

# The Right Side of History



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**Martyr Khamenei in the Military Affairs  
Office of the Commander-in-Chief**



## Words of Wisdom

I wish to emphasize this point to global public opinion and to all free-thinking people throughout the world that if the interests of our country in the Persian Gulf region are threatened in any way, our decision regarding the Strait of Hormuz will be firm and decisive. If we wish to disturb the security of this region one day, neither the US and British fleets nor any other power will be capable of restoring it.

From Martyr Khamenei's speech on Feb. 21, 1984



## Word for Word

If the US warship doesn't become involved itself, it will be safe. But if it does become involved and wants to create tension, to engage in combat, or to attack somewhere, we will naturally defend ourselves. That's the issue. When we stood up to the US's aggressions and struck back, sending several of their warships to the bottom of the sea, that brought us honor in the eyes of nations, in the eyes of revolutionaries around the world, and even in the eyes of those weak regimes that are incapable of resisting the superpowers. The Islamic Republic has lost nothing by this. But the US has - both spiritually and materially. Militarily, it will become clear to nations that all this uproar of a superpower was nothing but empty talk.

Who is the US to come here, give opinions about the Persian Gulf, and try to rally support? They aren't after increasing security. They're pursuing their own interests. If they deem it necessary to destabilize a region, they do so. And they support those who create instability.

From Martyr Khamenei's Friday Prayer sermons on August 14, 1987 and his speech in meeting with officials and ambassadors of Islamic countries on May 16, 2015



## Memorable Frame



**The martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Sayyid Ali Khamenei (ra) on the coast of the Persian Gulf in 2011**

He gazes toward the distant blue horizons — this ancient expanse, a perpetual thorn in the throats of tyrants. The Persian Gulf lies still, majestic and serene, as if it had never roared, never swallowed the aggressors whole. But his sharp, penetrating eyes see beyond the surface. He sees the carcasses of pharaohs drifting on the waves. He sees the hand of God dismantling the conspiracies of oppressors.

This magnificent body of water, a living testament to fallen empires and a witness to centuries of resistance, waits in quiet dignity alongside the noble and courageous people of this coast. He stares so deeply into the vastness that it seems as though history is

unfolding before his very eyes, as if he can see the youth of this ancient and historic land once again drowning tyrants in the same waters where their predecessors met their fate.

There, by the pier, he watches. The Persian Gulf has seen it all — the occupation and expulsion of the Portuguese, the struggles against Dutch and British colonialism, and now, the humiliating retreat of the Americans. The Persian Gulf is safe. It will remain safe — in the hands of the Persians, the rightful owners of this great expanse. And he knows, with quiet certainty, that as long as this nation stands, no foreign power will ever find a foothold here.



## The People Rise Up

**Should any event befall this country, Almighty God will raise these people to confront it. The people will be the ones who will stop it.**

Martyr Khamenei

Feb. 1, 2026



**Iranian people holding their flag flying 24/7 at Valiasr Square in Tehran, even through the stormy weather**



## Opinion

# The start of a new chapter for the Persian Gulf

Throughout history, new security orders and arrangements have often emerged at pivotal moments and critical junctures. The Third Imposed War and the US-Zionist aggression against Iran stand as one such turning point. The defeat of the aggressors, coupled with Iran's resilience and display of strength, has set the stage for fundamental changes in the prevailing dynamics of the Persian Gulf region. In this context, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution has used the term «a new chapter for the Persian Gulf.» In a message marking National Persian Gulf Day on April 30, he stressed: «Today, two months after the largest military deployment and aggression carried out by the world's tyrants in the region and following the US's humiliating defeat in its scheme, a new chapter for the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz is unfolding.»

If we consider «a new chapter for the Persian Gulf» as an analytical framework for understanding the region's security and geopolitical transformations, we are in fact witnessing a phase of the gradual redefinition of the traditional order in one of the world's most strategic waterways — a phase in which old assumptions about security, deterrence, and the role of external powers are being seriously challenged.

The first pillar of this «new chapter» is the progressive discrediting of the imported security model. For decades, security in the Persian Gulf region was largely based on the military

presence of extra regional powers, particularly the United States. However, the experiences of recent decades have shown that this model has not only failed to bring stability but has itself become a source of escalating tensions. From this perspective, external security dependence, rather than reducing insecurity, has created structural fragility. As part of this trend, one of the most significant changes is the expulsion of America from the region. In fact, the US presence has turned into a «destabilizing actor,» as we witness growing doubts about the effectiveness of the existing security order and a strengthening of the idea that a fundamental revision is necessary. Regional countries, after witnessing the ineffectiveness of American bases on their soil against Iran's retaliatory strikes, have become increasingly aware of the futility of the US presence in the region.

Within this same framework, the concept of deterrence has also undergone a transformation. In the new strategic discourse, Iran's capabilities across various military and non military fields, particularly in light of recent events, are presented as a factor that alters the adversary's calculations. The key point is that the «cost of military action» has risen in the minds of regional and extra regional actors, and this in itself constitutes a decisive variable in the equations of power.

Perhaps one of the most central elements of the «new chapter for the Persian Gulf» is the issue of the management and strategic position of the Strait of Hormuz. The Strait of Hormuz is not merely a geographical passage; it is one of the world's most vital energy arteries, where any change in its status could have global repercussions. In this context, emphasizing Iran's role in managing this waterway is a geopolitical reality. As the most important coastal country of this strait, Iran has an undeniable role in the equations concerning its security and stability, and this position gives it a special standing in the regional order.

In this new analytical view, this position is understood not merely as an instrument of pressure, but as a regulatory lever — a lever that, in the event of increased tension or reduced cooperation, can have a direct impact on the global energy economy. This very reality has transformed the Strait of Hormuz from a mere transit route into a central component of deterrence and regional security equations.

Alongside these hard power dimensions, the soft power aspect of the developments is also of particular importance. The public opinion of the region's countries is gradually reassessing its traditional perceptions of security. Whereas in the past the presence of external powers was seen as a guarantee of stability, today that presence is being questioned in public opinion as a factor perpetuating dependency and even instability. This shift in perception is perhaps slow, but it is fundamental.



## Choose the Right Side of History

**Images of children from Minab at the University of California, Berkeley, USA**



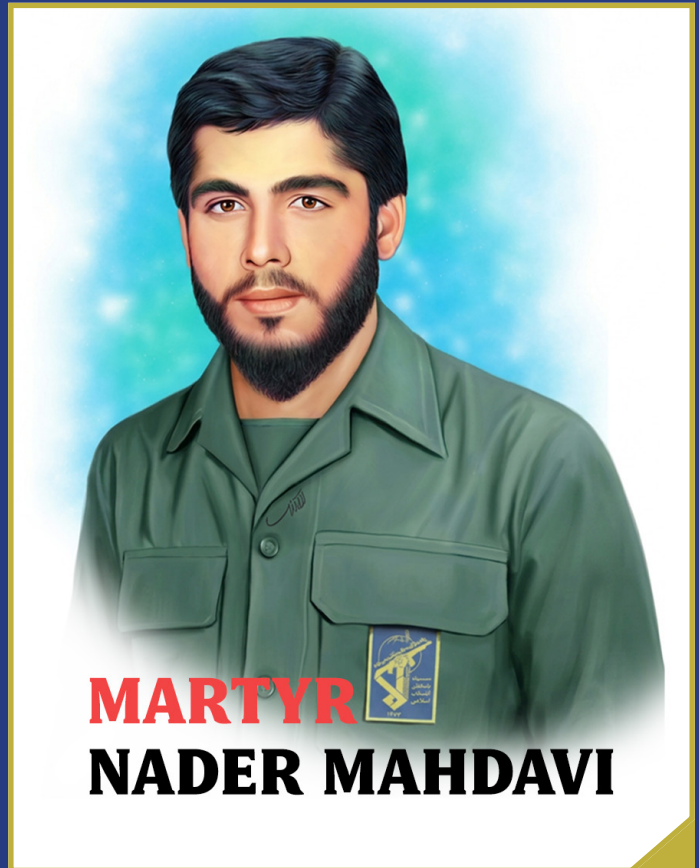


## A Moment with Caravan of Martyrs

### Martyr Nader Mahdavi

Martyr Nader Mahdavi (Hossein Basriya) was born on June 4, 1963, into a devout and pious yet underprivileged family in the village of Nokar, part of the Bahiri district in Dashti County, Bushehr Province. He was the sixth child in his family and showed remarkable talent and interest in learning from a young age. He memorized the Holy Quran in a short period, demonstrating both his intelligence and dedication. After completing primary school, he continued his studies at Adab School in Khormuj, but due to economic difficulties and his growing commitment to revolutionary activities, he had to leave school in the second year of middle school. Despite this, he continued to assist his family while actively participating in the revolutionary movement.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Nader Mahdavi joined the special Basij in December 1979 and devoted his life to the goals of Islam and the revolution. When the imposed war by Iraq began, he was determined to serve on the frontlines. In 1981, he officially joined the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and completed his initial military training. He participated in several missions in Tehran and Ahvaz and took part in Operation Tariq al-Quds, later becoming deputy commander of the IRGC headquarter in Jam, where he trained and guided local forces and safeguarded the region from threats. Later, Mahdavi returned to Bushehr and assumed command of operations in Khark. He founded the naval unit of Amir al-Mu'minin (pbuh) and trained his forces for maritime operations. He played a key role in Operations Badr, Valfajr-8, and Karbala-3, implementing technical



innovations such as lightweight aluminum stairs to enhance operational success. When American forces entered the Persian Gulf, Mahdavi and his unit confronted them with courage and skill, successfully laying mines that sank the Kuwaiti oil tanker "Bridgeton," boosting the morale of Iranian forces and earning the praise of Imam Khomeini.

In numerous encounters with American helicopters and warships, Mahdavi always remained at the forefront, even risking his own life to rescue the wounded and fallen comrades. On October 8, 1987, during a patrol mission near Farsi Island, he and his team engaged in a fierce battle with U.S. forces. Despite opportunities to escape, Mahdavi stayed to protect his team and resist the enemy. He was ultimately captured and, after enduring brutal torture, was martyred. Even in death, his courage instilled fear in the enemy, and his body was returned to Iran with his hands and feet bound.

Martyr Mahdavi's contributions marked a turning point in Iran's naval defense. By establishing the Zulfiqar naval unit and training specialized forces, he enhanced Iran's deterrence and demonstrated that no aggression against Iranian waters would go unanswered. His dedication, courage, and

strategic foresight set an enduring example for future generations. His spirit of resistance and sacrifice continued long after his death; nearly forty years later, his comrades, including Martyr Tangsiri, successfully expelled the United States from the Persian Gulf, securing Iran's maritime sovereignty and power.



## Narrating the Art



“Those foreigners from thousands of kilometers away, who are greedily carrying out transgressions in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman, have no place here except at the bottom of its waters.” As our Leader, Imam Sayyid Mojtaba Khamenei, has emphasized, the presence of hostile forces will not be tolerated in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. This narrative reflects the emergence of a new world power that is establishing new rules for the global political

and economic order.

Since the beginning of the Third Imposed War, the US-Zionist enemy has relentlessly sought to impose defeat on Iran on every possible front. Yet their miscalculations regarding the strength of the Iranian Armed Forces have become their greatest adversary, placing them in an untenable dilemma: escalating tensions leads only to further economic and military exhaustion, while retreating risks the loss of a so-called international reputation. What began as a war aimed at changing Iran's governing system has now become a struggle over reopening the Strait of Hormuz—a strait that was freely navigable before the US-Zionist enemy launched its aggression.

The despicable President of the US has repeatedly threatened Iran and propagated falsehoods in the media, all in an attempt to reopen one of the world's most vital energy lifelines. Yet all his efforts have been futile. A definitive decision has been made under the directive of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, stipulating that no hostile forces are permitted to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, and any malicious attempt by adversaries will end with their destruction at the bottom of its waters. From the era of Martyr Rais-Ali Delvari to that of Martyr Nader Mahdavi and Martyr Alireza Tangsiri, Iranians have maintained sovereignty and guardianship over the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, a status that will be preserved in the future.



## A Word to My Martyred Leader

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful,

I extend my deepest condolences on the profound loss of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, a figure whose life shaped the faith and hearts of so many. With his passing, I feel personally orphaned — as though a source of guidance has been taken from my own spiritual life.

Though words fall short in moments like these, I pray that God grants patience and strength to his family, the Iranian people, and the global community who mourn this great loss. May the mercy of Allah envelop his soul and elevate his place among the righteous.

My heart is heavy with sorrow, and my prayers are with all who are grieving. May you find solace in the sincere love and respect of people around the world during this hour of deep grief.

In heartfelt sympathy and prayer

SAYYAD ALI IMAM ZAIDI



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