

**Sheikh Isa Qassem: Martyr Leader's Path Will Continue With Strength**

TEHRAN – Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassem, the spiritual leader of Bahrain's Shia community, on Saturday declared that the path of Imam Khomeini and the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, will continue with unwavering strength.

Sheikh Qassem affirmed that Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, who now leads the Islamic Republic, follows the same path and goals that Imam Khomeini and the martyred Leader pursued throughout their lives. "The leadership of Imam Khomeini and the martyred Leader opened the doors of goodness to the world and closed the doors of evil," he said.

# Kayhan International

**Islamic Jihad: Martyr Khamenei Was 'Fundamental Pillar' of Palestinian Support**

TEHRAN – The Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement on Saturday described the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, as a central supporter of the Palestinian people and a staunch defender of the Muslim world's sovereignty.

In a statement, the group praised Ayatollah Khamenei as a "fundamental pillar" of support for the Palestinian people, who provided sustained backing to Palestinian resistance movements over several decades.

The group said the late Leader was a firm defender of the sovereignty of the Muslim nation against hegemonic (Continued on Page 7)

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**Viewpoint**

**Leader's Funerary Amidst Vows of Vengeance**

**Ta'zieh, Regional Music Mark Sixth Night of Annual Festival**



**Two Iranian Freestyle Wrestlers Reach Asian Youth Finals**



**'Turning Point': Hamas Hails Palestinian Sacrifices Over 1,000 Days**



## At Tehran Funeral for Martyr Leader, 'Revenge, Revenge': Millions Chant for Retribution

TEHRAN – The solemn farewell ceremony for martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei began at dawn on Saturday at Tehran's Grand Imam Khomeini Mosalla, drawing millions of mourners from across the nation in a historic display of grief and unwavering allegiance.

The first stage of the funeral ceremonies commenced at 6:00 a.m., with the doors of the Mosalla opened earlier than scheduled to accommodate the vast crowds who had gathered since the previous night.

Many mourners had spent the night in the surrounding streets, waiting to pay their final respects to the leader who guided the nation for 37 years. The atmosphere was infused with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an, eulogies, and the profound sorrow of a nation that lost its supreme commander in a cowardly U.S.-Israeli strike on February 28, the opening day of the 40-day war.

The sheer magnitude of the turnout underscored the deep bond between the Iranian people and their martyred leader. State officials estimated that between 15 and 20 million mourners would participate in the week-long funeral processions across the country.

The streets of Tehran, from



the early hours of Saturday, were filled with mourners—men and women, young and old—dressed in black, carrying portraits of the late leader and chanting slogans of "Death to America" and "Revenge, Revenge".

The Mosalla grounds became a sea of black, with mourners from all walks of life and from every corner of Iran converging on the capital. Families with children, elderly citizens, and youth alike came to bid farewell to the man who had become the symbol of resistance and national unity. The presence of foreign delegations from Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas further underscored the global significance of the loss.

The farewell ceremony was marked by powerful symbols that encapsulated the spirit of resistance embodied by the martyred leader. The official slogan of the event, "We Must Rise," was emblazoned across the Mosalla, alongside the official emblem of a clenched fist.

This symbol, inspired by the late leader's final moments, represents the indomitable spirit of resistance that will continue to guide the nation.

The slogan "We Must Rise" resonates as a call to action, echoing the principles of standing up against tyranny and oppression that were central to the teachings of the late leader. The clenched fist, representing unity and strength, serves as a reminder that the path of resistance is a collective responsibility, one that will be pursued with unwavering determination.

The atmosphere in the Mosalla was of renewed resolve. Mourners, with tears streaming down their faces, chanted slogans demanding revenge for the blood of their beloved leader. The names of "Ya Latharat al-Hussein" and "Ya Latharat al-Qaed al-Shahid" echoed through the halls, underscoring the collective determination to seek retribution against the perpetrators of this crime.

In a poignant moment, the families of martyrs from various provinces, including Hormozgan, were seen among the mourners. They came not only to bid farewell but to renew their allegiance to the cause and to announce their readiness to sacrifice everything for the sake of their nation and their faith.

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### Yemenis Hail Iran for Breaching Blockade in Massive Rally

SANAA (Dispatches) – A massive crowd packed Al-Sabeen Square in the Yemeni capital in a mass rally expressing profound gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for breaking the brutal 11-year siege on Sanaa International Airport, after Yemeni air defenses successfully intercepted Saudi warplanes that attempted to block an Iranian civilian flight carrying over 200 sick and wounded passengers.

The rally, held in support of the Yemeni armed forces and their recent declaration on breaking the siege, saw participants chant slogans affirming their steadfastness with Gaza and Palestine and their full readiness to implement the directives of Ansarullah leader Sayyed Abdul-Malik al-Houthi.

The crowds expressed deep appreciation for Iran's humanitarian initiative in facilitating the trans-

fer of patients, the wounded and stranded civilians, reaffirming Islamic brotherhood within the axis of jihad and resistance.

"Today, Yemen's skies witnessed two contrasting scenes," said Yemen's Deputy Foreign Minister Abdulwahid Abu Ras.

"The first was a civilian aircraft carrying patients, wounded people, humanitarian cases, and official delegations. The second was warplanes carrying bombs and missiles to kill Yemenis and destroy infrastructure."

He added that the event demonstrated Yemen's "steadfastness, resilience, military capability, and high combat readiness, marking the beginning of a new phase of reclaiming rights".

The rally came hours after Yemeni Armed Forces spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree announced that at 5:20 a.m. on Friday, a formation of Saudi co-

alition warplanes violated Yemeni airspace in an attempt to prevent an Iranian civilian aircraft from landing at Sanaa International Airport.

The plane was carrying more than 200 stranded, wounded and sick Yemeni citizens. Yemeni air defense forces fired "a number of air defense missiles," forcing the Saudi warplanes to leave Yemeni airspace.

Saree warned Saudi Arabia against repeating any violation of Yemeni airspace, threatening a "comprehensive response" that would target Saudi airports and vital interests on land and sea.

He declared that flights between Sanaa and Tehran "will continue, regardless of any consequences, to break the siege and alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people".

He stressed that Yemen's armed (Continued on Page 7)

### How America's War Machine Against Iran Crumbled in 40 Days

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The Pentagon's weapons replenishment system is in a state of catastrophic dysfunction, with the average delivery time for major defense programs now exceeding 12 years, according to a scathing new Government Accountability Office (GAO) report released Friday.

This indictment of American military preparedness comes as the Pentagon grapples with the consequences of a 40-day illegal war on Iran that drained stockpiles, exposed industrial vulnerabilities, and left the world's most powerful military scrambling to reload.

The GAO report paints a damning picture: the Pentagon has "struggled to fully enact existing reforms to achieve speed," and programs are "delaying interim events and milestones for some of the costliest major defense ac-

quisition programs".

"The overall average time frame to deliver a capability increased this year to over 12 years," the watchdog found. Critical decisions are being deferred, raising "questions about how realistic their schedules are".

The acquisition system is broken. The Department of War's weapons programs remain on the GAO's "High Risk List" – a designation maintained since 1990 due to persistent failure to deliver systems on time and within budget.

The American Enterprise Institute has described the pattern of delays and cost overruns by defense contractors as "running a victory lap after finishing fifth". Delays in just five programs by General Dynamics, Raytheon, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, and Lockheed Martin represent 34

years of delayed capability.

President Donald Trump's own executive order, signed in January, acknowledged the "decades-long problem of defense contractors consistently falling short in delivering weapons programs to the DoD on time and on budget".

Yet the administration's response to the crisis has been to gut oversight. The Pentagon's independent weapons testing office was slashed from 126 authorized civilian positions to just 30, eliminating critical oversight of 110 rapid acquisition programs.

Hawkish Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth's reorganization, projected to save \$300 million annually, left the office unable to adequately oversee critical military programs. Action officers warned that the services could use rapid prototyping pathways to sidestep (Continued on Page 7)