





Following the martyrdom of the honorable general of Islam - Lieutenant General Haaj Qasem Soleimani - and the martyrs accompanying him, particularly the great fighter of Islam, Mr. Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis, the Leader of the Revolution issued the following message.

In the Name of God, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

Dear Iranian Nation

The great and accomplished Sardar has become heavenly. Last night, the untainted souls of the martyrs embraced the pure soul of Qasem Soleimani. After years of sincere and courageous struggle against the devils and evil-doers of the world and after years of wishing for martyrdom for the cause of God Almighty, our dear Soleimani attained this lofty status and position and his pure blood was shed by the vilest wickedest of the people of the world.

I congratulate Hazrat Baqiyatullah (the Imam of the time) - may our souls be sacrificed for him - and his (General Soleimani's) own pure soul on this great martyrdom and I express my condolences to the Iranian

nation. He was a prominent example of those educated and nurtured in Islam and the school of Imam Khomeini (ra). He spent his entire life engaging in struggle for the cause of God Almighty. Martyrdom was his reward for years of indefatigable efforts. With his departure and with God's power, his work and path will not cease and severe revenge awaits those criminals who have tainted their filthy hands with his blood and the blood of the other martyrs of last night's incident. Martyr Soleimani was an international embodiment of resistance and all those who have a heart-felt connection to the resistance seek revenge for his blood. All friends - and indeed all enemies - should know that the path of jihad and resistance will continue with increased motivation and

definite victory awaits the mujahidin on this blessed path. The absence of our dear and self-sacrificing Sardar is bitter, but the continuation of the resistance and its final victory will be more bitter for the murderers and criminals.

The Iranian nation will cherish the name and memory of the towering martyr, Lieutenant General Qasem Soleimani, together with his fellow martyrs especially the great mujahid of Islam the honorable Mr. Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. I declare three days of public mourning in the country and I congratulate and also express my condolences to his honorable wife, dear children and his other family members and relatives.

Sayyid Ali Khamenei

January 3, 2019