

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

PRESSTV

JULY 3, 2026

THE G D E L T P R O J E C T



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POST-CONFLICT IRAN LEVERAGES MASS MOBILIZATION AND REGIONAL DETERRENCE DURING STATE FUNERAL FOR AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The broadcasting cycle for July 3, 2026, is dominated by the commencement of the multi-day state funeral for the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was reportedly [assassinated in a US-Israeli strike](#) on February 28, 2026. The network portrays a nation in a state of high-intensity mobilization, claiming that between 15 and 25 million people are [expected to gather in Tehran](#), Qom, and Mashhad. This mass participation is framed not only as an act of mourning but as a "referendum" on the legitimacy of the Islamic Republic and a direct rebuttal to Western narratives suggesting internal instability or lack of public support following the recent conflict.

A significant portion of the day's coverage is dedicated to the geopolitical fallout of a "40-day war" (also referred to as the "third imposed war") that Iran claims to have won through "asymmetric deterrence." The

network highlights the arrival of nearly 100 international delegations, including high-level representatives from [Pakistan](#), [Turkmenistan](#), [Georgia](#), and [China](#), to signal that Iran is not isolated despite US efforts. Concurrently, the broadcast warns of the fragility of a "Pakistani-mediated memorandum of understanding" (MoU) with the US, citing continued [Israeli strikes on Lebanon](#) and US attempts to control the Strait of Hormuz as evidence of Western bad faith.

The internal narrative is heavily rooted in the "Economy of Resistance," with claims that Iran has successfully neutralized decades of sanctions through indigenous technological and agricultural development. The network emphasizes that the [leadership transition](#) to the current leader, Ayatollah Zayat (alternatively referred to as Amamini or Mushtaba Hamini in different clips), has been seamless, maintaining the strategic continuity of the "Axis of Resistance." The broadcast consistently links the current situation to the "Sacred Defense" era of the 1980s, attempting to foster a generational bridge of resilience among the Iranian youth.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Commencement of State Funeral Ceremonies:** Formal farewell proceedings for Ayatollah Khamenei began at the Grand Musalla in Tehran, with the body lying in state ahead of burial in Mashhad. Officials describe the event as the [largest funeral in history](#).
- **Claims of Naval Supremacy and Conflict Damage:** Analysts and officials claimed that during the recent 40-day war, Iranian forces [destroyed elements of the US 5th Fleet](#) and inflicted heavy damage on US bases in Bahrain and Kuwait, forcing a partial US withdrawal further westward.

- **Fragile US-Iran MoU Under Pressure:** Reports indicate that while an MoU exists to pause hostilities, the US is allegedly [encouraging ships to ignore Iranian protocols](#) in the Strait of Hormuz, leading to recent Iranian strikes on non-compliant vessels.
- **Gaza Conflict Reaches 1,000-Day Milestone:** Multiple reports mark 1,000 days of the "genocidal war" in Gaza, using the anniversary to [condemn Western complicity](#) and bolster the narrative of the "Axis of Resistance" as the sole defender of the Palestinian cause.
- **European Complicity Allegations:** The broadcast highlighted Italian parliamentary inquiries revealing that Rome authorized over [500 US military flights](#) from Italian bases during the war against Iran.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization: The broadcast focuses heavily on the aftermath of a recent war, claiming that Iran's [indigenous missile and drone capabilities](#) shattered the myth of Western invincibility. There is a persistent emphasis on "asymmetric warfare" as the primary tool that dislodged US forces from the region.

Diplomacy & Statecraft: High-level diplomacy is centered on the funeral, with nearly 100 countries sending delegations. However, the tone regarding formal diplomacy with the West is deeply skeptical. The Pakistani-mediated MoU is characterized as a [temporary pause](#) rather than a peace treaty, with Iran maintaining its right to "impose tolls" and enforce maritime protocols in the Strait of Hormuz.

Leadership Dynamics & Governance: The focus is on the [continuity of the Guardianship](#)

[of the Jurist](#). The transition from Khamenei to his successor is portrayed as stable, with the new leadership (identified in some clips as Ayatollah Zayat) committed to the same ideological and strategic pillars. The broadcast emphasizes that the state is "not a single-man operation" but a system of robust institutions.

Macroeconomics & Trade: The "Economy of Resistance" is a central theme. Claims are made that Iran is now [self-sufficient in dairy and agricultural machinery](#) due to sanctions. Economically, the broadcast predicts the imminent [collapse of the "petro-dollar"](#) system, suggesting that Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz gives it the leverage to trigger a global economic crisis for the US.

Information Warfare & Disinformation: The network identifies a "meta-narrative" battle, accusing Western media of [manipulating satellite imagery](#) and downplaying the damage to US bases. The broadcast frames the mass funeral attendance as a decisive victory in the psychological war against the "Zionist-American" alliance.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

- **The Institutionalization of Martyrdom:** The 125-day gap between the assassination and the main funeral is utilized to sustain a state of perpetual ideological fervor. The broadcast frames the death of the Supreme Leader not as a loss but as an [amplification of his influence](#). By comparing Khamenei to Imam Hussein, the state uses the "martyrdom" narrative to justify past sacrifices and prepare the public for future "cycles of confrontation."

- **Rejection of the Unipolar Order:** A recurring theme is the emergence of a [multipolar world](#), with Iran positioned as the "third pillar" on the Eurasian supercontinent alongside Russia and China. The broadcast characterizes the US as a "declining empire" that is "imploding from within" due to its own capitalist and "immoral" contradictions.
- **Youth as the "Fuel" of the Revolution:** There is an intensive focus on the youth, with reports detailing how the late leader [directly addressed students](#) and encouraged them to take active roles in science and management. This is a clear attempt to counter potential domestic alienation and ensure the "tenacity" of the system through the next generation.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

The broadcast portrays Iran as exceptionally stable despite the death of its long-term leader and a recent war. It explicitly mentions and dismisses Western reports of [attempted coups in January 2026](#) and "anti-hijab riots" as foreign-sponsored hybrid warfare that failed to penetrate the "deep popular commitment" of the Iranian people. The presence of millions on the streets for the funeral is used to claim that the government [does not lack support](#), contrary to Western intelligence assessments. However, the repetitive emphasis on unity and "fixing the internal wounds" (using the metaphor of a fly on a wound) suggests an underlying concern about [domestic economic grievances](#) that the state is attempting to redirect toward a narrative of external aggression.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Iran frames the international environment as a "hostile threat matrix" that is being successfully countered by the "Axis of Resistance." The broadcast emphasizes that Iran's borders effectively "extend to Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen" through its allies. The ["neither East nor West" policy](#) is portrayed as having evolved into a strategic partnership with the "Global South." The state is projecting power defensively, asserting that its military response in the recent war [restored deterrence](#) and forced the US to "rethink" illegal military strikes. The portrayal of the US and Israel is one of "desperate measures" by a "cracking empire" that can no longer guarantee the security of its regional allies like Saudi Arabia or the UAE.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic environment is described as resilient and transitioned to a "Resistance Economy" footing. The network focuses on high-value exports and the weaponization of maritime chokepoints.

- **Oil Exports:** Iran is reportedly exporting **1.6 million barrels per day**, allegedly at a [20% premium](#) because it is free from the immediate threat of sanctions under the current MoU.
- **Petro-dollar Collapse:** Analysts argue that the US system, based on the petro-dollar, will [lose 50% of its power](#) as Iran "grips the neck" of the Strait of Hormuz.
- **Indigenous Industry:** Iran claims to have reached a **tenfold increase** in medical practitioners and specialists since 1979 and is now the [number one producer of dairy in West Asia](#).

- **Sanctions Impact:** The broadcast characterizes sanctions as a weapon that has killed **3 million people** globally over 30 years but argues they have [failed to stop Iran](#) from entering the top 10 countries in nanotechnology and stem cell research.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The focus of the day is on the formalization of the succession and the canonization of the late leader.

- **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei:** Characterized as the **foundational martyr** whose death has "empowered his discourse" and unified the nation.
- **Ayatollah Zayat (Amamini):** Identified as the [current leader of the Islamic Revolution](#). He is portrayed as the "natural successor" who will maintain the established ideological and military path.
- **Masud Pazishkiyan:** Mentioned as the [Iranian President](#), active in diplomatic outreach (recently visiting Islamabad) to secure regional support during the transition.
- **General Haji Zade:** Mentioned as a [martyred commander](#) of the Iranian Air Force, suggesting significant military leadership losses during the 40-day war.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network's editorial hierarchy is strictly centered on the funeral of Ayatollah Khamenei, which receives nearly 80% of the airtime. The tone is somber yet highly nationalistic and defiant. **Lead stories** focus on the massive public turnout, the arrival of foreign dignitaries, and the "lessons" of the late leader's life. **Buried stories** include the

specifics of the [casualty counts](#) in the recent war and the details of internal dissent, which are only mentioned to be dismissed as propaganda. There is a **conspicuous omission** of any discussion regarding the potential for economic instability due to the leader's death or the exact process by which the new Supreme Leader was selected, favoring a narrative of "divine decree."

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The broadcast frames the world as a dichotomy between "Global Arrogance" and the "Axis of Resistance."

COUNTRIES

- **United States:** Portrayed as a **declining, "evil" hegemon** and "the biggest devil." It is characterized as inept and "nervous," resorting to lies about the war's outcome. Quote: "The empire is [kind of cracking up psychologically](#)."
- **Israel:** Portrayed as a "**cancerous gland**" and a "vile enemy" that is **imploding from within**. Quote: "Israel is [imploding from within](#)... the sicknesses of the people are so massive."
- **China & Russia:** Framed as **essential strategic allies** and "pillars of the emerging multipolar order." Quote: "When Iran and China [come together... this is a nightmare for Americans](#)."
- **Pakistan:** Portrayed as a **principled mediator** and a brotherly nation. Quote: "The [prime minister of Pakistan... paying their tribute](#) to the martyred leader."

LEADERS

- **Donald Trump:** Portrayed as a **compulsive "liar"** who is "trapped" by his own policies. Quote: "Donald Trump, first of all, [is a liar, and he makes a habit of lying.](#)"
- **Ayatollah Khamenei:** Framed as a **transcendent, "divine" figure** who belongs to "all of humanity." Quote: "He was the [person who defined freedom](#) in this time."
- **Benjamin Netanyahu:** Characterized as a **fringe figure** who is "persevering to upend" global peace for his own survival.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The state is actively seeding the idea that the "40-day war" was a decisive victory that permanently [altered the regional balance of power](#). The "ground truth" likely involves significant damage to both sides, but the network focuses exclusively on claims of US/Israeli failure.
- **Propaganda/Psy-Ops:** The broadcast uses "1,000 days of Gaza" as a psychological hammer to maintain a state of moral outrage and divert attention from the [125-day wait](#) for the funeral. The network frames the US as a "godless and morality free" society to cement the ideological divide.
- **Censorship:** There is no mention of the specific "miscalculations" mentioned in some clips that may have led to the leader's death, only that he was "treacherously assassinated" while [refusing to go into hiding](#).

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Escalation in Lebanon:** The repeated claims that the US/Israel are violating the MoU in Lebanon [strongly suggest a forthcoming retaliatory operation](#) by the "Axis of Resistance."
- **Economic Weaponization of the Strait:** Iran is likely preparing to use the 60-day pause in the MoU as a deadline to demand the [lifting of all remaining sanctions](#) or face a total closure of the Strait of Hormuz.
- **Internal Consolidation:** The funeral is being used to solidify the [resistant culture](#), likely paving the way for more restrictive social or economic policies under the guise of "national security."

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect continued mass gatherings throughout Iran and Iraq, ending with the burial on the 9th of July. Potential for high-profile "revenge" operations by proxies [following the funeral's end](#).

Medium Term (1-6 Months): Formal diplomatic formalization of the "Axis of Resistance" into a more coherent regional bloc. Iran may move to [avenge the leader's death](#) more directly once the 60-day MoU period expires.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Structural shifts toward "dedollarization" and deeper integration into [Eurasian trade corridors](#). The network predicts a complete US withdrawal from the Persian Gulf, replaced by a regional security framework led by Iran, China, and Russia.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Regional War Escalation:** Iranian officials have [warned Arab states](#) that any support for US/Israeli aggression will result in those states being targeted. **Triggers:** Use of regional bases for renewed strikes. **Likelihood:** Moderate-High. **Impact:** Catastrophic regional energy disruption. **Mitigations:** Continued Pakistani and Chinese mediation.
- **Collapse of the US-Iran MoU:** Disagreements over maritime chokepoints and Lebanon. **Triggers:** Seizure of an Iranian oil tanker or [Iranian strike on an "unauthorized" vessel](#) in the Strait. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Resumption of the "40-day war" at a higher intensity. **Mitigations:** Clarification of maritime protocols in paragraph five of the MoU.
- **Domestic Unrest in GCC States:** The broadcast highlights a "fracture" in the public opinion of Arab countries whose leaders "did nothing" for Palestine. **Triggers:** Continued [mass protests following the 1000-day mark in Gaza](#). **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Internal instability in Saudi Arabia/UAE. **Mitigations:** Humanitarian gestures or distancing from US policy.
- **Succession Vulnerability:** While portrayed as stable, the new leader faces "maximum pressure." **Triggers:** Targeted [assassination threats against the new leader](#) or his family. **Likelihood:** Low-Moderate. **Impact:** Decentralization of command within the IRGC. **Mitigations:** Show of military strength during the funeral.

- **Global Economic Shock:** Intentional disruption of oil flows to force political concessions. **Triggers:** Iran [imposing tolls](#) that the US rejects. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Global recession, "petro-dollar collapse." **Mitigations:** Sanction relief for Iran.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- **Internal Dissent:** The broadcast fails to address any genuine internal friction or power struggles within the Assembly of Experts during the [transition period](#).
- **Military Losses:** While claiming victory, the network provides no data on Iranian civilian or military [casualty figures](#) from the recent war, focusing only on the leader and specific high-profile commanders.
- **Economic Reality:** The claim that Iran is "free from the threat of sanctions" and selling oil at a premium is unverified and contradicts earlier statements about [continued agricultural machinery sanctions](#).
- **The 125-Day Gap:** No explanation is given for the logistical or political reasons behind the [four-month delay](#) between the death of the leader and the public funeral ceremonies.
- **The State of the "Axis":** The broadcast omits the ["fall of Syria"](#) mentioned in passing in one clip, which would be a massive strategic blow to the Resistance narrative.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The "Desperate Show of Force" Hypothesis:** The massive funeral and claims of military victory may be a facade to cover for a **near-collapse of state infrastructure** following the 40-day war. The 125-day gap may have been needed to suppress internal revolts and secure a fragile succession before the public was allowed to gather.
- **The "Stalling Tactic" Scenario:** The MoU and the funeral-related "pause" may be a **tactical stall** by Iran to rebuild its decimated drone and missile stocks before a final push against US bases in the region.
- **Black Swan - Succession Coup:** If the "Millions on the streets" narrative is a state fabrication or forced, a **secondary military coup** by junior IRGC officers disillusioned with the high cost of the recent war could occur during the funeral period.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Prepare for maritime "asymmetric" provocations as the 60-day [MoU period](#) ends.
- **Economic:** Diversify away from dependencies that pass through the [Strait of Hormuz](#) chokepoint.
- **Diplomatic:** Monitor the "Global South" coalition building in Tehran as a precursor to a [new international trade bloc](#).

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chains:** Anticipate **energy price spikes** if the Strait protocol disagreements lead to renewed strikes on tankers.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Be aware of the [Italian base usage](#) revelations, which may lead to political instability or new regulations within EU member states.
- **Capital Allocation:** High risk for investments in GCC states currently housing US bases, given [direct Iranian threats](#) of "regional war."

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The day's reports focus on the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** and internal Iranian constitutional processes during the transition.

• BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **US National Security Bill:** Mentioned as being [implemented in Britain](#) to suppress dissent, framing Western legislative action as "repressive."
- **Iranian Succession Law:** Discussion on how the [Council of Guardians](#) and Assembly of Experts selected the new leader to ensure continuity.

• HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Italian Parliamentary Hearing:** Confirmed authorization of [500+ US flights](#) for the war on Iran.
- **Pakistani Policy Dialogue:** Investigated the ["Iranian Deterrence Doctrine"](#) and its regional implications.

KEY STORIES

- **The Musalla Ceremonies:** The first day of official funeral rites for Ayatollah Khamenei in Tehran. Hundreds of foreign dignitaries paid respects to the [small coffin of Khamenei's granddaughter](#) and the Supreme Leader himself.
- **The 40-Day War Victory Claim:** Analysts argue Iran successfully [neutralized the US 5th Fleet](#) and US bases, achieving a new "balance of power."
- **MoU Violations:** Claims that the [US is actively sabotaging](#) the Pakistani-mediated agreement by encouraging ships to ignore Iranian maritime chokepoint protocols.
- **Gaza Milestone:** Coverage of the 1,000th day of the Gaza war, with a focus on the [revocation of the UNRWA mandate](#) by "Trump's board of peace."
- **The Russian Delegation:** Arrival of a high-level Russian group, [led by Medvedev](#), to signal strategic alignment.
- **The Resistance Economy:** Claims of [total self-sufficiency](#) in heavy machinery and dairy despite four decades of sanctions.
- **Italy base usage scandal:** Revelation that [518 US military aircraft](#) used Italian bases to attack Iran.
- **Lebanon Air Strikes:** Israeli strikes on [Nabatia and Brashit](#) in southern Lebanon, described as a violation of the ceasefire.
- **Damascus Bombing:** Nine people confirmed dead in a [bomb blast targeting a cafe](#) in the Syrian capital.
- **Iranian Youth Engagement:** Educational segments focusing on the [late leader's speeches](#) urging youth to lead the country in high-tech fields.

- **Strait of Hormuz Tolls:** Iran asserts its right to [impose tolls on shipping](#) after the 60-day pause expires.
- **The Petro-Dollar Collapse:** Predictions that the US dollar will [lose half its value](#) due to Iranian regional leverage.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and

omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

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