

# AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI: IDEOLOGY AND POLICIES

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## Ayatollah Khamenei: Ideology and Policies

Under the Islamic Republic of Iran's *velayat-e faqih* (guardianship of the jurist) system of government, the Supreme Leader, [Ayatollah Ali Khamenei](#), is the most powerful political official in Iran. His powers **include** "constitutional authority over the judiciary, the regular armed forces and the elite Revolutionary Guards, and the state-controlled media." Given the power vested in Ayatollah Khamenei's position, understanding his political and ideological views—"In His Own Words"—is crucial to understanding the Iranian regime's current domestic and foreign policies.

**"Nuclear negotiations have been "another valuable experience for everyone to know that being in touch with Americans and talking to them is useless and has absolutely no effect on decreasing their enmity."**

### Nuclear Program

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**"We will never accept their bullying over the nuclear deal ... Americans are using all the wickedness to damage the result of the nuclear talks. Any retreat by Iran will make America more blatant and impudent ... Resistance is the only option."**

[November 2, 2017 in a televised speech](#)

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**"Trump's stupidity should not distract us from America's deceitfulness ... If the U.S. tears up the deal, we will shred it ... Everyone should know that once again America will receive a slap in its mouth and will be defeated by Iranians."**

[October 18, 2017 in a speech to students in Tehran](#)

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**"The current U.S. government has breached the nuclear deal in many occasions. The latest is extension of sanctions for 10 years, that if it happens, would surely be against JCPOA, and the Islamic Republic would definitely react to it."**

[November 23, 2016 addressing members of the Revolutionary Guards](#)

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**"The JCPOA, as an experience, once again proved the futility of negotiations with the Americans, their lack of commitment to their promises and the necessity of distrust of US pledges."**

[August 1, 2016](#)

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**"We do not violate the deal, but if the other party violates it, if they tear the agreement up, we will light it on fire."**

[June 15, 2016](#)

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**"Nuclear negotiations have been "another valuable experience for everyone to know that being in touch with Americans and talking to them is useless and has absolutely no effect on decreasing their enmity."**

[August 13, 2014 address to Iran's foreign minister, ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions](#)

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**"Those [Iranians] who want to promote negotiations and surrender to the oppressors and blame the Islamic Republic as a warmonger in reality commit treason."**

[May 25, 2014 public address to parliament](#)

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**"They expect us to limit our missile program while they constantly threaten Iran with military action. So this is a stupid, idiotic expectation ... The revolutionary guards should definitely carry out their program and not be satisfied with the present level. They should mass produce. This is a main duty of all military officials."**

[May 11, 2014 remarks at an aeronautics fair held by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps](#)

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**"Our negotiators should not accept any coercive words from the other party. The country's nuclear achievements can't be stopped, and no one has the right to bargain over it."**

[April 9, 2014 speech to nuclear scientists and officials to mark Iran's National Day of Nuclear Technology](#)

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**"Some of the officials of the previous government as well as the officials of this government think the problem will be resolved if they negotiate the nuclear issue...I repeat it again that I am not optimistic about the negotiations and they will lead nowhere, but I am not against them... The nuclear issue is an excuse for America (to continue) its animosity."**

[-February 17, 2014 speech](#)

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**"We had announced that the Islamic Republic would negotiate - whenever it thinks it is expedient - with this Satan on specific issues in order to eradicate its evil deeds and solve the problems... One of the blessings of the recent negotiations was that the enmity of the Americans and the officials of the government of the United States of America towards Iran and the Iranians, and towards Islam and Muslims became clear to everyone."**

[- January 9, 2014 remarks in Qom on nuclear negotiations with the U.S.](#)

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**"Today, you are hated throughout the world. If you don't know this, you should. The peoples burn your flag. The Islamic peoples all over the world chant: 'Death to America!'"**

## **Anti-Americanism and Anti-Westernism**

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**"The American president's foolish remarks against our people show the depth of America's hostility towards the entire Iranian nation. America is the number one enemy of our nation."**

[November 2, 2017 in a televised speech](#)

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**"We actually thank this new president [Trump]! We thank him, because he made it easier for us to reveal the real face of the United States. What we have been**

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saying, for over thirty years, about political, economic, moral, and social corruption within the U.S. ruling establishment, he came out and exposed during the election campaigns and after the elections.”

[February 7, 2017 in a meeting with Iranian Army Air Force commanders and officials](#)

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“Negotiation with the Americans would not resolve our problems because firstly they are liars, untrustworthy, deceitful and backstabbers.”

[November 23, 2016 marking the anniversary of the seizure of U.S. embassy and subsequent hostage crisis](#)

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“You heard ‘Death to Israel’, ‘Death to the US.’ You could hear it. The whole nation was shaken by these slogans. It wasn’t only confined to Tehran. The whole of the nation, you could hear, that was covered by this great movement. So we ask Almighty God to accept these prayers by the people of Iran.”

[July 18, 2015 praising Quds Day rallies which took place the week prior](#)

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"Enemy spy services are behind the efforts to sow disunity among Muslims... A Shia version connected to the British spy agency—the MI6—and a Sunni version, which is the mercenary of the CIA, are both fake and working against Islam."

[January 9, 2015 remarks implying the U.S. is behind the creation of ISIS](#)

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"Relations with the US and negotiating with that country, except in specific cases, will have no benefit to the Islamic Republic, but rather will be harmful."

[August 13, 2014 address to Iran's foreign minister, ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions](#)

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"Battle and jihad are endless because evil and its front continue to exist. ... This battle will only end when the society can get rid of the oppressors' front with America at the head of it, which has expanded its claws on human mind, body and thought"

[May 25, 2014 public address to parliament](#)

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"The Americans are enemies of the Islamic Revolution, they are enemies of the Islamic Republic, they are enemies of this flag that you have raised."

[February 17, 2014 speech broadcast on state television](#)

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"We should not make a mistake in knowing the main enemy, who in the present time is global arrogance and the criminal Zionist network... We should properly identify the methods of this hostile enemy which is creating discord among Muslims, promoting moral and political corruption, threatening and tempting outstanding personalities, exerting economic pressures on all nations and arousing doubts about Islamic beliefs... Arrogant governments, headed by the USA, conceal their true character with the help of comprehensive and advanced propaganda tools. By claiming that they support human rights and democracy, they deceive public opinion in different countries."

[October 14, 2013 speech to Iran's annual Hajj pilgrims](#)

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"Today, a number of western intellectuals feel that they are in danger on the issue of women. Issues such as homosexuality result from such an outlook. This

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outlook is, definitely, one of the factors which will lead to the fall of western civilization."

[May 11, 2013 speech to Iranian women](#)

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"The European races are barbaric. They wear freshly pressed suits and ties, and they smell of eau de cologne, but deep down, they still have the same barbaric nature known from history. They kill with ease. They murder people without any problem. Therefore, beating women in their homes is of no consequence to the [Europeans] and Americans, whereas in an Islamic environment, it is unimaginable."

[May 10, 2010 address at a conference for women](#)

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"Today, you are hated throughout the world. If you don't know this, you should. The peoples burn your flag. The Islamic peoples all over the world chant: 'Death to America!'"

[March 21, 2009 speech responding to Obama's diplomatic outreach to Iran](#)

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"The United States is taking advantage of the weakness of Islamic countries and is bullying and intimidating their governments. The United States, while being submissive to the usurper Zionist regime at all times, is bullying and blackmailing certain Arab governments."

[January 8, 2007 speech to residents of Qom](#)

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"Today, America poses a threat to peace and security in the world. Therefore, the slogan 'Death to America' is no longer used only by our people. Today, you see throughout the world people setting fire to the effigy of the American president and chanting the slogan 'Death to America.' This is because of the American regime's exaggerated demands, its arrogance, its vanity, and its desire to control, and because it is a pawn in the hands of the Zionists."

[March 21, 2006 speech](#)

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"They say we are violating human rights. They themselves are the greatest violators of human rights. If in the world today... I don't mean only the Islamic world... If a referendum were held throughout the world, you should have no doubt that the current American president would be grouped together with Sharon, Saddam, and Milosevic, as the icons of evil."

[March 21, 2006 speech](#)

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"They talk about democracy, about human rights, about global security, and about the war on terror, but their evil inner self reveals how warmongering they are, reveals how they trample the rights of the peoples, and reveals their great desire and insatiable appetite for the world's energy sources. The peoples see these things. Day by day, the reputation of liberal democracy and of America - the vanguard of liberal democracy in the world - is diminished in the eyes of the world."

[March 21, 2006 public address](#)

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"The Western values that have led to the collapse of ethics and spread of revelry,

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violence, legalization of homosexuality and other such fiascos in their countries, cannot be followed. Islam with its sublime values is the highest source of salvation for human beings."

[January 9, 2006 speech for Hajj pilgrims](#)

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"The United States is a monopolist power. It wants the entire world under its hegemony and domination."

[August 19, 2005 sermon made at Tehran Friday Prayers](#)

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"Our people say 'Death to America,' and this is like saying 'I seek God's refuge from the accursed Satan,' which is recited before any chapter of the Koran, even before 'In the name of Allah the Compassionate, the Merciful.' Why is this? So the believer will never forget, even for a moment, the presence of Satan. So he will never forget, even for a moment, that Satan is ready to attack him and to destroy his spiritual shield and is faith... The saying 'Death to America' is for this purpose."

[March 14, 2005 speech](#)

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"What the United States, which has been spearheading the aggression against our Islamic revolution, expects from our nation and government is submission and surrender to its hegemony, and this is the real motive for U.S. claims regarding weapons of mass destruction, human rights or democracy."

[May 12, 2003 address to students at Shahid Beheshti University](#)

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"More than Iran's enemies need artillery, guns and so forth, they need to spread cultural values that lead to moral corruption. They have said this many times. I recently read in the news that a senior official in an important American political center, said: 'Instead of bombs, send them miniskirts.' He is right. If they arouse sexual desires in any given country, if they spread unrestrained mixing of men and women, and if they lead youth to behavior to which they are naturally inclined by instincts, there will no longer be any need for artillery and guns against that nation."

[2003 address on Iranian State TV](#)

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"The U.S. government has not yet lost its insatiable greed for domination of our country. They are still thinking of restoring their evil domination of Iran, which intensified with the coup [of former Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh] on August 19, 1953, and continued until the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. They are still dreaming of the days when the head of state in this country, namely the corrupt and treacherous Mohammad Reza [Pahlavi], made no decisions until he consulted with U.S. officials."

[July 17, 2002 address to education ministry officials](#)

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"Ever since the emergence of the cancerous tumor of Zionism in Palestine, the Western countries have been acting in collusion with the Zionist regime. In other words, Israel has been tasked with protecting the regional interests of the Western powers by posing a constant threat to the security of the Islamic

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**countries in the region. And the Western countries, in return, have pledged to fully support this cancerous tumor. Today, it is the United States that is playing a major role in supporting the Zionist entity."**

[January 31, 2002 statements to the Islamic World Media conference held in Tehran](#)

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**"The U.S. officials are now revealing their true nature. In his recent speech, the U.S. president spoke like a person who is thirsty for the blood of human beings! He threatened and leveled baseless accusations against other governments and nations. Considering the existing realities on the ground, most of the nations in the world have now come to the conclusion that the U.S. is really the Great Satan. This belief is also substantiated by concrete evidence."**

[January 31, 2002 statements to the Islamic World Media conference held in Tehran](#)

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**"The U.S. is currently leveling baseless accusations against the Islamic Republic. We are proud of this, as we will never welcome praise and admiration from the most hated and the most evil regime in the world."**

[January 31, statements to the Islamic World Media conference held in Tehran](#)

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**"Those at the helm in Washington have no sense of spirituality and have no respect for human rights. If they can, they will deal in the most brutal manner with those nations that refuse to submit to their domination and refuse to bend the knee to them."**

[January 31, 2002 statements to the Islamic World Media conference held in Tehran](#)

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**"The occupation of Palestine is a part of a satanic design by the world domineering powers, perpetrated by the British in the past and being carried out today by the United States to weaken the solidarity of the Islamic world and to sow the seeds of disunity among us."**

[April 24, 2001 speech in Tehran at the International Conference on Palestinian Intifada](#)

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**"The freedom of speech about which the [Westerners] talk so much does not permit anyone to doubt the myth about the massacre of the Jews, known as the Holocaust."**

## **Anti-Semitism**

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**The "Holocaust is an event whose reality is uncertain and if it has happened, it's uncertain how it has happened."**

[March 21, 2014 speech marking Nowruz, the Persian New Year](#)

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**"Today in many western countries, nobody dares question the Holocaust whose nature is questionable. According to the reports I have received, in America if people decide to write something against homosexuality on the basis of psychological and sociological principles, they will be prevented from publishing their work. How is it that these people feel obligated to respect freedom of expression?"**

[September 17, 2012 comments made during a graduation ceremony at Imam Khomeini Naval Academy in Noshahr](#)

**"The attempt of the media outlets belonging to the oppressive world order/hegemony to highlight deviant paradigms draws inspiration from the dangerous aims of the Zionist Protocols. This paradigm, built by the media, is based on a clear and well-defined policy."**

[October 18, 2011 speech in the city of Kermanshah, professing his belief in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, the classic anti-Semitic publication that describes a Jewish plan for global domination](#)

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**"The freedom of speech about which the [Westerners] talk so much does not permit anyone to doubt the myth about the massacre of the Jews, known as the Holocaust... I assume that a profound Zionist plot is at the core of the matter. They are setting the Muslims and Christians against one another. This is very important for the Zionists - to set the great Muslim community around the world against the Christians, and to set the Christians against the Muslims. That's what this is about. This is the handiwork of the Zionists."**

[February 7, 2006 speech accusing a "Zionist plot" of being behind the publication of cartoons of Muhammad in a Danish newspaper](#)

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**"Western countries allow no freedom of expression, which they claim to advocate, with regard to the myth of the massacre of Jews known as the holocaust, and nobody in the West enjoys the freedom of expression to deny it or raise doubts about it. But affronting the sanctities of about 1.5 billion Muslims is permissible in the West."**

[February 7, 2006 remarks at a reception for Air Force Servicemen](#)

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**"Today, most international media that broadcast to nearly all countries in the world, including to the Arab and Islamic countries, are controlled or influenced by the Zionist circles. The Zionists have long been trying to dominate and take control of the world media in order to change the international atmosphere in their own favor by airing pro-Zionist propaganda, and this is what they have already done."**

[January 31, 2002 statements to the Islamic World Media conference held in Tehran](#)

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**"Furthermore, all the Western politicians, intellectuals and journalists are obliged to pay homage and bow to the monument that commemorates those allegedly killed in the Nazi concentration camps. In other words, all should acknowledge the veracity of something that has not been proven! This is also one of the propaganda means being applied by the Zionists to portray themselves as the victims of persecution!"**

[January 31, 2002 statements to the Islamic World Media conference held in Tehran](#)

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**"There are documents showing close collaboration of the Zionists with the Nazi Germany, and exaggerated numbers relating to the Jewish holocaust were fabricated to solicit sympathy of the world public opinion, lay the ground for the occupation of Palestine and to justify the atrocities of the Zionists. There is even evidence on hand that a large number of non-Jewish hooligans and thugs of Eastern Europe were forced to migrate to Palestine as Jews. The purpose was to install in the heart of the Islamic world an anti-Islamic state under the guise of**



supporting the victims of racism and to create a rift between the East and the West of the Islamic world after 1400 years of unity between those two parts."

[April 24, 2001 speech in Tehran at the International Conference on Palestinian Intifada](#)

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Zionism is "an extremely short-sighted racist Judaism... There could be no compromise. The struggle to eliminate the Zionist government root and branch... [is] a religious obligation."

[August 16, 1986 remarks reported in the Tehran Home Service](#)

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**"It is the mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to erase Israel from the map of the region."**

## Anti-Zionism

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"Today, the issue of Palestine is the primary issue among the Muslim world, since it has been an Islamic country usurped and turned into a means of sabotaging the security of several countries in the region. This cancerous tumor [Zionist regime] should be fought against."

[November 23, 2017 at an international Ahl al-Bayt conference](#)

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"The Divine promise guarantees definite victory of the resistance. ... I recommend all individuals, who feel the importance of this great responsibility, to continue different methods of fighting against the usurper Zionist Regime."

[November 1, 2017 in a letter to the International Union of Resistance Scholars](#)

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"The Zionist, a vicious and usurper regime in Palestine, and the oppressive and arrogant government backing them in the US have assailed Islam.

[April 25, 2017 in a meeting with officials and ambassadors from Islamic countries](#)

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"From the beginning, this cancerous tumor has been developing in several phases until it turned into the current disaster. The cure for this tumor should be developed in phases as well. Until today, several intifadas and a constant and continuous resistance have managed to achieve very important phased goals. The Palestinian intifada continues to gallop forward in a thunderous manner so that it can achieve its other goals until the complete liberation of Palestine."

[February 21, 2017 Address to the Sixth International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Intifada](#)

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"They (the US) support the child-killer Zionist regime and regional allies that aren't familiar with and don't understand elections at all."

[February 8, 2016](#)

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"This rabid dog, this rapacious wolf, has attacked innocent people and humanity must show a reaction. This is genocide, a catastrophe of historical scale. ... Everyone, whoever has the means, especially in the Islamic world, they should do what they can to arm the Palestinian nation ... the Zionist regime deeply regrets starting this (war) but has no way out."

[July 29, 2014 Eid al-Fitr address marking the end of Ramadan](#)

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**"Once Europeans and Americans realize their biggest problems are due to Zionist dominance over their govts, they'll rebel against their govts."**

[August 1, 2013 tweet](#)

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**"Israel's leaders sometimes threaten Iran, but they know that if they do a damn thing, the Islamic Republic will raze Tel Aviv and [the occupied city of] Haifa to the ground."**

[March 21, 2013 address in the Iranian city of Mashhad on the occasion of Nowruz \(Persian New Year\)](#)

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**Israelis are "ferocious Zionist wolves who digest the Palestinian people"**

[August 30, 2012 comments at Non-Aligned Movement summit](#)

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**"The great powers have dominated the destiny of the Islamic countries for years and... installed the Zionist cancerous tumor in the heart of the Islamic world... Many of the problems facing the Muslim world are due to the existence of the Zionist regime."**

[August 19, 2012 speech marking Eid al-Fitr, the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan](#)

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**"The fake Zionist (regime) will disappear from the landscape of geography."**

[August 15, 2012 comments made at a meeting with Iran-Iraq war veterans](#)

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**"The Zionist regime is a true cancer tumor on this region that should be cut off."**

[February 3, 2012 speech following a successful Iranian satellite launch](#)

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**"From now on, in any place, if any nation or any group confronts the Zionist regime, we will endorse and we will help. We have no fear expressing this... The Zionist regime is a cancerous tumor that must be removed, and God willing it will be."**

[February 3, 2012 sermon at Friday prayers](#)

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**"Israel Is A Hideous Entity In the Middle East Which Will Undoubtedly Be Annihilated."**

[September 2, 2010 tweet](#)

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**"Most barbarous and unparalleled acts of inhumanity are flagrantly committed and proudly announced by the Zionist regime."**

[April 14, 2006 speech on the "Palestinian Issue"](#)

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**"The wealthiest, the most well-armed and nefarious of Western powers urged on by the Zionists wrests this country [Palestine] from its Muslim people and hands it over to a racist, rapacious and terrorist party."**

[April 14, 2006 speech on the "Palestinian Issue"](#)

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**"Ten or eleven years ago, when Yitzhak Rabin was murdered, our president at the time spoke his mind. They made a great fuss because our president expressed his happiness at the murder of the Israeli president... Is it so rare for heads of state to wish that the head of another state be killed? They say this explicitly. It happens all the time. Nowhere else in the world do people get excited about this."**

[December 8, 2005 remarks about the assassination of Israeli President Yitzhak Rabin](#)

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**"Over the past seventy years of their occupation of Palestine, the Zionists have not pulled out of even a single square meter of occupied territories as a result of negotiations... negotiations have never resulted in the liberation of occupied territories and will never do so in the future either."** [August 19, 2005 address at Tehran Friday Prayers](#)

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**"Israel is a contrived regime. It is an illegal regime. It is a usurper regime. They have taken a country from its people by force, through injustice and with ploys. Hence, any kind of negotiations that is based on the acknowledgement of this regime is an illegitimate negotiation and it is a negotiation that will not endure."**

[June 2002 speech on the 13th anniversary of Imam Khomeini's death](#)

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**"Ever since the emergence of the cancerous tumor of Zionism in Palestine, the Western countries have been acting in collusion with the Zionist regime... After this awful disaster struck, no effective and appropriate measure was taken by the Islamic world to counter this catastrophe... But the Islamic world, as a whole, did not respond to this threat in an appropriate manner and did not take effective action to root out this malignant tumor."**

[January 31, 2002 statements to the Islamic World Media conference held in Tehran](#)

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**"It is the mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to erase Israel from the map of the region."**

[January 15, 2001 remarks at a meeting with organizers of the International Conference for Support of the Intifada](#)

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**"Iran's stance has always been clear on this ugly phenomenon (Israel). We have repeatedly said that this cancerous tumor of a state should be removed from the region... No one will allow a bunch of thugs, lechers and outcasts from London, America and Moscow to rule over the Palestinians."**

[December 15, 2000 sermon to worshippers in Tehran](#)

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**There is only one possible solution to unrest in the Middle East, "namely the annihilation and destruction of the Zionist state."**

[December 31, 1999 speech on Qods Day](#)

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**"What are you? A forged government a false nation. They gathered wicked people from all over the world and made something called the Israeli nation. Is that a nation? All the malevolent and evil Jews have gathered there... Those [Jews] who went to Israel were malevolent, evil, greedy thieves and murderers."**

[July 20, 1994 comments on a Radio Iran broadcast](#)

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**“The [2009 election] race between the candidates was completely free, serious, and transparent. Everyone has witnessed that.”**

## **Human Rights and Democracy**

**“Once again, the nation tells the U.S., Britain, and those who seek to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran from abroad that ‘you’ve failed, and you will fail in the future, too’.”**

[January 9, 2018 in a tweet on recent protests against the Iranian regime](#)

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**"In recent days, enemies of Iran used different tools including cash, weapons, politics and intelligence services to create troubles for the Islamic Republic."**

[January 2, 2018 statement on his official website blaming outside forces for recent protests against the Iranian regime](#)

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**"When reviewing this bitter event [the June 2009 election protests], the main issue is that they (seditionists) violated the law and behaved in an uncivilized manner, and stood on the other side of the law and inflicted damage and harm on our dear Iran... Do you know what would have happened if God didn't help us during the sedition of 2009 and a lot of people had died?"**

[July 28, 2013 speech to university students](#)

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**"I am going to address the elite. The nation is vigilant, our elite should be vigilant too. The elite should know that any remarks, action, and analysis, which help them (the enemies), will be against the direction the nation is moving. All of us should be very cautious. We should be very cautious... There are things that should not be said and uttered. If we speak about them, it means that we have acted against our responsibilities."**

[July 20, 2009 speech warning political elites, such as former Iranian Presidents Rafsanjani and Khatami, to not question the results of Ahmadinejad's disputed electoral victory](#)

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**"The race between the candidates was completely free, serious, and transparent. Everyone has witnessed that."**

[June 19, 2009 sermon in his first address following the disputed June 12, 2009 Iranian presidential election, which had sparked widespread social unrest](#)

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**"The enemies of the Iranian nation know that when trust is gone, participation will weaken. When participation and presence on the scene is weakened, the legitimacy of the system will be questioned. This is what they want. They want to undermine trust to weaken participation to deprive the Islamic Republic of legitimacy. The harm inflicted by this is far worse than setting fire to buses and banks. This cannot be compared with any other loss."**

[June 19, 2009 sermon in his first address following the disputed June 2009 Iranian presidential election](#)

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**"The enemies in various media, which mostly belong to the malicious and evil Zionists, tried to portray that the disputes were between the advocates and opponents of the system. No, that was not the case. How dare they say such things. It is not true. The four candidates who stepped in the field of the serious election were and are all members of the system and affiliated to it."**

[June 19, 2009 sermon in his first address following the disputed June 2009 Iranian presidential election](#)

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**"I want to say that we do not claim that financial corruption does not exist in our system... But I want to say that the Islamic Republic system is one of the healthiest political and social systems in the world today. It will not be right if we cite a report by some Zionist centers and accuse the system of corruption."**

[June 19, 2009 sermon in his first address following the disputed June 2009 Iranian presidential election](#)

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**"The legal structures for elections in our country do not leave us room for vote-rigging. Anyone who is involved in elections will know this. And they talk about a difference of 11 million votes [Ahmadinejad's ostensible margin of victory]? Sometimes the difference is 100,000, 500,000 or even 1 million. In that case, one could say that there might have been vote-rigging, but how can they rig 11 million votes?"**

[June 19, 2009 sermon in his first address following the disputed June 2009 Iranian presidential election](#)

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**"If after every election, those who do not win start street rallies and mobilize their supporters in the streets, then those who have won start street rallies in response, then, what is the purpose of holding elections? ... Street challenges after the elections are not the right thing to do. This is, in fact, challenging the principle of elections and democracy. I want everyone to end this sort of action. If they do not end it then the consequences of this lie with them (street protestors)."**

[June 19, 2009 sermon in his first address following the disputed June 2009 Iranian presidential election](#)

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**"Inside the country, their agents were activated. Vandalism started. Sabotaging and setting fires on the streets started. Some shops were looted. They wanted to create chaos. Public security was violated. The violators are not the public or the supporters of the candidates. They are the ill-wishers, mercenaries and agents of the Western intelligence services and the Zionists."**

[June 19, 2009 sermon in his first address following the disputed June 2009 Iranian presidential](#)

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**"I think the American officials should take it upon themselves feel ashamed. The Islamic Republic is the flag-bearer of human rights. The way we defend the suppressed people of Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan shows our commitment. It shows the human rights flag is flying high in Iran. We do not need the advice of others on human rights. That was my take on the election."**

[June 19, 2009 sermon in his first address following the disputed June 2009 Iranian presidential election](#)

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**"The venom of Western liberal democracy, which American propaganda slyly tried to present as a healing medicine, has hurt the body and soul of the Islamic Ummah."**

[April 14, 2006 speech on the "Palestinian Issue"](#)

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**"The United States is claiming that the Iranian officials are not elected by the people, while the fact is that all senior officials of this country are elected through the people's votes. Indeed, the absolute majority of the Iranians have taken part wholeheartedly and enthusiastically in all elections that have been held in the Islamic Republic since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, unlike some other countries in which people do not express much enthusiasm for going to the polls, and in which only a small portion of the population votes in elections."**

[January 31, 2002 statements to the Islamic World Media conference held in Tehran](#)

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