

Iranian sports community bids farewell to Leader, minister reaffirms commitment to his vision



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## Tehran bids final salute to beloved Leader

Martyred Khamenei viewed unity as Iran's greatest asset: *Pezeshkian*

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A vehicle carrying coffins of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and his family members makes its way as people attend a funeral procession for Iran's martyred Leader, who was assassinated on February 28 in Israeli and US airstrikes, in Tehran, Iran on July 6, 2026. [khamenei.ir](http://khamenei.ir)



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### Intellectual foundations of late Leader's foreign policy



By **Mohsen Farkhani**  
International affairs analyst

**ANALYSIS EXCLUSIVE**

The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the past three decades has been shaped to a large extent by the guidance of the martyred Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. Within his intellectual framework, foreign policy is not merely an instrument for managing relations between states or pursuing short-term interests. Rather, it constitutes an integral part of the Islamic Republic's broader strategy to safeguard its independence, national security, Islamic identity, and the ideals of the 1979 Revolution. From this perspective, foreign policy extends well beyond the realm of diplomacy, maintaining deep ties with cultural, ideological, se-

curity, and economic dimensions. Accordingly, many of the Islamic Republic's major decisions and actions on the international stage can be understood within this conceptual framework. Among the principles that occupy a central place in his thought, the three concepts of dignity, wisdom, and expediency stand out more than any others. Together, these three principles provide the framework for assessing and guiding the Islamic Republic's foreign policy and are reflected in numerous official positions and strategic decisions. The principle of dignity, as articulated by the late Leader, emphasizes preserving the honor of Islam, the Islamic establishment, and the Iranian nation. From this perspective, no agreement, negotiation, or foreign engagement that undermines the country's independence or compromises the dignity of the Iranian people is

considered acceptable. This understanding derives its intellectual foundation from Verse 8 of the Holy Quran's Surah Al-Munafiqun, which declares that dignity belongs to God, His Messenger, and the believers. Consequently, Ayatollah Khamenei consistently distinguished between negotiation and surrender. In his view, dialogue and engagement with other countries are acceptable only when conducted from a position of strength and when they do not result in yielding to external pressure or domination. In other words, the principle of dignity does not reject engagement with the international community; rather, it defines the manner in which the Islamic Republic should carry itself within the international system. Alongside dignity, the principle of wisdom highlights the rational dimension of foreign policy. Within this framework, decision-making is based on an accurate un-

derstanding of international conditions, a realistic assessment of the balance of power, careful evaluation of costs and benefits, and the prudent use of diplomatic capabilities. This approach suggests that, in the martyred Leader's opinion, idealism and realism are not mutually exclusive but complementary. From this perspective, peace and negotiations are not inherently unacceptable if they safeguard the country's interests and security. Rather, they may constitute part of a rational diplomacy that embodies wisdom—which is understood as flexibility in methods rather than retreat from principles. Expediency, the third pillar of this conceptual triangle, refers to identifying the long-term interests of the Islamic establishment under varying circumstances. In this framework, expediency does not imply altering fundamental principles or abandoning core values. Instead, it enables

the adoption of methods suited to the requirements of time and place. Accordingly, tactical flexibility is acceptable only when it serves to preserve strategic objectives and strengthen the country's position. Based on this reasoning, decisions such as accepting nuclear negotiations are viewed by proponents of this school of thought not as a departure from fundamental principles, but as an adjustment in the methods employed to achieve those very objectives. Grounded in these three principles, the concept of independence and the rejection of domination constitutes another key pillar of the foreign policy envisioned by the martyred Leader. Within this framework, the slogan "Neither East nor West" is regarded not merely as a legacy of the Revolution's early years but as an enduring element of the Islamic Republic's identity. [Page 3 >](#)

# Tehran bids final salute to beloved Leader

Martyred Khamenei viewed unity as Iran's greatest asset: **Pezeshkian**

## National Desk

An ocean of mourners packed the streets of the Iranian capital of Tehran on Monday to pay their last tributes as the coffin of martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was carried in a historic funeral procession to Azadi Square.

The multi-million-strong procession began at 6:00 a.m. local time (0230 GMT) on Monday from Tehran's Grand Mosalla religious complex, where the body had lain in state for two days.

The procession, which drew millions of mourners from across the country, also carried the flag-draped coffins of several members of late Ayatollah Khamenei's family, who were all assassinated alongside the Leader on the first day of the recent US-Israeli war of aggression on February 28.

Attired in black and beating their chests in mourning, large crowds flooded the streets in Tehran as the funeral convoy made its way through the capital, chanting slogans that called for revenge for the Leader's blood and waving Iranian flags and carrying his portraits.

Mourners poured flowers on the coffin of the martyred Leader on its way toward Tehran's Azadi Square.

As the cortege reached Azadi Square, the vehicle carrying the sacred body of the martyred Leader was forced to stop because of the overwhelming outpouring of grief and affection from mourners gathered around it.

High-ranking officials, including President Masoud Pezeshkian, Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejei,

First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, IRGC Quds Force Commander Brigadier General Esmail Qa'ani, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, and Central Bank Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati were seen within the crowds of citizens.

The massive scale of the procession drew significant coverage from international media outlets, including Israeli press channels, which widely broadcasted the immense density of the public turnout in the capital.

Delegations from scores of countries, including heads of state, prime ministers, and senior officials from Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Iraq, Tajikistan, Turkey, and dozens of other nations, arrived in Tehran to pay their respects on Friday. According to organizers, funeral ceremonies for late Ayatollah Khamenei and his family will continue on Tuesday in the holy city of Qom. Additional farewell and funeral events are scheduled for Wednesday in the Iraqi cities of Najaf and Karbala.

The final funeral rites are set to take place on Thursday in the northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad, where Ayatollah Khamenei will be buried at the shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam, in accordance with the martyred Leader's will.

In his social media X account on Monday, Pezeshkian underlined that the martyred Leader taught everyone that Iran's greatest asset is its people and their unyielding unity.

Reflected on the foundational principles left behind by the late Leader, Pezeshkian urged the Iranian nation to maintain cohesion during this transitional period.



Large crowds of mourners attend the funeral procession held for martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and several members of his family in Tehran on July 6, 2026.

● **TASNIM**

"The martyred Leader taught everyone that Iran's greatest asset is its people and their unity," the president wrote. Invoking spiritual and strategic resolve, Pezeshkian added, "Today, by acting upon the divine command to 'stand up for God, in pairs or individually,' we will continue the path of honor, progress, and pride for Iran through empathy, national consensus, and sincere service to the people."

## Pezeshkian heads delegation to Iraq's procession

Meanwhile, state media reports confirmed that Pezeshkian will travel to Iraq on Tuesday to attend the funeral ceremony for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, scheduled to be held in the Iraqi holy cities of Najaf and Karbala on Wednesday.

The presidential visit underscores the profound religious and diplomatic coordination between Tehran and Baghdad for the security and logistics of the international funeral transits.

Prior to the official announcement, several regional media outlets had speculated regarding the composition of the Iranian delegation, claiming that Hujjat al-Islam Seyed Mostafa Khamenei — the eldest son of the martyred Leader — and Parliament Speaker Mohammad



Baqer Qalibaf would be heading the funeral mission to Iraq.

Officials in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf have announced full readiness to host the funeral procession of the martyred Leader.

The Iraqi media cited Yousef Makki Kanawi, the governor and head of the local government in Najaf, as saying on Monday that all security, logistical, and support preparations for the funeral of Ayatollah Khamenei had been completed.

Stating that the ceremony consists of both official and public segments, he said the first would be attended by the heads of Iraq's executive, legislative, and judicial branches, and leaders of different political factions, as well as lawmakers and other officials, at Najaf

International Airport on Tuesday.

The governor of Najaf underscored the holy city has hosted a delegation comprising representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, the Joint Operations Command, the Popular Mobilization Forces, and the Iranian ambassador.

The second event, he said, is a public procession beginning at 6:00 a.m. local time on Wednesday, from the Sadr Hospital Bridge on Airport Street, and would pass through the city's old quarter and would conclude at the holy shrine of Imam Ali (AS).

According to Kanawi, more than one hundred temporary service stations, called Mawkibs, have been set up along the funeral procession routes to help the mourners and provide services to them.

## Qalibaf: Peace in Lebanon impossible without Iran



Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf (R) meets with a delegation of senior Hezbollah officials in Tehran on July 5, 2026.  
● **JIRNA**

## International Desk

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf underlined that peace would not be possible in Lebanon without Iran playing its role as a stabilizing force.

Qalibaf made the remarks in a Sunday meeting with Muhammad Fneish, a senior member of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, who was in Tehran to attend funeral ceremonies for the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Qalibaf said in the meeting that the recent US-Israeli aggression against Iran, which caused conflicts in the wider West Asia region, including in Lebanon, proved that peace in the region can only be achieved through Iran.

The senior official said the memorandum of understanding reached between Iran and the United States last month has set clear conditions for cessation of aggression against Iranian-allied resistance forces in the region, including on Hezbollah.

"We had a special emphasis on Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty," Qalibaf said of the negotiations that led to the signing of the Iran-US agreement, in which he led the Iranian negotiation team. He also appreciated Hezbollah's brave fighting against the Israeli re-

gime in support of Iran during the recent US-Israeli aggression on Iran, saying that the fight was a "turning point in history" which showed the "unbreakable bond" between resistance groups and Iran.

Fneish, for his part, said that Hezbollah considers itself a part of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, saying relations between the Lebanese group and the Islamic Republic of Iran have always been brotherly and based on religious and revolutionary bonds. He said that it was Iran's intervention that forced a ceasefire to the recent war in Lebanon.

"We believe that the war in Lebanon has been halted through the intervention of the Islamic Republic of Iran and by compelling the United States and the Zionist regime to comply with the terms outlined in the memorandum of understanding, and that the end of the war may also be achieved through this same path," said Fneish.

## US 'defeated' as Iran MoU empowers resistance

During a meeting with Yemen's Vice President Mohammed Al-Nuaimi on Sunday, Qalibaf declared that the United States and Israel were compelled to "practically" acknowledge Iran's regional allies under the terms of a recent memorandum of understanding, describing the agreement

as a "defeat" for Washington and a victory for the Axis of Resistance.

"In the recent memorandum, the United States and Israel were forced to practically recognize Iran's allies in the Axis of Resistance, and this is one of the achievements of this memorandum," he said.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of farewell ceremonies for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

"Iran and the Axis of Resistance stood together against the United States and Israel," Qalibaf said, adding that the memorandum "represents a defeat for the United States and an achievement for the Axis of Resistance, both militarily and politically." Qalibaf stressed that strong diplomacy depends on full military preparedness.

"If the Americans and the Zionist regime sense even a moment of weakness or a decline in our spirit of struggle, they will resort to war," he said.

He noted that at the start of the Ramadan War, the enemy had set nine specific objectives against the Islamic Republic, expecting to achieve them within days.

"By the end of the 40 days, they had achieved none of them, and after mediators intervened, they requested a ceasefire," he said.

The Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, signed on June 18, 2026, brought an end to the US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran, which had begun on February 28.

The 14-point agreement, brokered by Pakistan, committed both sides to an immediate and permanent cessation of military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon, and provided for the lifting of the US naval blockade, the release of frozen Iranian assets, and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Qalibaf also praised Yemen's role in the Axis of Resistance, stating that "Ansarullah and the Yemeni people have always stood with the resistance and defended Gaza, Lebanon and Palestine in all hardships."

## Leader reappoints Mohseni-Ejei as Iran's Judiciary chief

### National Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei reappointed Gholam Hossein Mohseni-Ejei as head of the country's Judiciary, urging continued efforts to advance reforms within the judicial system.

In a decree, the Leader renewed Mohseni-Ejei's term pursuant to Article 157 of the Constitution, expressing appreciation for the judiciary chief's "valuable and sincere efforts." The decree states that the objectives outlined by the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei as well as the guidance contained in the Leader's message of June 28, 2026, provide a roadmap for transformation, institutional development, and the realization of a more effective judiciary.

Ayatollah Khamenei expressed hope that, through the judiciary chief's continued dedication, alongside the efforts of judges and judicial personnel across the country, the Iranian people would benefit from further improvements in the administration of justice.

The decree concludes with prayers for the



Gholam Hossein Mohseni-Ejei

success of Mohseni-Ejei and members of the judiciary in carrying out their responsibilities.

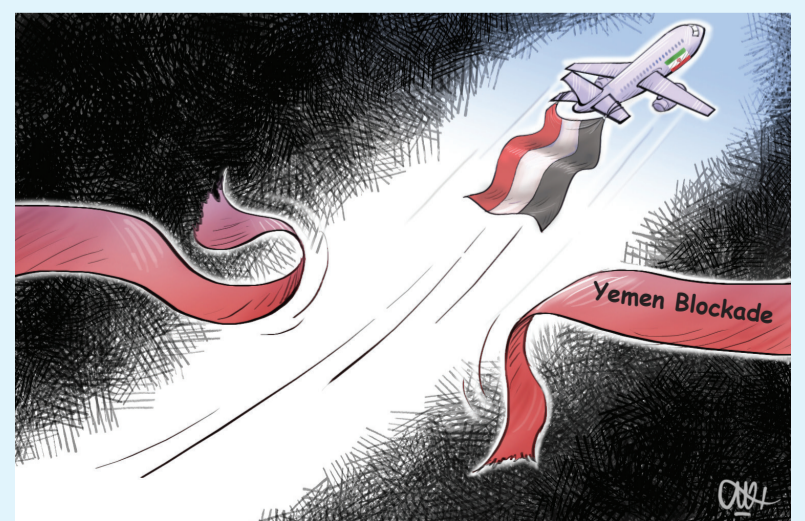
During the funeral procession for late Ayatollah Khamenei in Tehran on Monday, Mohseni-Ejei said the ultimate goal envisioned by the martyred Leader was the eradication of corruption and the forces of global arrogance.

"The peak that our martyred Leader envisioned and set as a goal for the great Iranian nation was the eradication of corruption and the currents of global arrogance," he emphasized. The Judiciary chief reiterated that calls for revenge voiced by the grieving people during late Ayatollah Khamenei's farewell and funeral ceremonies were aimed at "preventing the enemy from repeating criminal acts."



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

## CARTOON



# Qatar's Al Ruwais Port reopens to Iranian goods, restoring direct sea trade

## Economy Desk

Qatar's Al Ruwais Port has reopened to Iranian cargo after disruptions caused by the recent US-Israeli war on the Islamic Republic, restoring maritime trade between the two countries, Iran's commercial attaché in Doha said.

IRNA reported on Sunday that Abbas Abdolkhani said cargo shipments between Iran's southern port of Dayyer and Qatar's Al Ruwais Port had resumed after a five-month hiatus, following sustained efforts by the Iranian embassy in Doha and coordination with Qatari authorities.

Al Ruwais is one of the main gateways for Iranian goods entering the Qatari market, Abdolkhani said, adding that the reopening of "the shipping route would help facilitate trade, reduce transportation costs, speed up deliveries and increase bilateral trade volumes."

A wide range of Iranian products is exported to Qatar through the route, including fresh fruit and vegetables, nuts, food products, seafood, eggs and other protein

products, construction materials, stone, white cement, mineral products, hand-woven and machine-made carpets, and other goods needed by the Qatari market, he said.

"The reopening of Al Ruwais Port, in addition to boosting bilateral trade, will increase economic and commercial activity at Dayyer Port in Bushehr Province, the origin point for exports to Qatar, while supporting exporters, maritime transport companies and supply chain operators," Abdolkhani said.

He said expanding economic, trade and investment cooperation between Iran and Qatar remained a shared priority for both countries, and was being pursued in line with the commitment of senior officials in Tehran and Doha to strengthen bilateral ties.

The resumption follows a broader recovery in regional trade links after the conflict began in late February.

In late June, trade between Iran and the United Arab Emirates resumed through Dubai's Jebel Ali Port after disruptions

caused by the US-Israeli war on the Islamic Republic, according to a senior official at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO). Mohammad-Sadeq Qanadzadeh, deputy for commercial services at TPO, said on June 28 that Jebel Ali, one of the Persian Gulf's largest transshipment hubs, had traditionally handled a significant share of trade between the UAE and Iran.

"Cargo shipments and transit through the port were suspended during the war, leaving many Iranian containers stranded because importers were unable to clear their goods," he said.

Trade routes between the two countries have since reopened, and commerce is gradually recovering, although volumes remain below pre-conflict levels and are expected to return to normal, Qanadzadeh said at the time.

Dubai also welcomed the first flight from Tehran since the wartime suspension in late June, when a Sepehran Airlines flight landed at Dubai International Airport on June 30, marking the first direct service from the Iranian capital after the U.S.-Is-



A view of Qatar's Al Ruwais Port  
● SPIRIT OF QATAR

rael war disrupted regional aviation. Iran's airspace gradually reopened after a ceasefire was reached between Wash-

ington and Tehran on April 8, ending the 40-day conflict launched by the U.S.-Israeli coalition in late February.

## Iran, Malaysia seek new food security roadmap to expand agricultural cooperation



Iranian Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljah (R) meets his Malaysian counterpart, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, in Tehran on July 4, 2026.  
● IRNA

## Economy Desk

Iran and Malaysia are seeking to draw up a new bilateral food security roadmap and expand cooperation in agriculture, trade, research and investment, Iran's agriculture minister said during talks with his Malaysian counterpart in Tehran.

According to IRNA on Sunday, Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljah called for closer cooperation in agriculture and related industries, trade, research and food security.

"We need to develop a new food security roadmap for the two countries," Nouri-Qezeljah said.

The ministers discussed expanding trade in agricultural products, increasing joint investment, strengthening cooperation in the food industry, promoting technology transfer, expanding agricultural research and facilitating private-sector exchanges. Nouri-Qezeljah also called for closer cooperation between research

institutes, universities and scientific centers in areas including seed improvement, smart agriculture, mechanization, water resource management and greenhouse technologies. He emphasized the importance of exchanging experts, conducting joint research projects and holding joint training programs.

Referring to Iran's capabilities in agricultural production, technical expertise and research, he said the country was ready to expand cooperation with Malaysia in all areas of mutual interest.

Malaysia's Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, welcomed closer ties and called for bilateral agreements to be pursued through a joint working group while planning practical projects.

He also invited the Iranian agriculture minister to pay an official visit to Malaysia.

"Such a visit could mark a turning point in the development of bilateral

relations and provide a suitable opportunity to sign cooperation documents, hold a meeting of the joint agriculture committee and meet business leaders and private-sector representatives from both countries," Mohamad Sabu said.

The two sides also reviewed opportunities to expand bilateral trade, strengthen scientific cooperation, exchange knowledge and modern agricultural technologies, enhance food security cooperation and make greater use of their shared capabilities.

According to Mehr news agency, Iran and Malaysia have complementary economies.

Ali Chagharvand, head of the Iran-Malaysia Joint Trade Committee, said on Saturday that Malaysia could serve as a regional hub and a re-export base for Iranian products in sectors including petrochemicals, energy, mining, agriculture, and technical and engineering services.

"In return, Malaysia, with its advanced logistics infrastructure, international financial network and successful experience in attracting foreign investment, provides broad access to Southeast Asian markets," Chagharvand said.

He said the committee's primary objective was to promote bilateral trade through trade facilitation, economic diplomacy and cooperation with the governments of both countries to expand economic ties and attract investment.

He added that attracting investment and developing joint projects would be among the committee's main priorities and that its work would extend beyond trade alone.

## Minister proposes Balkans data corridor in push to expand digital cooperation with Serbia

## Economy Desk

Iran has proposed creating a data corridor linking the country with the Balkans as part of broader digital cooperation with Serbia, Communications and Information Technology Minister Sattar Hashemi said during talks with his Serbian counterpart in Tehran.

According to IRNA, Hashemi said the corridor could expand data transit between Asia, the Middle East and southeastern Europe and identified it as one of the main areas of cooperation between the two countries.

He also called for the establishment of a joint committee to oversee implementation of a memorandum of understanding signed during his visit to Serbia in March 2025.

The committee, comprising representatives from both countries, would be responsible for setting policies, approving annual plans, facilitating implementation of the agreement, allocating resources and providing regular progress reports to the two ministers, Hashemi said.

"Expanding cooperation in artificial intelligence, the space industry, data transit, fiber-optic networks, data centers and the digital economy will be among the main pillars of this partnership," he said.

Hashemi said implementation of the memorandum could



Communications and Information Technology Minister Sattar Hashemi (R) shakes hands with his Serbian counterpart, Boris Bratina, after a meeting in Tehran on July 4, 2026.  
● IRNA

be pursued through three specialized working groups focusing on cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and the digital economy and e-government.

He said Iran was ready to share its experience in developing indigenous hardware, expanding data centers, building cloud infrastructure and carrying out joint artificial intelligence projects with Serbia.

"Cooperation in artificial intelligence should go beyond the exchange of experience and lead to the implementation of joint projects between the two countries," he said.

Hashemi also cited Iran's achievements in the space industry and the use of satellite data as another area for bilateral cooperation and called for closer coordination and mutual support between Iran and Serbia in international telecommunications forums.

Iran has accelerated its space program in recent years, conducting more than 20 satellite launches, including a series of successful missions since 2022. The country has deployed research, communications and remote-sens-

ing satellites into orbit using both domestically developed launch vehicles and Russian launch services while continuing to expand its indigenous space capabilities.

The minister also urged his Serbian counterpart to facilitate the participation of Iranian knowledge-based companies in a specialized exhibition in Belgrade. He also identified Iran's national fiber-optic expansion project, the video game industry and the construction of small power plants to supply electricity for data centers as additional areas for cooperation.

Serbian Minister of Information and Telecommunications Boris Bratina said expanding cooperation with Iran was one of Serbia's priorities and that Belgrade was interested in strengthening ties, particularly in digital technologies and the space industry.

"Fiber-optic projects, artificial intelligence, smart technologies, e-learning and the video game industry are among the main areas of cooperation between the two countries, and the establishment of joint working groups can accelerate the development of these partnerships," Bratina said.

## Intellectual foundations of...

The principle does not preclude engagement with major powers; rather, it underscores that Iran's foreign relations should not become politically or economically dependent on them. From this standpoint, expanding ties with neighboring countries, the Islamic world, Asia, Africa, and emerging powers can be understood as part of a broader strategy aimed at diversifying foreign partnerships and reducing vulnerability to unilateral pressure.

Within his intellectual framework, national power is not confined to military capabilities alone. Rather, successful diplomacy is seen as dependent upon internal strength.

Scientific advancement, technological development, stronger defense capabilities, economic growth, a resilient economy, and greater social capital are all regarded as integral components of national power. In essence, foreign policy that is not backed by domestic capabilities lacks the capacity to effectively defend the country's interests. The value-based and civilizational dimension also represents a distinctive feature of this approach. Unlike certain realist theories of international relations, which view foreign policy solely as an arena of power competition, Ayatollah Khamenei's political thought assigns significant importance to identity and ethical considerations. Sup-

port for the Palestinian people, advocacy for the oppressed, backing the Resistance Front, and emphasizing the solidarity of the Islamic Ummah are all understood within this framework. From this perspective, such policies are grounded not only in religious convictions but are also considered capable of enhancing the Islamic Republic's strategic depth and strengthening regional security. Recent developments, particularly over the past year, have underscored the relevance of his perspective on the structural transformation of the international system and the emergence of a multipolar world order. The global distribution of power is gradually shifting, while new actors—including the

Islamic Republic of Iran—are coming to the fore on the international stage. Consequently, expanding cooperation with emerging powers, maintaining an active presence in regional and international organizations, and strengthening relations with neighboring countries are regarded as components of a broader strategy to enhance Iran's role and influence in the international arena. At the same time, he consistently emphasized the importance of accurately understanding global developments, avoiding excessive optimism or pessimism, and pursuing a prudent and intelligent diplomacy.

Overall, late Ayatollah Khamenei's foreign policy approach can be regarded as a mod-

el shaped by religious principles, strategic calculation, and political realism. Concepts such as dignity, wisdom, and expediency; the emphasis on independence and the rejection of domination; the strengthening of domestic capabilities; support for the Resistance Front; and close attention to the evolving global order together constitute the principal elements of this progressive intellectual framework. Over the past decades, these principles have exerted a significant influence on the direction of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy and continue to serve as one of the principal frameworks for analyzing the country's strategic decisions on the international stage.

# A dissection of Iran's foreign policy doctrine under martyred Leader



By Ashkan Pirzadeh

Strategic affairs analyst

## OPINION EXCLUSIVE

The era of the martyred Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (1989–2026) can be considered a definitive case study for theorizing in international relations. During this period, the Islamic Republic of Iran, through the integration of the identity principles of the Revolution and geopolitical imperatives, evolved from a weakened post-war state into a balancing actor and an influential force in regional and international equations. His foreign policy doctrine, grounded in the three strategic principles of “ez-zat” (honor/dignity), “hekmat” (wisdom), and “maslahat” (expediency), provided a conceptual framework for networked asymmetric deterrence, resistance diplomacy, and balancing in the transitioning international system.

In this piece, I have attempted, with an academic approach, to dissect the theoretical foundations, tools, and milestones of this doctrine, and to demonstrate how a middle power, relying on its identity and strategic resources, was able to resist the maximum pressure of a unipolar system and shape a new security architecture in West Asia.

### Historical crossroads and geopolitical challenges

The martyred Ayatollah Khamenei assumed leadership of Iran at a time when it was experiencing the devastations of an eight-year war, international isolation, and the structural pressure of a unipolar system led by the United States. The 1990s represented the era of the “unipolar moment,” and Iran was targeted for containment as a “rogue state”. In such a context, Iran's foreign policy had to simultaneously fulfill three difficult tasks: preserving the survival of the system, rebuilding the economy, and maintaining the revolutionary identity. This triad provided the groundwork for principled pragmatism to become the dominant discourse. His leadership demonstrated that these objectives were not contradictory; rather, through intelligent synthesis, they could reinforce one another.

### The tripartite principles of foreign policy

To scientifically understand the foreign policy of this period, a recourse to purely realist or liberal theories is insufficient. Iran's behavioral framework must be understood as a synthesis of constructivism (emphasizing revolutionary and anti-hegemonic identity) and neo-classical realism (centered on balancing threats and extracting domestic resources). The martyred Leader of the Revolution, in the capacity of an indigenous theorist, articulated three guiding principles that functioned both as doctrine and as criteria for evaluating diplomatic action:

#### 1. Ezzat (honor): identity, independence, and the rejection of hegemony

Ezzat is rooted in the concept of “Nafy-e Sabil” (denial of dominion) in Shia political jurisprudence and the historical experience of co-



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lonialism. In foreign policy, this principle signifies the rejection of any vertical, master-servant relationship in the international system. Its practical manifestations included refusing negotiations under duress, confronting unilateral sanctions as instruments of domination, and rejecting any form of diplomatic capitulation. From a constructivist perspective, ezzat became Iran's ontological security — preserving a narrative of the Self as independent, resistant, and unyielding, even at significant material cost. This principle explains Iran's steadfastness against Trump's maximum pressure campaign beyond mere cost-benefit calculations.

**2. Hekmat (wisdom): strategic rationality and the avoidance of adventurism**  
If ezzat provided the identity dimension, hekmat functioned as a rational braking mechanism. Hekmat signifies prudent behavior, precise calculation of the balance of power, avoidance of emotional adventurism, and an understanding of global trends. Its most prominent manifestation was the offer of “heroic flexibility” during the nuclear negotiations, where, despite structural mistrust, Iran sat at the negotiating table with the six world powers to lift sanctions and demonstrate goodwill, culminating in the JCPOA in 2015. Hekmat also signified engagement with long-standing adversaries based on national interests, as evident in the rapprochement with Saudi Arabia. This principle demonstrated that Iran's martyred Leader was not an ideological dogmatist but a realist strategist.

#### 3. Maslahat (expediency): tactical flexibility within a framework of principles

Maslahat is a well-established concept in Shia political jurisprudence that allows the leader of the Islamic community to temporarily adjust rulings based on the exigencies of time and place. In the realm of foreign policy, maslahat authorized tactical engagement with actors with whom there existed ideological differences under normal circumstances. Iran's membership in BRICS, cooperation with Russia in Syria despite historical differences, and regional mediations are all analyzable under the principle of maslahat. Expediency defined the ceiling of flexibility, enabling Iranian diplomacy to resolve foreign policy impasses without sacrificing ez-

zat and while upholding hekmat. Crucially, maslahat never entailed crossing red lines (such as recognizing the terrorist Zionist regime or negotiating over missile capabilities).

### Regional management: network security architecture and strategic depth

Perhaps the most enduring legacy of the martyred Ayatollah Khamenei is the redefinition of Iran's role in West Asia from a state confined within its borders to the architect of an asymmetric security system.

**1. The Axis of Resistance and asymmetric deterrence:** while classical realism seeks security through formal inter-state alliances, Iran under his leadership cultivated a network of non-state allies in Lebanon (Hezbollah), Palestine (Hamas and Islamic Jihad), Iraq (Hashd al-Shaabi), and Yemen (Ansarullah). This network, known as the Axis of Resistance, was not merely a proxy set but comprised allies with autonomous agency. The philosophy underpinning this network was cumulative deterrence: the enemy had to understand that any aggression against Iran or its interests would be met not with a symmetrical response, but with a multi-layered, unpredictable reaction from various fronts. This security architecture extended Iran's national security from its border walls deep into thousands of kilometers, reaching the Mediterranean and the Bab-el-Mandeb strait, at a fraction of the cost of classical arms racing.

**2. The Daesh crisis and compellence diplomacy:** the 2014 offensive by the Takfiri terrorist



To scientifically understand the foreign policy of this period, a recourse to purely realist or liberal theories is insufficient. Iran's behavioral framework must be understood as a synthesis of constructivism (emphasizing revolutionary and anti-hegemonic identity) and neoclassical realism (centered on balancing threats and extracting domestic resources). The martyred Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution, in the capacity of an indigenous theorist, articulated three guiding principles that functioned both as doctrine and as criteria for evaluating diplomatic action.

group Daesh (ISIS) into Iraq constituted an existential threat to the entire Middle East. While NATO and Western powers were mired in political calculations, the martyred Leader of the Revolution, with timely recognition of the immediate threat, authorized advisory presence in Iraq and Syria. This strategic decision was not an imperialist military intervention but a response to the official request of legitimate governments to prevent the collapse of nation-states. The result was the military defeat of Daesh and the preservation of the region's geopolitical cohesion. This success showcased the power of Iran's “compellence diplomacy” and “smart power” to the world, transforming Tehran into an indispensable actor in the region's security equations.

**3. De-escalation with neighbors:** In the late 2010s, the wisdom of the leadership dictated the necessity of a tactical shift from absolute confrontation to managed competition. The restoration of diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia in March 2023, mediated by China, marked a watershed moment in Iran's neighborhood policy. This agreement, known as the Beijing Accord, demonstrated that the aforementioned foreign policy doctrine possessed the capacity for tactical 180-degree pivots within a framework of fixed principles. This de-escalation was not born of weakness but was undertaken from a position of strength to neutralize Israeli schemes aimed at forging an Arab-Hebrew coalition against Iran.

### International management: replacing the unipolar order with a new one

At the macro level, the leadership of Ayatollah Khamenei was predicated on the analysis that the US-led unipolar system was in decline and the world was moving towards multipolarity. Accordingly, Iran's foreign policy evolved from mere resistance against the existing order to participation in shaping the new order.

**1. The nuclear file; a masterpiece of resistance diplomacy:** the nuclear file was simultaneously a threat and an unprecedented



Saudi Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman Al Saud (r) delivers a message from the King of Saudi Arabia to the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei in Tehran, Iran, on April 17, 2025.  
leader.ir

opportunity. Guided by the Leader, Iran pursued a dual-track path: on one hand, advancing uranium enrichment technology to create a negotiating trump card, and on the other, active diplomacy to break the global consensus against itself. By issuing a clear fatwa against nuclear weapons, the martyred Ayatollah Khamenei reinforced the normative dimension of the program. The zenith of this diplomacy was the 2015 JCPOA.

However, the great lesson came from the response to the US withdrawal in 2018. Instead of collapsing, Iran adopted a strategy of “active resistance,” reversing its commitments in incremental steps, raising enrichment levels to 60%, and restoring the balance. This experience proved that the “field” (nuclear progress) and “diplomacy” are two wings of the same bird, each ineffective without the other.

**2. The Look East strategy and alternative alliances:** the “Look East” policy was not a tactical shift but a geostrategic realignment based on the changing global balance of power. By designing a 25-year comprehensive partnership with China, strengthening military-security cooperation with Russia, and securing permanent membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (2021) and then the BRICS group (2023), Iran effectively linked itself to the revisionist bloc of the international system. This strategy yielded three major achievements: neutralizing Western sanctions through new financial and trade corridors; emerging from political isolation; and securing the position of a strategic partner in the future multipolar order.

**3. Public diplomacy and soft power:** another innovation was the personalization of public diplomacy. The historic letters of the martyred Leader to the youth of Europe and North America (2015) were an unprecedented initiative in the history of Iranian public diplomacy. By bypassing hostile governments, he spoke directly to Western public opinion, challenging the discourses of Islamophobia and Iranophobia. This act initiated a war of narratives and demonstrated that Iran's leadership considered the battle for “hearts and minds” as seriously as hard deterrence.

### The theoretical and practical legacy of a doctrine

The era of the martyred Ayatollah Khamenei, by virtue of its achievements, is not merely a historical period but constitutes a school of thought in foreign policy. He demonstrated how a middle power, relying on identity (ezzat), rationality (hekmat), and flexibility (maslahat), and through the intelligent utilization of asymmetric tools and transnational networks, could not only survive the harshest geopolitical conditions but also emerge as an influential pole in the emerging global order. His legacy is an indigenous analytical framework in international relations where values, instead of undermining national interests, guarantee and reinforce them, and where “realistic idealism” represents the only path to achieving sustainable security in an unstable world.



# Iranian sports community bids farewell to Leader, minister reaffirms commitment to his vision

## Sports Desk

Thousands of members of Iran's sports community joined mourners at Tehran's Grand Imam Khomeini Mosalla to pay their respects during the farewell ceremony for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, with Sports and Youth Minister Ahmad Donyamali saying the country's athletes remain committed to pursuing the path and vision laid out by the late Leader.

The ceremony drew huge crowds from across the country, with mourners filling the vast prayer grounds and surrounding streets despite the intense summer heat. Athletes, coaches, federation officials, referees and sports administrators stood alongside other segments of Iranian society to bid farewell to the leader they described as a steadfast supporter of the nation's sporting community.

Donyamali, who attended the ceremony on Sunday with senior officials from the Ministry of Sports and Youth, said the Iranian sports community regarded it as its duty to continue implementing the guidance the late Leader had repeatedly outlined for the country's sporting movement.

"The sports community has pledged to move forward on the path of our martyred Leader," Donyamali said. "He always told



us that a strong Iran requires strong sports, and we have made that principle our guiding commitment. We are determined to translate his directives into action and continue along the course he defined."

The minister said the grief displayed by millions of Iranians would ultimately strengthen the nation.

"Those who committed this crime should know that the tears shed by the Iranian people for their Leader will soon become

roaring rivers that will sweep away the foundations of hollow superpowers," he said. "These tears will, by God's grace, be transformed into strength."

Donyamali added that those responsible for the assassination would "pay a heavy price," saying the Iranian people would remain united in the wake of the tragedy. Reflecting on the late Leader's relationship with athletes, the minister said Ayatollah Khamenei had always shown special affection for Iran's champions and

Iranian Sports Minister Ahmad Donyamali (c) is seen during the farewell ceremony for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in Tehran, Iran, on July 5, 2026.

IRNA

maintained a close and sincere rapport with young sportsmen and women.

"He had a unique kindness toward young athletes," Donyamali said. "Whenever he met members of the younger generation, he treated them warmly and with

genuine affection. Today, his absence is deeply felt by all of us."

According to the minister, the close bond between the Leader and Iran's sporting community was reflected in the gestures of many of the country's elite athletes, who frequently dedicated their victories and medals to him. "Many of our champions presented their Olympic, world and continental medals to him during meetings," Donyamali said. "That demonstrated the deep love and respect they had for him. They regarded him like a father because of the care and encouragement he consistently showed them."

He added that Iranian athletes would honor the late Leader's memory by striving for further international success.

"We will continue to bring pride to the country through our achievements in international competitions," Donyamali said. "By winning medals and representing Iran with distinction, we will keep alive the vision that a strong Iran is built through strong sports."

The farewell ceremony also highlighted the scale of participation from Iran's sporting establishment. Federation presidents, national team coaches, Olympic and world medalists, veteran athletes and officials from across the country's sports organizations attended the event, many visibly emotional as they joined mourners paying their final respects.

Heavy crowds packed the venue throughout the ceremony, while many participants walked long distances to reach the Mosalla amid the congestion created by the large turnout. The presence of the sports community formed part of what organizers described as one of the largest public gatherings held in recent years.

Beyond attending the ceremony itself, sports organizations also contributed to services for mourners. Volunteers from the sports community established hospitality stations along routes leading to the venue, while several sports facilities in Tehran were prepared to accommodate visitors who had traveled from other parts of the country to participate in the farewell events.

Officials attending the ceremony also stressed their determination to pursue further success in upcoming international competitions, including the Asian Games in Nagoya, saying strong performances on the sporting stage would reflect the resilience and unity of the Iranian nation.

For many of those present, the ceremony represented not only a farewell to a leader they said had consistently encouraged Iranian athletes, but also a renewed commitment by the country's sports community to continue pursuing excellence while remaining faithful to the principles they said he championed.

## Asian U20 Wrestling Championships: Iran federation to review team's performance after runner-up finish in freestyle

### Sports Desk

The Iranian Wrestling Federation (IAWF) said it will carry out a comprehensive review of the national team's performance after missing out on the freestyle title at the Asian U20 Championships in Pattaya, Thailand.

Iran collected eight medals, including three golds, to finish runner-up in the team standings with 164 points – six behind Kazakhstan – failing to secure the freestyle crown for the first time since the revamped event, which also features the U15 age category, was introduced in 2024.

Sobhan Esmi (79kg), Abolfazl Shamsipour (86kg), and Abolfazl Mohammadnejad (125kg) claimed

gold medals for Iran, while Amirreza Taimourizad and Mohammad-Mahdi Mamivand settled for silver in the 65kg and 74kg divisions, respectively.

Ali-Asghar Soltani (61kg), Sajjad Pirdayeh (70kg), and Amirhossein Khakpa (92kg), meanwhile, added three bronze medals to Iran's haul across the 10 weight classes. The overall outcome, however, was deemed a failure by the federation, which vowed to make major changes to the squad ahead of the upcoming U20 World Championships, scheduled to begin on August 16 in Bratislava, Slovakia.

While acknowledging that a runner-up finish "would be considered a respectable achievement

in many sports," the federation stressed that its objective "is to win the continental title at every age level."

In a statement released on Sunday, the federation noted that the team competed without four of its key wrestlers but insisted that its technical assessment had identified several factors behind the failure to retain the Asian crown. According to the statement, "frequent changes to the team's strength and conditioning coach, overly cautious performances by some wrestlers, and the appointment of several coaches who did not meet the standards expected of the national team" were among the main reasons for the disappointing result.



The federation said it had repeatedly warned the coaching staff about those issues before the team departed for Thailand. Nevertheless, it added that the federation itself also accepts responsibility, emphasizing that its duty is to achieve the best possible results at every international event.

It announced that the performances of the coaching staff and all team members "will be thoroughly reviewed" in the coming days, with the coaches required to explain their decisions and overall performance. The federation also confirmed that any nec-

essary changes to the coaching staff and the squad for the World Championships would be made "without hesitation."

The statement further warned that wrestlers whose performances fell well below expectations would be excluded from national team training camps until further notice and, by federation decision, would not be sent to any international tournaments for the next year.

Describing the Asian Championships primarily as a preparation event for the season's main objective, the federation reiterated

Iran's Sobhan Esmi (red) is seen in action during the freestyle 79kg final at the Asian U20 Wrestling Championships in Pattaya, Thailand, on July 4, 2026.

IAWFIR

that its ultimate goal is success at the U20 World Championships.

The federation concluded by pledging greater planning, supervision, and accountability as it seeks to address weaknesses and prepare the national team to challenge for the world title, stressing that all decisions will be made solely in the interests of Iranian wrestling.



Iranian national basketball team players and coaching staff celebrate a victory over Syria in the FIBA World Cup Asian Qualifiers in Amman, Jordan, on July 5, 2026.

FIBA

## FIBA World Cup Asian Qualifiers:

# Iran completes Syria sweep to win first-round group

### Sports Desk

Iran claimed a second victory over Syria in seven days, winning 73-52 in Amman on Sunday to top first-round Group C in the FIBA World Cup Asian Qualifiers. Having beaten Jordan 67-49 on Thursday, Iran never trailed and led for 39:21, controlling the game from start to finish to conclude the first round of the qualifiers with a 5-1 record. Forward Arsalan Kazemi was in-

strumental with his all-round display, collecting 11 rebounds, four points, and two steals in 23:34. He finished with an efficiency rating of 15 and a game-high plus-24, helping Iran dominate the boards and repeatedly turn defensive stops into scoring opportunities. Matin Aqajanzpour led Iran in scoring with 13 points while adding eight rebounds and an assist. Mohammad Mahdi Heidari contributed 12 points, shooting 4-of-7 from the field, including

two three-pointers, while also recording two rebounds, an assist, a steal, and a block. Syria relied heavily on Donte Lamont McGill, who finished with 15 points, three rebounds, and an assist, but the hosts were unable to mount a serious comeback. The decisive stretch came in the third quarter when Iran produced an 11-0 run in less than three minutes to increase its lead to 49-24. Mobin Sheikhi scored five points during the burst on

perfect shooting to put the result beyond doubt.

Iran will resume qualification in final-round Group E, which also features Asian champion Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Jordan, and Syria, starting with a home game against New Zealand on August 27.

The top three teams from each of the two groups, along with the best fourth-placed finisher, will qualify for next year's FIBA World Cup in Qatar.

# 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



● irangard.com

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-

sive 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.



● IRNA