



FROM IRAN: What Western Media Don't Show About Tehran

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Dimitri Lascaris (DL): Good day, this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you for Reason2Resist from Tehran, Iran on July 4th, 2026. Today is the second day of a seven-day funeral programme held in honour of the slain supreme leader of Iran, Imam Ali Khamenei. As I reported yesterday, which was the first day of that seven-day programme, it was marked by a non-public series of state visits by global leaders and other dignitaries from over 100 countries around the world, overwhelmingly, by the way, non-Western countries, who paid their respects to the slain Supreme Leader by visiting his coffin, which lay in state throughout the day yesterday, along with the coffins, by way, of family members, his daughter, his son-in-law, and his 14-month-old granddaughter, who was slain by Israel and or the United States, along with him on the very outset of this criminal war of aggression on February 28th, 2026. Now, the second day of the programme was the first day on which members of the public participated in the funeral programme. And the coffin of the Supreme Leader and the coffins of his family members were transferred to a section of the Grand Musalla Mosque, the largest mosque in Iran, which is open air, and they were placed upon a large, elevated scaffolding. And throughout the day today, during which it was quite hot, tens of thousands, if not many more than that, visited the site where the Supreme Leader lay in state to pay their respects and to mourn his passing. Now I'm going to show you in a few moments what we saw when we went there today. We spent about an hour and a half and I managed to take footage of people overcome with grief and people who had left messages, very powerful messages, some of them in English, expressing their sadness at the loss of the Supreme Leader and also their outrage at what was done to him and his family by the US and Israeli governments.

Now before I get into that, let me just lay out for you what the overall plan is for the funeral of the supreme leader. The programme, as I mentioned, began yesterday. Today was the first day of two days of public funeral ceremonies taking place here in the capital, and on July 6th and 7th, the funeral processions will move through other parts of Tehran before continuing to Qom, about 120 kilometres south of the capital. Welcome is Iran's leading centre of Shia Islamic scholarship and one of the holiest cities in the country. Iranian and Iraqi officials say an official reception will then be held at Najaf International Airport on July 8th, followed by public processions in the Iraqi cities of Najaf and Karbala. Now, before I tell you about what

is planned in Iraq, I wanna mention that during the day today, I had the opportunity to sit down for an hour and chat with the CEO of Press TV. He's also the head of the Iranian Islamic Republic Broadcasting World Service Arm. His name is Ahmad Noroozi. I've met Mr. Noroozi on prior trips, and we had a fascinating discussion about geopolitical tensions and the various complications arising from the MOU; that was a private discussion between us. But he also shared with me that the reason for which the Supreme Leader's coffin will be transferred temporarily to Iraq, is that the leader of the country, of Iraq, sent a letter to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian asking that part of the funeral programme be conducted in Iraq. There is a very large sea of population there, many of whose adherents feel a strong sense of devotion to Imam Khamenei. And the Iranian president obliged the Iraqi request. And that's how this came about.

Now, the Imam Ali Shrine in Najaf is one of the holiest sites for Shias, drawing millions of pilgrims each year. It is believed to contain the tomb of Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib, the cousin and the son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad and the first Imam in Shia Islam. The shrines of Imam Hussain and his half-brother Abbas in Karbala, also in Iraq, are among the holiest sites in Shia Islam as well. They mark the places where Imam Hussain, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad and Abbas were killed during the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE, an event that lies at the heart of Shia identity and religious tradition. Imam Khamenei's body will then be returned to Iran for the final burial ceremony scheduled for July 9th at the Shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad. Mashhad is Iran's holiest city and Imam Reza was the eighth Imam in Shia Islam. Ali Khamenei was born in Mashhad in 1939 and spent much of his early life there. And burial near one of Shia Islam's most revered figures is considered a great honour. I and the other members of this journalistic entourage, which is growing in size by the day, will be in Mashhad for the final burial, but we will be remaining here in Tehran for a couple of more days. Tomorrow we will be getting up quite early. Somewhere between 3 and 5 a.m. to attend a mass of prayer in open air at the Musalla Mosque complex while the body of the Supreme Leader and his slain family members continue to lie in state.

Now, today, and I just want to touch on this before, I show you the footage of what we saw today when we went to the Grand Musalla Mosque, I was asked to speak at a conference held at the Tehran City Hall, and the participants in that conference were overwhelmingly journalists, both foreign and Iranian. And the name of the conference was the Emergence of the New Order Movement toward the post US world. And I was part of the first panel to speak in the early morning. I was joined on that panel by geopolitical analyst Patrick Henningson, whom I've interviewed previously in our programme. He is an American, but spends much of his time in the United Kingdom. And he's an outstanding geopolitical analyst. And we were also participants in that panel, along with a resistance figure from Lebanon and also an Iranian academic. And my speech, which lasted some ten minutes, focused on the grip that the US military industrial complex now has over policy making in the United States, particularly foreign policy, and its destruction of the last vestiges of American democracy. And here is a short clip from the outset of my speech this morning.

DL: From the bottom of my heart, my colleagues in the Iranian press, who have received us

so warmly and with so much hospitality, and I had the privilege of being here not only in May of last year, but also during the Ramadan war, the second half of March, when they not only greeted us warmly, but they also protected us in very dangerous circumstances. I can't thank them enough for that. During the past nearly three years of genocide, I've not only been to Iran, I have also been six times to south Lebanon and seeing how Israel is laying waste to another great civilisation I also was in occupied Palestine in Ramadan of 2024. I visited the refugee camps in the West Bank and spoke to people there who had just suffered atrocities at the hands of these child-murderers and I stood also on the border of Gaza and watched in horror as Israel rained bombs down on the Palestinian people of the Strip.

DL: Now, as you can tell, I was not inclined to be diplomatic, nor am I ever, frankly, when it comes to the crimes of the Epstein regime. In fact, words routinely fail me to describe my utter indignation of what is being done every single day to the noble peoples of this region and to the oppressed peoples all around the world, frankly. In any case, after that speech, I was afforded the opportunity, as I mentioned, to join Ahmed Noroozi in his offices at the headquarters of Press TV and I should mention in passing, he is a fine gentleman, an outstanding journalist and analyst, but he is also under sanction by the United States government. And it is quite ironic that this same government and its vassal governments in the West routinely hold themselves out as defenders of free speech when they are subjecting journalists to sanctions, not just in this region, but even in Europe, as a matter of fact, against European journalists. And they do far worse than this; what they did to Julian Assange, the application of terrorist legislation to various journalists from the West who try to enter the United Kingdom. We've seen also similar types of treatment meted out by other states. For example, Switzerland's persecution of the outstanding journalist from Electronic Intifada, Ali Abunimah. I could go on and on. In any case, the sanctioning of Ahmad Noroozi has nothing to do, I assure you, with human rights or democracy. It has to do with silencing dissenting voices from the non-Western world. And nonetheless, he has persisted in his job. And he described to me how, due to the brutal attacks on the facilities of the state broadcaster here in Iran during the Ramadan war, he was forced, along with his colleagues, to vacate the studios where they're situated, where they operate today, and they're doing around-the-clock work because of the war and the funeral for the slain Supreme Leader, and they had to operate in very difficult circumstances during the months of March and April. But they've been fortunately able to work out of their normal facilities for the time being.

In any case, I'm now going to show you the footage from today's event and tomorrow I will be compiling another report from the Grand Musalla Mosque when we attend the prayers in the morning. Here's my report from the Mosala mosque this afternoon.

DL: Good day, this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you for Reason2Resist from Tehran, Iran on July 4th, 2026. We have entered the Musalla Mosque complex. The Musalla Mosque is the largest mosque in Iran and in the distance behind me, you may be able to make out a tall black scaffolding. On that scaffolding has been situated the coffin of the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, which has been lying in state all day and in front of his coffin are the coffins of

his daughter, his son-in-law and his 14-month old granddaughter Zahra who were all of them murdered along with Ali Khamenei on the first day of the Trump Netanyahu criminal war of aggression. This is an event which is obviously provoking a great deal of emotion. As I've walked around here, I've been here now for about 45 minutes, you can see many people are overcome with grief. And as far as I can tell, the outpouring of emotion is entirely sincere; people of all ages here, men and women alike, many children. And from time to time, they have been chanting: Death to America and Death to Israel. I'm going to take you for a walk along a black concrete wall that has been temporarily erected. It separates the mourners from the coffins laying in state. I'm gonna show you some of the handwriting on that wall. The mourners have been writing in chalk on that black wall since the coffins were put on display for the mourners. 95% of the writing is in Farsi, but some of it is in English and is quite telling about the strength of the motion here. I'm not going to show you the many messages in English I saw which call for violence against Donald Trump, that would probably provoke the ire of social media sensors, but there are quite a few of them. And here is what I can show you.

DL: That's my report from Tehran, Iran on the 4th of July, 2026. To all of our comrades in the United States who celebrate Independence Day, we wish you a safe and prosperous day, and may better days be ahead for American democracy.

END

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