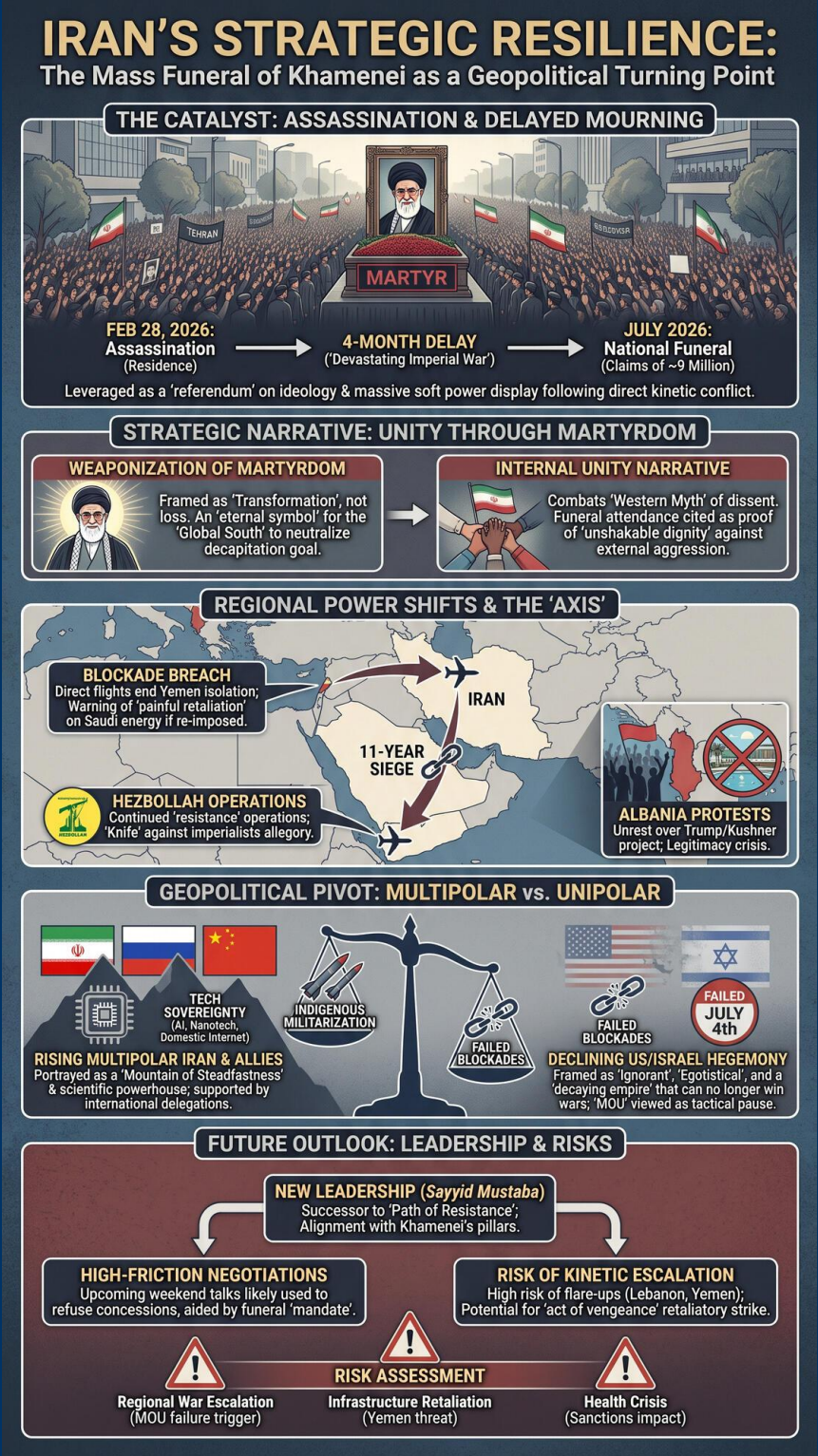


TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

PRESSTV

JULY 5, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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MASSIVE STATE FUNERAL OF ALI
KHAMENEI USED TO PROJECT
DOMESTIC UNITY AND STRATEGIC
RESILIENCE FOLLOWING DIRECT
WAR WITH US AND ISRAEL

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The Iranian state media apparatus is currently dedicated to the multi-day funeral ceremonies of **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**, who was reportedly assassinated in his residence on February 28, 2026. The delay of four months in holding the full national funeral is attributed to a "devastating imperial war" that followed the assassination, which the network frames as an Iranian victory that "rewrote the global equations." Millions of mourners are depicted flooding the streets of Tehran, with the government claiming turnouts of up to [9 million people](#) using public transportation alone. The event is being leveraged as a massive display of soft power and a "referendum" on the survival of the Islamic Republic's ideology after a period of intense kinetic conflict.

Simultaneously, the broadcast highlights a significant shift in regional dynamics, particularly the breach of the decade-long

blockade in **Yemen** through direct flights from Tehran and the continued "axis of resistance" operations in **Lebanon**. While mourning is the dominant emotional tone, there is a parallel narrative of "vengeance" and "resistance" intended to signal strength to the United States and Israel ahead of another round of [negotiations](#) scheduled for the upcoming weekend. The network portrays the US administration as "ignorant" and "egotistical," contrasting the "failure" of Trump's 250th-anniversary celebrations with the massive crowds in Iran.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

The day's coverage is dominated by the strategic messaging surrounding the transition of power and the aftermath of recent regional wars.

- **National Funeral of Ali Khamenei:** Millions of Iranians and delegations from over [100 countries](#) have gathered in Tehran for a three-day farewell ceremony. The body is to be moved to Qom, then to Najaf and Karbala in Iraq, before final burial in Mashhad. The ceremony serves to solidify the status of the **new leader** (referred to as Sayyid Mustaba/Mustafa) as the successor to Khamenei's "path of resistance."
- **Breach of the Yemeni Blockade:** An Iranian civilian aircraft successfully landed at [Sana'a International Airport](#), effectively ending 11 years of isolation. The Yemeni armed forces have warned of "painful retaliation" against Saudi energy facilities if the blockade is re-imposed.

- **Post-War Strategic Posture:** Reports indicate that a "12-day war" (or 40-day war) recently concluded with a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** between Tehran and Washington. The broadcast claims this MOU was a [military and political defeat](#) for the US, as it was forced to recognize Iran's regional allies.
- **Albanian Civil Unrest:** For 35 consecutive days, tens of thousands have protested in Tirana against a [\\$4.6 billion luxury resort](#) project linked to Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump, citing government corruption and environmental concerns.
- **Israeli Expansion in Al-Khalil:** Israel has reportedly introduced new measures to alter the status of the [Ibrahimi Mosque](#), including the removal of structures and the approval of Jewish religious buildings without local consent.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Leadership Dynamics & Succession: The network is carefully managing the transition of authority, emphasizing that the "martyrdom" of Khamenei has [not ended his path](#) but begun a new chapter. The new leadership is portrayed as being in total "alignment" with Khamenei's pillars of "dignity, expediency, and wisdom."

Diplomacy & Statecraft: Despite the hostile rhetoric, Iran is engaged in [scheduled negotiations](#) with the US. However, state officials warn that diplomacy is "meaningless" without military preparedness, suggesting the current MOU is a tactical pause rather than a strategic peace.

Tech Sovereignty & AI: The broadcast highlights Khamenei's foresight in prioritizing **nanotechnology, AI, and a domestic internet** decades ago, framing Iran as a

"scientific and engineering powerhouse" that can [target precision strikes](#) without relying on western technology.

Militarization & Deterrence: There is heavy emphasis on the **missile program** as the ultimate guarantor of Iranian sovereignty. The broadcast credits Khamenei with refusing to buy "old missiles" from foreign powers in the 1980s, instead building [indigenous capabilities](#) that successfully countered two nuclear powers in the recent war.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Weaponization of Martyrdom: The network frames the assassination of Khamenei as a "transformation" rather than a loss. By emphasizing that he was killed "on the side of humanity" and in his "home office" during the holy month of [Ramadan](#), the state is creating an eternal symbol intended to inspire the "global south" and "resistance seekers" worldwide. This narrative seeks to neutralize the tactical objective of the assassination (decapitating leadership) by making the leader's ideology "un-alive-able."

Framing the Multipolar Transition: A recurring theme is the emergence of a **multipolar West Asia** where US and Israeli hegemony has "failed." The broadcast repeatedly cites the presence of [international delegations](#) and the support of Russia and China as evidence that Iran is now a "pole" that other countries are gravitating toward.

Internal Unity through External Aggression: The broadcast aggressively combats the "western myth" that the Iranian population is opposed to the government. It uses the funeral attendance as proof of an "unshakable dignity" and claims that even

those who wanted policy changes have been [united by the war](#) waged by Trump and Israel.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Iran: The broadcast portrays a nation in deep but "triumphant" mourning. While the official narrative claims total unity, the mentions of "some of his directives have not been implemented" and the need to [address economic crises](#) suggest underlying tensions regarding the pace of reform and the impact of long-term sanctions. The "120 days" of protest referenced in social media context are re-framed as days of "national resilience" rather than internal dissent.

Albania: The country appears to be facing a significant **legitimacy crisis**. The 35-day protest in Tirana indicates a breakdown in the government's mandate, with police using tear gas and water cannons against citizens who accuse the [Prime Minister](#) of selling the country's sovereignty to foreign interests (the Trump family).

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Resistance Diplomacy: Iran is projecting its influence into **Yemen** and **Lebanon** as a "moral obligation" rather than mere geopolitics. The landing of aircraft in Sana'a is presented as a [critical turning point](#) for the entire region, signaling that the "Saudi-American siege" can be broken through persistence.

Anti-Western Framing: The "outside world" is divided into the "arrogant powers" (US, Israel, UK) and the "brotherly nations" of the global south. The network highlights the [low approval ratings](#) of Donald Trump and the

"failure" of the July 4th celebrations to portray the US as a decaying empire in contrast to a rising, united Iran.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The broadcast promotes a "resistant economy" model based on **self-reliance and domestic production** as the only viable path for nations under US pressure. It acknowledges that sanctions have caused "agonizing pain," particularly in the healthcare sector, but claims these have become a "blessing in disguise" by forcing industrial innovation.

- **Trade & Logistics:** Establishment of a "vital lifeline" to Yemen via direct flights; focus on [multilateral trade](#) with Russia and China.
- **Industry & Tech:** Claims of [95-97% independence](#) in medicine and vaccine production. References to Iran as an exporter of drone and missile technology.
- **Corporate Risk:** Foreign investment projects, particularly those linked to US political figures (Trump/Kushner), are being targeted by massive [local opposition](#) in regions like the Balkans.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The transition of the Supreme Leadership is the central focus, though the name of the immediate successor is often generalized as "the new leader."

- **Sayyid Ali Khamenei (deceased):** Posthumously canonized as the "voice of humanity" and a "global leader" of anti-imperialist resistance. His [martyrdom](#) is framed as his final strategic act.

- **Mustaba/Mustafa Khamenei:** Positioned as the successor who will [continue the path](#) of resistance and revenge. He is shown receiving "allegiance" from the crowds and military officials.
- **Brigadier General Hassan Hassanzade:** Prominently mentioned as the [IRGC commander](#) in charge of the funeral processions, signaling the IRGC's central role in the power transition.
- **Donald Trump:** Portrayed as a "loser" and a "failure" who was [duped by Benjamin Netanyahu](#) into a war he could not win.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network maintains an **exhaustively nationalistic and hagiographic** tone. The "Lead Stories" are almost exclusively related to the funeral and the "defeat" of western forces. "Buried Stories" include the actual terms of the MOU with Washington (which are described as "difficult" but doable) and any specifics regarding internal dissent or the exact casualties of the recent war. The network conspicuously omits any mention of potential **economic collapse** or the specific mechanics of the upcoming US negotiations, preferring to focus on the emotional outpouring of the masses.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The narrative subtext categorizes global actors into those following "jungle law" versus those following "rule of law" (defined by resistance to the US).

- **Iran:** Strong, competent, and spiritual. Portrayed as a "mountain of steadfastness" that [led by example](#) by having its leader killed on the "frontlines."

- **The United States:** Weak, chaotic, and "ignorant." Framed as an ["enormous step back"](#) for an empire that can no longer win wars.
- **Israel ("Zionist Regime"):** A "cancerous tumor" and "child killers" whose assassination of Khamenei was a [grave miscalculation](#) that only strengthened their enemy.
- **Saudi Arabia:** In a precarious position, facing "stark choices" between [sovereignty and severe strikes](#) on their infrastructure.
- **The Global South (South Africa, India, Nigeria):** Portrayed as the [true audience](#) for Iran's message, supporting the revolution "100%."

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The broadcast details a "genius way" to reach western audiences through viral content, such as **Lego videos** and tweets dedicated to [Tupac or victims of Epstein Island](#). This is described as a strategy to bypass "corporate or western state-backed outlets." The network explicitly claims to be "breaking through the western propaganda" about Iranian instability. The frequent use of English-speaking "international experts" (like Galloway) is a clear attempt to provide [external legitimacy](#) to the state's internal narratives.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- The scheduled **negotiations** with the US are likely to be high-friction, with Iran using the massive funeral turnout as a domestic "mandate" to refuse any concessions on its missile program or regional alliances.

- The **Yemen flight** success will likely encourage Iran to test other sanctioned borders, potentially leading to more civilian-aircraft-as-diplomacy "breakthroughs."
- The **new leadership** will likely conduct a highly visible retaliatory strike or "act of vengeance" in the medium term to fulfill the public demand chanted during the funeral ["revenge, revenge and resistance"](#).

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): High risk of kinetic flare-ups in Lebanon if the MOU "nearly collapsed" again. Expected formalization of the new Supreme Leader's authority following the burial in Mashhad. Potential for further [Israeli strikes](#) on high-level resistance figures as the "mourning period" ends.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): Re-evaluation of Saudi-Iranian relations as Riyadh weighs the threat of "painful retaliation" against the US-Israel security nexus. Albania's protests may force a suspension of the [Trump-linked project](#), impacting US-Balkan relations.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Iran's "scientific and engineering powerhouse" status will be used to further entrench the **multipolar axis** with China and Russia, specifically in missile and drone [production/export](#).

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Regional War Escalation:** High risk of the MOU failing. **Triggers:** New Israeli strikes on Beirut or Tehran. **Likelihood:** Moderate-High. **Impact:** Severe regional destabilization. **Mitigations:** Formalization of the current MOU into a more binding treaty.

- **Succession Instability:** The transition to the new leader may face internal factional friction not shown on TV. **Triggers:** Economic failure or a perceived "weak" response to the US. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Internal security purge. **Mitigations:** Broad-based military support for the new appointee.
- **Infrastructure Retaliation:** Yemen's threat to Saudi energy facilities. **Triggers:** Re-imposition of the blockade on Sana'a. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Global energy price spikes. **Mitigations:** Saudi acceptance of the [direct flight corridor](#).
- **Albanian Civil Unrest:** Government collapse in Tirana. **Triggers:** Continued use of lethal force against protesters. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Balkan instability. **Mitigations:** Suspension of the controversial resort project.
- **Health Crisis:** Sanctions preventing medicine for cancer/EB patients. **Triggers:** Tightening of US financial oversight. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Increased domestic mortality and anti-western sentiment. **Mitigations:** UN-sanctioned [humanitarian corridors](#).

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The specific identity and selection process of the **new Supreme Leader** is largely obscured by references to "continuing the path."
- The **MOU terms** are mentioned as "defeat for America" but the actual concessions made by Iran to reach an agreement are not disclosed.
- The broadcast fails to detail the **casualty figures** of the "12-day war" beyond symbolic mentions of "martyrdom."

- The source of the **funding** for the massive logistical effort to transport millions for the funeral remains unexplained given the sanctioned economy.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Potemkin" Funeral: While the broadcast shows millions, a contrarian view might suggest the attendance is a mix of coerced state employees and a "rally round the flag" effect following a foreign assassination, rather than deep ideological commitment. In this view, the state is over-investing in the funeral because it is **internally fragile** and fears a vacuum.

Negotiation Stalling Tactic: The rhetoric of "vengeance" and the focus on military tech could be a **distraction** meant to buy time for the leadership to stabilize the economy through the very "MOU" they are publicly disparaging.

Black Swan Event: A sudden coup or "soft revolution" in **Albania** that results in the seizure of US assets, which could trigger a wider NATO-Balkan crisis unrelated to the Middle East.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Western diplomats must recognize the **ideological resonance** of the "Axis of Resistance" in the global south, which Iran is successfully exploiting.
- Monitor the **Tehran-Sana'a corridor** as a new standard for circumventing international blockade regimes.

- Prepare for the upcoming weekend [negotiations](#) to be used by Iran as a platform for maximalist demands following their "victory" narrative.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain Resilience:** High risk of infrastructure disruption in the **Persian Gulf** if Yemen follows through on energy facility threats.
- **Regulatory Risk:** Avoid large-scale development projects in **Albania** until political stability is restored and the Kushner-project controversy is resolved.
- **Emerging Tech:** Iranian **nanotech and medical sectors** are becoming increasingly isolated and self-sufficient, creating a shadow market that ignores western IP and standards.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Policy discussion is focused on the **MOU with Washington** and the "Law of Resistance."

• BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **MOU with Washington:** A strategic agreement ending the 12-day war, requiring Israel to withdraw from South Lebanon and the US to lift certain sanctions. Strategically intended as a [temporary cessation of hostilities](#).
- **Nationalization of Defense Tech:** Policy to prohibit the purchase of foreign missile systems in favor of [indigenous development](#).

- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**
 - **Supreme National Security Council Press Release:** Issued a message of "resistance and vengeance" as the two pillars of the current [national security strategy](#).
 - **Yemeni Armed Forces Declaration:** Formally announced the [permanent activation](#) of Tehran-Sana'a flight paths.

KEY STORIES

- **Tehran Mass Funeral:** Unprecedented crowds gather at Grand Musalla to mourn Ali Khamenei; government claims [9 million](#) participants.
- **Khamenei Assassination Details:** Report states he was killed by a US/Israeli missile on [February 28, 2026](#), alongside four family members including a 14-month-old granddaughter.
- **End of Yemen Blockade:** First Iranian flight lands in Sana'a in over a decade, marking a [major defeat](#) for Saudi/US containment strategy.
- **Albania Anti-Trump Protests:** 35 days of unrest in Tirana over [Jared Kushner's resort project](#); police accused of brutality.
- **Israeli Aggression in Lebanon:** Despite the MOU, IOF reportedly [strikes Beirut outskirts](#); Hezbollah vows to continue resistance.
- **The 12-Day War Narrative:** State media frames a recent conflict with the US as a "victory" that [reshaped the regional balance of power](#).
- **Technological Sovereignty:** Focus on Iran's **indigenous AI and nanotechnology** as tools used to bypass sanctions and [target precise enemy coordinates](#).

- **Succession Continuity:** The new leader pledges to follow Khamenei's path, emphasizing "resistance, revenge, and [steadfastness](#)."
- **US Internal Decline:** Commentary from George Galloway and others on the "failure" of Trump's [July 4th celebrations](#) compared to Tehran's turnout.
- **Hezbollah "Knife" Allegory:** Lebanese perspective describes Hezbollah as the ["knife" that prevents](#) the region from being "raped" by imperialists.

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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