

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

PRESSTV

JULY 11, 2026

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

GEOPOLITICAL REALIGNMENT & LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION: Post-Conflict Volatility (July 11, 2026)

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE: A Pivotal Inflection Point for the Islamic Republic of Iran & Beyond

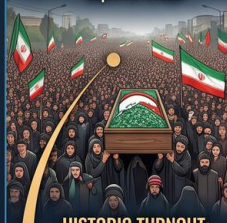
THE NEW LEADERSHIP & "DIVINE MISSION"

FORMAL POWER TRANSITION



SAYYID MUJTABA KHAMENEI:
Supreme Leader

"Revenge for
Martyrdom is
a 'Divine
Mission'"



HISTORIC TURNOUT:
"Referendum on the
Islamic Revolution"
(Est. 43 Million People)

**CONSOLIDATION
OF LEADERSHIP:**
"Husseini Spirit",
Generational Integration &
"Resistance Economy"
(Tripled Drone Production)

Signaling to Western Adversaries:
Resistance Remains Structurally Intact

STRATEGIC MARITIME STANDOFF & ECONOMIC FALLOUT

STRAIT OF HORMUZ:
Iran & Oman Coordinate
Sovereign Control
**REJECT WESTERN "INTERNATIONAL
WATERS" DEFINITION**
**COLLAPSE OF "ISLAMABAD
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING"**
(MoU) following US Sanctions



GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS:
Focus on the European Union

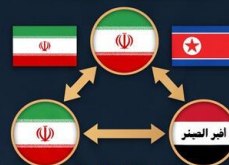


**EU ENERGY COSTS RISING.
LOOMING POVERTY CRISIS FOR
OVER 72 MILLION EUROPEANS.**
Primary Casualty of "Illegal Aggression"

"Massive Importance" of Lasting
Peace to Prevent Economic Fallout
Roland Lescure

BLOC CONSOLIDATION & FRACTURING UNIPOLAR ORDER

**"AXIS OF RESISTANCE"
& MULTIPOLAR ARENA**



**INCREASINGLY
INTERCONNECTED**

North Korea Slams NATO
Asia-Pacific Expansion
Yemeni Forces Maintain Blockade

Rejection of the Unipolar
International Order



**GOVERNANCE &
CONFLICT DYNAMICS**



ISRAEL:
Legitimacy Crisis,
Netanyahu Polling
Collapse, Strikes
in Lebanon



UNITED STATES:
"Idiocracy", "Failing
Empire" Narrative,
Information
Warfare &
Disinformation
Campaigns

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT, RISK & FUTURE OUTLOOK



SHORT TERM (1-4 WEEKS):

Heightened Alerts,
Potential Retaliatory
Strikes



MEDIUM TERM (1-6 MONTHS):

New Regional Treaties,
US Mid-term Election
Volatility



LONG TERM (1-5 YEARS):

Structural Shift to Multipolar,
"Axis of Resistance" Managed
Economy, Bypass
Western Routes

RISK ASSESSMENT

TOTAL WAR
(Snapback Mechanism)
- Moderate

**GLOBAL ENERGY
COLLAPSE**
(Strait Closure)
- High

**WESTERN
CIVIL UNREST**
(Poverty/Energy)
- High

**LEBANON
FRAGMENTATION**
(Proxy War)
- Moderate

KEY TAKEAWAY & EDITORIAL POSTURE

REPORT NARRATIVE: State Continuity & Resilience. Weaponization of Martyrdom as State Legitimacy. World Divided between
"Civilized" Resistance and "Barbaric" Western-Zionist Alliance. The "Three-Body Problem" of Regional De-escalation.

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

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JULY 11, 2026

GEOPOLITICAL REALIGNMENT AND LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION AMIDST POST-CONFLICT VOLATILITY

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

July 11, 2026, serves as a pivotal inflection point for the Islamic Republic of Iran, characterized by the formal transition of power to Sayyid Mujtaba Khamenei following the assassination of Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The state broadcast frames this succession not as a crisis, but as a **referendum on the Islamic Revolution**, citing a historic turnout of an estimated [43 million people](#) across Iran and Iraq for funeral processions. This mass mobilization is leveraged as a demonstration of "soft power" and national unity, intended to signal to Western adversaries that the "Resistance" remains structurally intact despite the decapitation of its senior leadership. The transition occurs in the wake of a "40-day war" that has left the regional security architecture in a state of precarious, tattered diplomacy.

Concurrently, the strategic focus has shifted to the **maritime domain**, specifically the Strait of Hormuz. Iran is actively coordinating

with Oman to assert sovereign control over the waterway, explicitly rejecting Western definitions of the strait as international waters. This move coincides with a breakdown of the "Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding" (MoU) following new U.S. sanctions and reported hostilities. The broadcast narrative suggests that the global economy, particularly the [European Union](#), is the primary casualty of this friction, citing rising energy costs and a looming poverty crisis for over 72 million Europeans as direct consequences of Washington's "illegal aggression."

The day's events reveal a broader trend of **bloc consolidation** and the rejection of the unipolar international order. From North Korea slamming NATO's expansion into the Asia-Pacific to Yemeni forces maintaining their blockade, the "Axis of Resistance" is portrayed as increasingly interconnected. Iran's acting defense minister claims that military industrial capacity, specifically [drone production](#), tripled during the recent conflict, signaling a shift toward a "Resistance Economy" that prioritizes self-sufficiency and indigenous technology over Western-managed systems.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Consolidation of the Mujtaba Khamenei Leadership

- The new leader issued a strongly worded statement [from a position of power](#), pledging that revenge for his father's assassination is a "divine mission" not dependent on any single official's survival.

- The broadcast emphasizes "generational integration," highlighting that senior figures like Kamal Kharrazi continue as advisors while young specialists [under 40 years old](#) manage major strategic and military projects.
- The narrative portrays the succession as a seamless transition of the "Husseini spirit," aimed at maintaining ideological purity and revolutionary resolve.

Strategic Maritime Standoff in the Strait of Hormuz

- Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived in Muscat for high-level talks to coordinate [measures for safe passage](#) in the strategic waterway, asserting that the strait falls exclusively under the jurisdiction of Iran and Oman.
- The IOGC (Islamic Oceans and Gulf Command) warned that the strait remains closed to unauthorized traffic, with reports of a [warning missile fired](#) at a vessel that deactivated its monitoring systems.
- The IRGC's navy stated that closures will persist until the [end of US interventions](#) in the region.

Collapse of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- Iran accused the U.S. Treasury of a [direct breach of paragraph nine](#) of the agreement by imposing new sanctions on Iranian firms and officials.
- Officials stated that Tehran places "zero trust" in Washington and will only proceed on a "commitment for commitment" basis, rendering the current [negotiation framework tattered](#).

- Speculation from analysts suggests the U.S. used the MoU as a tactical pause to [restock for further assaults](#) rather than a good-faith diplomatic overture.

Economic Crisis in the European Union

- EU finance ministers are reportedly assessing the "mounting economic costs" of the conflict, with Jerome Huse reporting that [72.4 million people](#) across the block are now at risk of poverty.
- Questions are mounting over energy security ahead of winter, with the Strait of Hormuz tension being cited as the [economic knot](#) of the global economy.
- French Economy Minister Roland Lescure emphasized the "massive importance" of achieving lasting peace to prevent further [economic fallout](#).

NATO and Asia-Pacific Militarization

- North Korea slammed the U.S. and its allies for accelerating arms buildups following a [NATO summit in Turkey](#), where over \$50 billion in military procurement was announced.
- Pyongyang accused NATO of betraying its legitimate sovereign rights and gearing toward "war and confrontation" in the [Asia-Pacific region](#).
- South Korea's President Lee J. Myung is criticized for expanding cooperation with NATO to stop North Korea's missile programs.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- Iran reports that its [defense production capacity](#), specifically for drones, tripled during the recent war period.

- The Israeli military has launched new strikes in [southern Lebanon](#), targeting Nabatieh and using incendiary balloons in the Tyre district, in violation of a framework agreement.

Leadership Dynamics & Governance

- The transition to Mujtaba Khamenei is framed as an "end of an era" and the beginning of a "New Islamic Civilization" [marked by the leader's blood](#).
- Domestic polling in Israel suggests a significant [legitimacy crisis for Netanyahu](#), with 60% of respondents losing trust in his leadership due to security failures.

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- Iran and Oman are pursuing a [joint strategy](#) to assert control over their shared territorial waters, challenging the U.S. narrative of "international waters."
- The UN resolution 2231 and its snapback mechanism are [declared expired](#) by Iran's UN envoy, who asserts that the E3 (UK, France, Germany) have no legal standing to invoke it.

Information Warfare & Disinformation

- Senior Iranian intelligence sources claim the U.S. is waging a [coordinated campaign of media disinformation](#) using outlets like Axios to spread false claims about Iran's negotiating positions.
- George Galloway characterizes the UK's pursuit of terrorism charges against protesters as the [nefarious degeneration of liberty](#).

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Weaponization of Martyrdom as State Legitimacy

The state broadcast has moved beyond mere mourning to actively weaponizing the death of Ali Khamenei as a tool of political mobilization. By labeling the funeral a [referendum](#), the regime is attempting to close the gap between the state and the people that was previously exploited by Western "regime change" narratives. The consistent thematic link between the 7th-century Battle of Karbala and the 2026 conflict serves to provide a [divine mandate](#) for the new leadership, framing the ongoing war not as a geopolitical dispute, but as an existential struggle between "truth and falsehood."

The "Three-Body Problem" of Regional De-escalation

Analysts describe a [three-body problem](#) involving Israel, the United States, and Iran, where the gravity of one actor's internal needs (e.g., Netanyahu's survival, Trump's election cycle) inevitably pulls the others toward conflict. The broadcast suggests that while Trump may seek a tactical pause for market stabilization, Israel is **determined to undo** any agreement, pushing for a wider war to secure its own "Greater Israel" project. This dynamic creates a structural barrier to any long-term diplomatic resolution.

Economic Sovereignty and the "milking cow" Narrative

A recurring theme is the portrayal of Western elites viewing the Middle East as a [milking cow](#) for resources. Iran's transition to a "Resistance Economy" is presented as the only viable path to avoid the "shanty towns"

and poverty of the pre-revolutionary era. The broadcast contrasts Iran's indigenous technological gains with the [decline of European living standards](#), arguing that subservience to U.S. foreign policy has turned Europe into a "busted flush" whose economic future now depends on the stability of the Strait of Hormuz.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Iran: Transition and Uniformity

- The state presents a highly unified domestic front, claiming that even those who previously sought reform have "rallied around the flag" in the face of [unjustified attack](#).
- Succession is handled via the "Theory of Generational Integration," which seeks to utilize the [determination of youth](#) while maintaining the "institutional memory" of senior clerics.
- The broadcast omits any mention of factional infighting, presenting the appointment of Muftaba Khamenei as a decision by the [Assembly of Experts](#) that reflects popular will.

Israel and the West: Fragmentation and Polarization

- Israel is depicted as suffering from a "legitimacy crisis," with a [drastic tumble](#) in Netanyahu's approval ratings among his own settler base.
- The U.S. is framed as an "idiocracy" where leadership is [crude and frankly stupid](#), driven by short-term market indicators rather than strategic depth.

- The UK is highlighted as a site of political repression, with [3,000 people on terrorism charges](#) for participating in pro-Palestine protests.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Fracturing the Unipolar Order

The world is framed as a "fracturing multipolar arena" where traditional U.S. security guarantees are becoming [worthless](#). Iran's outreach to Oman and its support for regional resistance movements are portrayed as the successful projection of power that has "permanently diminished" the projection of U.S. strength. The broadcast frequently highlights Russia and China's [opposition to Western-backed meetings](#) at the UN Security Council as evidence of a global shift toward the East.

Strategic Defense and Asymmetric Power

Iran's global posture is increasingly defined by its [asymmetric defense strategy](#). By controlling the Strait of Hormuz and maintaining a "finger on the trigger," Tehran seeks to deter a militarily superior U.S. through the threat of global economic sabotage. The network portrays the "Axis of Resistance" (Hezbollah, Yemen, Iraqi militias) as a [single front](#) where a victory for one is a victory for all, fundamentally altering the calculus for U.S. and Israeli interventions.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic outlook is dominated by the volatility of energy markets tied to the Strait of Hormuz. Iran asserts that the U.S. and Israel have failed to achieve their objectives through "bombing campaigns" and must now

reckon with the economic consequences of a blocked trade artery. The EU is portrayed as the primary victim of this policy.

Key Economic Vectors:

- **Energy Insecurity:** Ongoing hostilities have resulted in [increases in oil and gas prices](#), threatening EU stability ahead of winter.
- **European Poverty:** Eurostat data shows [72.4 million people](#) at risk of poverty across the 27-nation block.
- **Military Procurement:** NATO allies announced over [50 billion dollars](#) in new military and procurement industrial agreements.
- **U.S. Strategic Reserves:** Reports indicate the [US strategic reserve is "not doing well" following the reopening of the strait.](#)
- **Sanctions impact:** U.S. Treasury reimposed sanctions on Iranian oil after a period of only [25 days](#) of lifted restrictions.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The day's reporting centers on a generational shift in Iranian leadership and the erosion of authority in Western and Israeli governments.

- **Sayyid Mujtaba Khamenei:** Formally elevated to the position of [new leader](#) following his father's martyrdom; his rhetoric is portrayed as strong, focusing on fulfilling a "divine mission" of revenge and resistance.
- **Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei:** Assassinated on [February 28th, 2026](#) in a joint US-Israeli strike while "reciting the Holy Quran while fasting."
- **Benjamin Netanyahu:** Facing a [support base collapse](#) and a legitimacy crisis, according to internal Israeli polling.

- **Mark Rutte:** Mentioned as the [General Secretary of NATO](#) who "blew the cover story" of European reluctance to participate in the war during a meeting in the Oval Office.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

Press TV's editorial hierarchy is strictly ordered to reinforce **state continuity and resilience**. The "Lead Stories" are almost exclusively focused on the funeral of Ali Khamenei and the "divine mission" of revenge. This is followed by stories detailing the "failure" of Western sanctions and military moves. "Buried Stories" include details of the actual military losses sustained by Iran during the 40-day war, which are abstracted into "martyrdom" rather than tactical assessment. The emotional tone is highly nationalistic, transitioning from mourning to defiance. A conspicuous omission is any mention of the domestic economic strain within Iran or any public debate regarding the father-to-son succession within the clerical leadership, which is a significant departure from historical revolutionary norms.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The day's reporting frames a world divided between a "civilized" Resistance and a "barbaric," "anachronistic" Western-Zionist alliance.

COUNTRIES

- **Iran:** Portrayed as a "scientific and engineering powerhouse" that is [united over this war](#) and capable of defeating the U.S. military budget.

- **United States:** Framed as a "failing empire" run by "Austin Powers" characters rather than James Bond, prone to "grotesque errors of judgment" [under Donald Trump](#).
- **Israel:** Characterized as a "cancerous illegal entity" and a "rabid, cancerous dog" [backing provocations](#) that will lead to its eventual "dissolution" by UN vote.
- **Oman:** Framed as a "brotherly neighbor" [taking control over its own sovereignty](#) in tandem with Iran.

LEADERS

- **Mujtaba Khamenei:** Portrayed as the "avenger of Allah" and the [legitimate successor](#) to a divine mission.
- **Donald Trump:** Characterized as "volatile," "stupid," and a "pedophile clown" who is [sick and tired](#) of high gas prices yet incapable of stopping the war machine.
- **Keir Starmer:** Portrayed as having "blood on his hands" for allowing American bombers to use [British airfields](#).

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The broadcast repeatedly characterizes the funeral as a [referendum](#) to counter Western claims of a "narrow-based regime."
- **Psy-Ops:** Intelligence sources claim the U.S. leaked false reports through Axios to make Iranians appear "desperate to negotiate" [to cause discord](#).
- **Propaganda:** Iran highlights its use of "soft power," including [Lego movies](#) on social media, to win the global "propaganda war" against the U.S.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Total Maritime Blockade:** If the U.S. continues sanctions, Iran and Oman will likely formalize a complete [closure of the Strait of Hormuz](#), triggering an unprecedented global energy shock.
- **Escalation in Lebanon:** The increase in Israeli incendiary attacks in the [Tyre district](#) suggests a secondary front is being activated to relieve pressure on the primary Iranian front.
- **The "Mujtaba Era":** The new leadership will likely pursue a more [aggressive retaliatory policy](#) to establish domestic and regional authority following the power transition.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect heightened alerts in the Strait of Hormuz and potential retaliatory strikes against U.S. assets in the region as the [period of mourning](#) concludes. High likelihood of domestic unrest in Israel as Netanyahu's legitimacy further erodes.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): Formalization of new regional security treaties between Iran, Oman, and potentially Yemen. The U.S. mid-term elections in [November](#) will likely drive high volatility in Trump's foreign policy as he balances military aggression with domestic economic pain.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Structural shift toward a [multipolar world](#) where Western influence in West Asia is replaced by an "Axis of Resistance" managed economy. Energy supply chains will permanently bypass Western-dominated routes.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- Total War Triggered by "Snapback": The E3 attempt to invoke the UN [snapback mechanism](#) for sanctions. Triggers: Diplomatic deadlock at the UN. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: High (total abandonment of remaining nuclear safeguards). Mitigations: Russian/Chinese veto and parallel regional diplomacy.
- Global Energy Collapse: Prolonged closure of the [Strait of Hormuz](#). Triggers: Firing of another Iranian warning missile or U.S. attempt to open the strait by force. Likelihood: High. Impact: Extreme economic depression in the EU. Mitigations: U.S. withdrawal of regional interventions.
- Fragmentation of Lebanon: Collapse of the [ceasefire agreement](#) due to Israeli fighter jet incursions. Triggers: Continued incendiary balloon releases. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Regional proxy war expansion. Mitigations: Enforcement of the June 26th framework agreement.
- Western Civil Unrest: Protests against [energy-driven poverty](#) in the EU and UK. Triggers: A hard winter combined with high fuel prices. Likelihood: High. Impact: Institutional decay and government turnover. Mitigations: Lifting of sanctions on Iranian oil.
- Assassination of New Leadership: U.S./Israeli "decapitation strikes" targeting [Mujtaba Khamenei](#). Triggers: Iranian retaliatory strikes for the Feb 28th attack. Likelihood: Low (due to high security). Impact: Unpredictable regional chaos. Mitigations: De-escalation through Omani mediation.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- Actual Military Damage: The broadcast claims [missiles were photoshopped](#) but fails to provide a verified assessment of the damage sustained by Iranian nuclear and military infrastructure during the "40-day war."
- Succession Legitimacy: No coverage of potential [internal clerical opposition](#) to the appointment of Mujtaba Khamenei, which historically would be a point of significant debate.
- Oman's Position: While Iran claims a "joint strategy," the broadcast lacks official [Omani confirmation](#) that they intend to jointly close the strait against international traffic.
- Economic Reality in Iran: Extensive reporting on EU poverty [72.4 million people](#) while offering zero data on the current state of Iran's economy after months of war and intensified sanctions.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The "Desperate Unity" Hypothesis:** The massive funeral turnout is not a sign of state strength but a **final cathartic release** before the regime collapses under the weight of economic isolation. The move toward Oman is a desperate attempt to find a single economic lifeline rather than a strategic triumph.

- **The "Mujtaba Stalling" Tactic:** The new leader's rhetoric of "divine mission" is a **cover for an internal purge** as he seeks to consolidate power among the IRGC rank-and-file. The "Resistance Economy" is failing, and the threat to the strait is a stalling tactic to prevent further U.S. strikes during this vulnerability.
- **Black Swan - The Israeli Implosion:** Rather than Iran failing, the "legitimacy crisis" for [Netanyahu](#) leads to a sudden Israeli civil war between secularists and settlers, leading to a total U.S. retreat from the region to manage the fallout of its primary ally's collapse.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Discussions centered on the validity of international nuclear oversight and regional maritime frameworks.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:** **UN Resolution 2231**—Debate over the expiration of the mandate for nuclear oversight and the illegality of the snapback mechanism [snapback mechanism](#).
- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:** **Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding**—Iranian officials detailed 14 points of violation by the U.S. and asserted that Article 5 gives Iran [exclusive control over the Strait](#).

KEY STORIES

- **Funeral of Ali Khamenei:** Mass mourning for the assassinated leader, attended by an estimated [20-30 million people](#) (later cited as 43 million across the region).

- **Succession to Mujtaba Khamenei:** The formal transition of power and the new leader's [strongly worded ultimatum](#) to the U.S. and Israel.
- **Strait of Hormuz Closure:** Coordination between Iran and Oman to [assert territorial control](#) and reject international water status.
- **EU Finance Meeting in Brussels:** Assessment of the [mounting economic costs](#) and energy insecurity resulting from the U.S. "illegal war."
- **North Korea NATO Reaction:** Pyongyang slams the [NATO summit in Turkey](#) and the \$50 billion arms deal as a threat to Asia-Pacific peace.
- **Israeli Demolitions in the West Bank:** UN sounds the alarm over structural destruction and the displacement of [3,200 people](#) since the start of the year.
- **London Healthcare Protests:** Campaigners gather to demand the release of [Dr. Hussam Abu Safia](#) from Israeli custody.
- **Netanyahu Polling Collapse:** Israeli media reports a drastic drop in prime ministerial [approval ratings](#).
- **Russian-Ukraine War Update:** Kiev hit by 10 missiles and [100 drones](#) in a "tit for tat" overnight strike.
- **Albania Corruption Probe:** Investigation into a Jared Kushner-backed [luxury resort project](#) involving forged deeds and drug trafficking.
- **Venezuela Earthquake:** Death toll from twin quakes rises above [4,000 people](#).

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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