

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

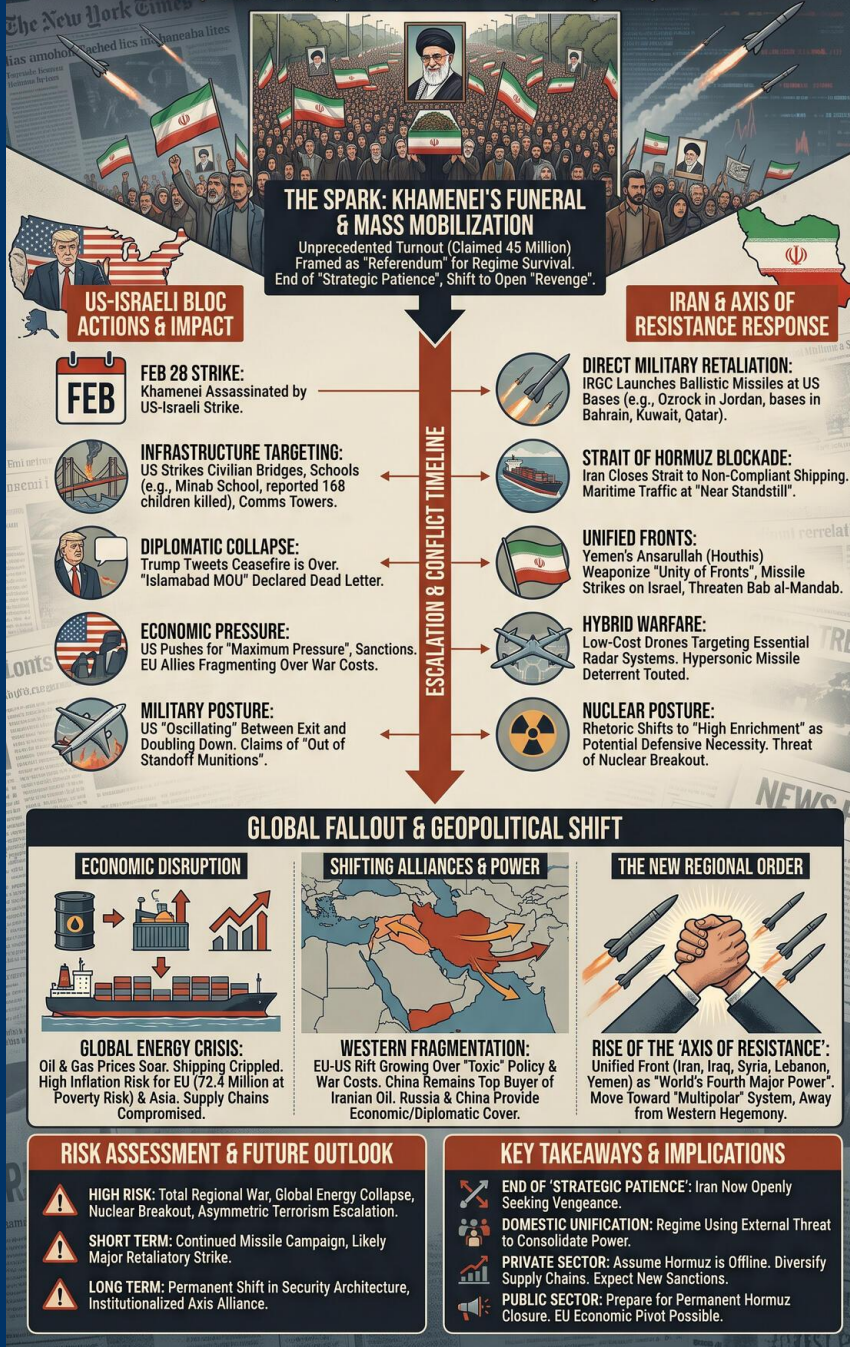
PRESSTV

JULY 10, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

IRAN'S POST-KHAMENEI ERA & ESCALATING MULTI-FRONT WAR: A GLOBAL SHIFT

Report Summary: July 10-11, 2026. The Death of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Triggers Massive Military Escalation, Collapse of Ceasefire, and Redefines Regional Dynamics.



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IRAN ENTERS POST-KHAMENEI ERA AMID ESCALATING MULTI-FRONT WAR AND COLLAPSING CEASEFIRE WITH US-ISRAELI BLOC

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The reporting of July 10-11, 2026, centers on the culmination of the funeral rites for Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, whose death in a February 28 US-Israeli strike has triggered a profound shift in regional dynamics and a massive military escalation. The burial in Mashhad follows a week of unprecedented mass mobilization, with Iranian officials claiming [45 million participants](#) across Iran and Iraq. This domestic show of force is being framed as a "referendum" for the Islamic Republic's survival and a clear rejection of Western attempts at regime change. The regime is leveraging this nationalistic fervor to consolidate internal stability while simultaneously signaling a definitive break from diplomatic constraints, declaring the "Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) to be a [dead letter](#).

Simultaneously, the region has devolved into active, high-intensity conflict. The US military has targeted [civilian infrastructure](#), including

schools and bridges, in an attempt to project power during the funeral, while the IRGC has responded with a [fresh wave of retaliatory strikes](#) against US bases in Jordan, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar. This transition from "shadow war" to direct, overt engagement is accompanied by a blockade of the [Strait of Hormuz](#), threatening global energy security. The administration in Washington appears to be oscillating between a desire to exit the conflict and a compulsion to double down, as reflected in contradictory statements regarding the continuation of talks versus the termination of the ceasefire.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Conclusion of Khamenei Funeral Rites:** The final burial of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei took place at the [Imam Reza shrine](#) in Mashhad, ending a period of mourning and initiating the full transition of power to his successor and the surviving leadership. Iranian media emphasizes the turnout as a sign of regime legitimacy.
- **Collapse of the Islamabad MOU:** The temporary ceasefire and diplomatic framework have disintegrated, with both sides accusing the other of [violating the terms](#). US President Trump has officially tweeted that the ceasefire is over, while Iran has closed the Strait of Hormuz to non-compliant shipping.
- **Overt Military Escalation:** The IRGC claimed hits on the [Ozrock airbase](#) in Jordan with ten ballistic missiles and drone strikes on regional US assets. This follows US strikes that killed civilians in Iranian cities, including a [school in Minab](#) where 168 children were reportedly killed.

- **Global Economic Disruption:** The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has led to a "near standstill" in maritime traffic, with [only two oil tankers](#) passing through recently, driving concerns over inflation and energy security in the EU and Asia.
- **Intensification of the Axis of Resistance:** Yemen's Ansarullah (Houthi) forces have officially [weaponized the "unity of fronts,"](#) launching missiles at Israel and threatening to close the Bab al-Mandab strait entirely.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization The conflict has shifted to a "hybrid warfare" model where Iran uses low-cost drones to damage [essential radar systems](#) that are difficult for the US/Israel to replace. The focus has moved from proxy skirmishes to direct state-on-state missile barrages. Iran is touting its [hypersonic missile](#) capabilities as a deterrent that the US cannot intercept.

Critical Infrastructure Security US strikes have specifically targeted Iranian [communication towers](#), rail lines, and bridges to disrupt the logistics of the funeral and domestic movement. Iran responded by demonstrating [rapid repair capabilities](#), fixing a rail line in under 14 hours to show resilience.

Energy & Critical Minerals The Strait of Hormuz is being used as a primary geopolitical lever. Iran claims to have allowed [Japanese and Korean ships](#) to leave as a strategic "one-up" during negotiations, but maintains the right to control all passage through its territorial waters, rejecting the authority of the [International Maritime Organization](#).

Information Warfare & Disinformation

There is a massive delta between US claims of "tens of thousands" at the funeral and Iranian claims of [tens of millions](#). Iran is also utilizing creative "soft power," such as [Lego-themed animation](#) from its embassies, to win the propaganda war among younger global audiences.

Macroeconomics & Trade EU finance ministers are meeting in Brussels to assess the [mounting economic costs](#) of the war, as high energy prices threaten to push 72.4 million Europeans into poverty. Despite US pressure, China remains the [biggest buyer](#) of Iranian oil, providing a critical economic lifeline.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The End of Strategic Patience The transcripts suggest a fundamental shift in Iran's strategic posture. After decades of "strategic patience," the assassination of the Supreme Leader has removed the incentive for restraint. Iran is now openly seeking ["revenge,"](#) symbolized by the raising of red flags at funeral processions. The rhetoric has moved from seeking a return to the nuclear deal to discussing the ["high enrichment of uranium"](#) as a potential defensive necessity, implying a move toward nuclear breakout if conventional deterrence fails.

The Fragmentation of Western Alliances A growing rift is appearing between US policy and its European allies. Reports from Brussels highlight lawmaker demands to [sanction the Israeli government](#) and break away from America's "toxic" foreign policy. The revelation that EU member states provided logistical support for the US strikes on Iran has caused [internal political turmoil](#) in the EU,

with critics arguing the war is illegal under international law.

Domestic Unification Through External Threat

The broadcast portrays an Iranian population that has ["rallied around the flag"](#) despite previous internal divisions. The "Green Movement" of 2009 is dismissed as a failed "color revolution," while the current state of war is credited with uniting diverse segments of society—intellectuals, youth, and the military—into a single ["foundation of resilience."](#)

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Iran: The state appears highly stable in the immediate wake of Khamenei's death, utilizing the funeral to project [unprecedented unity](#). The transition seems to have been managed effectively, with the son, **Mustafa Khamenei**, playing a visible role in the rituals. However, the mention of "Mossad cells" and [agitators in January](#) suggests that the regime still fears internal sabotage and is using the war to justify a crackdown on dissent.

United States: The US is portrayed as a nation in [cognitive dissonance](#), with its leadership "surrounded by liars" and its intelligence agencies miscalculating the fallout of the assassination. Public sentiment is described as [not being behind the war](#), while internal political polarization between the "Trump regime" and the "unelected blob" in Washington complicates strategic consistency.

European Union: High inflation and energy insecurity are driving [social unrest](#). Lawmakers are increasingly critical of the "genocidal regime" in Israel and the US's "war

mongering," indicating that the cost of the alliance is becoming politically untenable for many EU governments.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The world is framed as moving away from Western hegemony toward an "Eastern" or "Multipolar" system. Iran is described by some analysts as [poised to become the world's fourth major power](#) in this century. The "Axis of Resistance" is no longer just a collection of proxies but a [unified front](#) where successes in Iraq or Yemen are seen as victories for Iran. Russia and China are portrayed as supportive but cautious partners; they provide [economic and diplomatic cover](#) but are not expected to "take a hit" for Iran. Conversely, the US and Israel are framed as an [single entity](#)—"The CIA is the Mossad"—that is increasingly isolated from global public opinion, particularly in the Global South.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic outlook is dominated by the militarization of global trade routes. The Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab are now [active combat zones](#), which has crippled normal shipping and pushed the global economy into a state of high risk. Supply chains for oil and gas are severely compromised, especially for nations without "independent" energy policies.

- **Energy Prices:** Renewed hostilities have resulted in immediate [increases in oil and gas prices](#).
- **Trade Routes:** Maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz is at its [lowest level](#) since mid-June.

- **Inflation:** Remained "stubbornly high" across the Eurozone, with [72.4 million people](#) at risk of poverty.
- **Sanctions Relief:** Venezuela is calling for the release of [frozen funds](#) following massive earthquakes, while Iran rejects all Western economic pressure.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The broadcasts highlight a critical transition period for the leadership of the Islamic Revolution and its allies.

- **Mustafa Khamenei:** The eldest son of the late leader, he [led the funeral prayers](#) and is being positioned as a key figure in the succession, representing continuity and legacy.
- **Masud Pezeshkian:** As President, he has taken the lead in [lauding the national turnout](#) and communicating the state's resolve, though he remains subordinate to the ideological leadership.
- **Donald Trump:** Characterized as [frustrated and trapped](#) between a desire to avoid a "forever war" and the influence of the "Zionist lobby." His volatility is noted as a source of "incompatibility" in US foreign policy.
- **Andrew Burnham:** Emerging as a [favorite to succeed](#) Keir Starmer in the UK, signaling a potential shift in British policy toward Israel.
- **Naim Qasim:** The Hezbollah leader is shown [coordinating the Lebanese front](#) with Iranian objectives, emphasizing a unified military strategy.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network's editorial posture is **Nationalistic and Defiant**. The lead story throughout the day was the **Funeral and Legacy of Khamenei**, which occupied approximately 80% of the airtime. This served to project state strength and internal unity. The secondary focus was on **Military Retaliation**, highlighting the IRGC's "crushing" response to US aggression. Global news like the **Gaza Genocide** (surpassing 73,000 deaths) and **Wildfires in Europe** were used to frame the West as being in a state of moral and environmental decay. **Conspicuous Omissions** include any specific details on the *selection process* for the next Supreme Leader (focusing instead on the crowds) or any mention of significant Iranian military losses beyond the leadership.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The day's framing presents a world divided between a "dying" Western empire and a "rising" Islamic/Eastern resistance bloc. Leaders are judged by their "manliness" and "steadfastness," while institutions are judged by their subservience to the US.

COUNTRIES

- **Iran:** Framed as a ["besieged regional state turned world power,"](#) principled and resilient. "Iran won the war on the battlefield" (20260710-35).
- **United States:** Portrayed as an ["openly criminal"](#) aggressor that is "out of standoff munitions" and incapable of winning a "hot war."

- **Israel:** Characterized consistently as a ["genocidal operation"](#) and a "rabid dog" of the US regime.
- **Yemen:** Framed as a [powerful missile force](#) capable of imposing a "heavy price" on the West.

LEADERS

- **Ali Khamenei:** Portrayed as ["larger than life"](#) and "a beacon of global resistance." Even non-religious people are said to love him ([20260710-16](#)).
- **Donald Trump:** Described as ["crude, vulgar, and frankly stupid,"](#) being "fooled by the Israelis" ([20260710-104](#)).
- **Vladimir Putin:** Framed as a [strategic master](#) playing a "nutritional war" in Ukraine that is exhausting the West.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** Iran is actively seeding the idea that the [MOU was a trap](#) intended to weaken them before a strike, justifying their current military aggressiveness.
- **Psychological Operations:** The raising of ["red flags of vengeance"](#) is a clear psy-op aimed at both domestic mobilization and intimidation of US/Israeli intelligence circles.
- **Censorship:** The network claims that [mainstream media in the West](#) "censors everything that comes from Iran," justifying its own biased reporting as the "only source of truth."

- **De-legitimization of International Bodies:** Extensive effort is spent [de-legitimizing the UN, IAEA, and IMO](#) as "collaborators with the empire."

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Nuclear Breakout Threat:** Given the collapse of the MOU and the repeated claims that ["trusted international bodies like the IAEA are penetrated,"](#) Iran may soon declare its formal withdrawal from the NPT to utilize its "highly enriched uranium."
- **The Collapse of the US Regional Umbrella:** If the IRGC continues to successfully strike [airbases in Kuwait and Jordan](#) without a decisive US conventional response, the regional monarchies (UAE, Saudi Arabia) may be forced to negotiate separate peace deals with Iran to avoid becoming "parking lots."
- **European Economic Pivot:** Continued [high energy prices](#) and social unrest in the EU could lead to the rise of populist, anti-war governments that actively sabotage NATO's Iran policy.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a continuation of the "eye-for-an-eye" missile campaign. With the funeral over, Iran's military is ["off the leash,"](#) and a major retaliatory strike on Israeli or US "high-value" targets is likely. The Strait of Hormuz will remain a chokehold.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The formal announcement of a new Supreme Leader and potential structural changes to the Assembly of Experts will occur. Domestic economic

"resilience" will be tested as ["resistance economy"](#) policies are intensified.

Long Term (1-5 Years): A permanent shift in the regional security architecture. The "Axis of Resistance" may institutionalize into a [formal military alliance](#) with its own "veto power" in regional affairs, effectively replacing the current UN-led order in West Asia.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The current environment presents several critical flashpoints that could trigger a global catastrophe.

- **Global Energy Collapse:** Iran has moved from threatening to closing the [Strait of Hormuz](#). Triggers: Continued US strikes on Iranian coastal infrastructure. Likelihood: High. Impact: Catastrophic global recession. Mitigations: Diplomatic intervention by China/Russia to "secure" a corridor for non-aligned shipping.
- **Nuclear Breakout:** Explicit talk of [putting "highly enriched uranium to good use."](#) Triggers: A major US/Israeli strike that threatens the survival of the top leadership in Tehran. Likelihood: Moderate-High. Impact: Irreversible regional nuclearization. Mitigations: A new, binding international security guarantee that excludes the US.
- **Total Regional War:** The ["unity of fronts"](#) being fully activated by Yemen, Lebanon, and Iraq. Triggers: An Israeli ground invasion of Southern Lebanon. Likelihood: Very High. Impact: Thousands of civilian casualties and total destruction of regional air infrastructure. Mitigations: Withdrawal of Israeli forces to 1967 borders.

- **European Social Implosion:** Fuel poverty driving [mass unrest in the EU](#). Triggers: A winter energy shortage coupled with high interest rates. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Collapse of the current EU political order. Mitigations: Immediate resumption of Iranian oil exports to the EU.
- **Asymmetric Terrorism Escalation:** Recent attacks in [Pakistan](#) and Mashhad suggest a surge in proxy terrorism. Triggers: Perceived weakness during the Iranian leadership transition. Likelihood: High. Impact: Decentralized conflict across West/South Asia. Mitigations: Enhanced regional intelligence cooperation between Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- **Succession Details:** While the son is prominent, the [actual power dynamics](#) between the IRGC and the Assembly of Experts during the selection of a permanent successor are entirely opaque.
- **US Munitions Reality:** The claim that the US is ["out of standoff munitions"](#) is a significant strategic assertion that is not independently verified and may be a piece of Iranian narrative seeding.
- **Russian/Chinese Engagement:** The extent to which [Russia and China](#) are providing actual military intelligence (versus just oil purchases) remains unknown.
- **Gaza Ground Truth:** The casualty count of [73,000 deaths](#) is cited but the specifics of the current ground battle or the status of Hamas leadership are buried under the Khamenei coverage.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **Managed Succession Crisis:** The massive show of unity in the streets may be a desperate attempt to [mask elite infighting](#) over the next Supreme Leader. The military escalation could be a tool for one faction to consolidate power over the more "moderate" elements of the bureaucracy.
- **US Stalling Strategy:** Trump's contradictory tweets about negotiations may not be "stupidity" but a [deliberate stalling tactic](#) to allow the US to replenish its munitions and wait for the "emotional high" of the funeral to pass before launching a more decisive decapitation strike.
- **Black Swan - The "Japan" Scenario:** Trump's "mistake" in referring to the ["Islamic Republic of Japan"](#) could be a cryptic signal of a planned nuclear strike, intended to "send Iran back to the stone age" if the Strait of Hormuz is not reopened within a specific window.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Prepare for the permanent closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Strategic petroleum reserves should be mobilized immediately to prevent civil unrest ([20260710-83](#)).
- **Economic:** EU states should consider ["de-linking"](#) their Iranian energy policy from US military policy to avoid total economic collapse.

- **Diplomatic:** Shift focus toward ["Eastern" mediation](#) through the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as Western-led agencies are no longer seen as viable ([20260710-11](#)).

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chains:** Assume the ["Strait of Our Mouse"](#) (Hormuz) is effectively offline for at least the next quarter. Diversify logistics toward overland routes through Central Asia.
- **Regulatory Risk:** High risk of [new banking sanctions](#) as the US attempts to restart its "maximum pressure" campaign.
- **Safety Standards:** Multinational personnel in Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain should be [evacuated or hardened](#) as these areas are now direct IRGC targets.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity is currently centered on the fallout of the war and the legality of the US-led strikes. International bodies are facing a crisis of mandate as Iran and its allies reject current regulatory frameworks.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED: EU Policy (Unionea):** Lawmakers are debating a [fundamental change in EU policy](#) to sanction the Israeli government and protect the dignity of the European Union against "toxic" US influence.
- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS: NATO Summit (Turkey):** Final statements from the summit [rejected Iranian claims](#) of peaceful nuclear development, a move Iran dismissed as "politically motivated."

- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS: International Maritime Organization (IMO) Hearing:** The London-based agency [denied Iran's right](#) to control the Strait of Hormuz, an act Iran characterized as "playing fiddle to the US tune."

KEY STORIES

- **Khamenei Burial in Mashhad:** The final ceremonies for the late leader concluded at the [Imam Reza shrine](#), with crowds estimated in the millions. Prayers were led by Mustafa Khamenei ([20260710-6](#)).
- **IRGC Strike on Ozrock Airbase:** Retaliatory attack using [10 ballistic missiles](#) on a US airbase in Jordan following US strikes on Iranian infrastructure.
- **Minab School Massacre:** Reports that a US strike on [Day One of the war](#) killed 168 children at an elementary school, an event being used to mobilize the "Axis of Resistance."
- **Gaza Death Toll Surpasses 73,000:** Continued Israeli operations in [central Gaza and Khan Yunis](#) have led to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with 73,100 dead and many more injured.
- **Strait of Hormuz Blockade:** Iran has closed the waterway, with only [14 commodity vessels](#) passing through, marking the lowest level in history.
- **Pakistan Terror Attack:** A suicide attack in [Huzdar](#) targeting a political leader killed at least 17 people; Iran has condemned the act and called for regional cooperation.
- **European Heatwave and Wildfires:** Temperatures of [40 degrees Celsius](#) have sparked major fires in France, Portugal, and Spain, forcing thousands to flee.

- **Venezuela Earthquake:** Twin quakes in June have left a death toll of [39,000](#) and 18,000 homeless, with aid appeals for \$300 million.
- **UK Political Shift:** Andrew Burnham emerges as the [clear favorite](#) to lead the UK as the Labour government's stance on Israel faces a "disaster electorally."
- **Russian Success in Ukraine:** Moscow claims to have captured a [pregnant Ukrainian soldier](#) and asserts it is winning a "nutritional war" of attrition against the West.

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.

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