

Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei — Iran's Supreme Leader

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Role: 3rd Supreme Leader of Iran (assumed office 8 March 2026) **Age:** 56 (born 8 September 1969) **Last updated:** 26 May 2026

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei
Born	8 September 1969, Mashhad, Iran
Religion	Shia Islam (Hojjatoleslam — mid-ranking cleric)
Previous roles	Head of Basij paramilitary (effectively, since 2009); Chief of Staff to Supreme Leader (2008–2026)
Predecessor	Ali Khamenei (his father, killed in US-Israeli strikes 28 Feb 2026)

Background

Mojtaba Khamenei is the **second son** of Ali Khamenei. He joined the IRGC at 17 and served in the Iran–Iraq War before studying theology in Qom. He effectively controlled the Basij paramilitary force since 2009 and served as his father's chief of staff from 2008.

He is described as **more hardline than his father**, aligned with ultraconservatives and IRGC hardliners, with close ties to "the most ideologically extremist clerics" (Atlantic Council). Reportedly holds **apocalyptic Messianic beliefs** about Iran's role in bringing about the end of the world.

His elevation to Supreme Leader completed Iran's shift to **hereditary rule** and IRGC domination of the state.

Iran War — Role & Stance

Key Statements (2026)

- **26 May (Eid al-Adha message via state TV):** Regional countries "will no longer serve as shields for American bases" — the US has "no longer any safe haven in the region for aggression"
- **17 March:** Rejected de-escalation proposals, demanding the US and Israel be "brought to their knees"
- **12 March (first written message):** Promised revenge for the "martyrs" killed in the Feb 28 strikes
- **18 April:** Iranian navy ready to inflict "new bitter defeats" on enemies

Physical Condition — Unclear

Reports are contradictory:

- Minor injuries (face and foot)
- Reports of **life-threatening wounds** requiring transfer to Moscow for treatment
- **No confirmed video footage or audio** released since his appointment — all messages written and read via state TV
- Some analysts believe the **IRGC is dictating his messages**
- Some senior clerics have called for an Interim Leadership Council

Public Reception

- Widely **mocked and rejected** by ordinary Iranians — protesters chanted "Death to Mojtaba"
 - His appointment seen as completing IRGC takeover of the state
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Twitter/X Discussion

“ Source: Nitter search, 26 May 2026

No significant discussion found on Nitter/X for this period — section created on setup.

Reddit Discussion

🗨️ Source: Reddit, 26 May 2026

No significant discussion found yet — section created on setup.

Sources

- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mojtaba_Khamenei
 - Atlantic Council profile
 - Al Jazeera
 - Reuters
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