martyred Leader as national heritage



● IRNA

Arts & Culture Desk

The Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts announced plans to officially register the millions-strong funeral procession for the martyred Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, as a national heritage event, describing it as an unprecedented demonstration of national unity and solidarity. Ali Darabi said, "We all took part wholeheartedly in the funeral and farewell ceremony for the martyred Leader to once again reaffirm our commitment to his ideals." He also revealed that the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi-Amiri has formally requested the approval of the current

Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, to register the Imam Khomeini Hussainiyah — described as the Leader's residence and the country's center of governance — as a national heritage site and convert it into the great museum of Iran. According to Darabi, the late Leader's former residence in Mashhad, where he lived between 1967 and 1978 and where his sons were born, has already been registered as the Museum of the Islamic Revolution and is currently being completed. He added that his residence in Iran-shahr, where he lived during his exile during the Pahlavi era, has also been registered and converted into a house museum, IRNA reported. Emphasizing the importance of pre-

serving the memories of officials who worked alongside the martyred Leader; the official said a book documenting such recollections should be compiled. "I have many memories of the martyred Leader from the years of the Islamic Revolution, the Construction Jihad, and the Coordination Council on Islamic Promulgation," he said. "I hope I will have the opportunity to turn those memories into a book so they can be preserved for future generations." Darabi added that oral history constitutes the nation's historical and collective memory, stressing that recording these recollections in book form would help preserve an important part of Iran's history for the public and younger generations.

'Abnaa al-Sayyed' murals adorn Tehran walls

Arts & Culture Desk

The international mural painting event "Abnaa al-Sayyed" (the son of the Leader) brought together resistance artists from Iran, Lebanon, and Yemen in Tehran to create public artworks honoring the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution. The two-day event was organized by the Art Bureau alongside the farewell and funeral ceremonies for the martyred Leader. Held at the intersection of Valiasr Square and Nekouei Street in central Tehran, the event featured muralists from the three countries, who expressed their grief and loyalty to the martyred Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and the ideals of the Resistance Front through large-scale public artworks. The "Abnaa al-Sayyed" initiative aimed to pay tribute to the martyred Leader while demonstrating the cul-

tural and artistic solidarity of the Resistance Front. The joint participation of artists from Iran, Lebanon, and Yemen reflected a spirit of unity and artistic cooperation during the days of mourning. Participating artists included Kamal Sharaf from Yemen; Reza Qasir,

Mohammad Atiyeh, Ayman Jaber, Hawraa Kbayssi, Ahmad al-Hajj, Sarah Ismail, Fatemeh al-Shami, Hassan Fneich, and Hossein Qasir from Lebanon; and Mohammad Reza Doostmohammadi, Ali Hayati, Saber Sheikh-Rezaei, and Mikaeil Barati from Iran.



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