



New Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei injured in attack that killed his father

March 11, 2026 upi.com reported: “Iran's new supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, was injured in the attack that killed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other members of his family.

Mojtaba Khamenei, 56, hasn't appeared in video or public since he was named to the position on Sunday, partially because communication could reveal his position, The New York Times reported that three unnamed Iranian officials said. But they also said he was injured on Feb. 28, the first day of the attack by the United States and Israel...”



*New Iranian Supreme Leader
Mojtaba Khamenei*

Rise of the AI Soldiers

Match 10, 2026 time.com reported: “The Phantom MK-1 looks the part of an AI soldier. Encased in jet black steel with a tinted glass visor, it conjures a visceral dread far beyond what may be evoked by your typical humanoid robot. And on this late February morning, it brandishes assorted high-powered weaponry: a revolver, pistol, shotgun, and replica of an M-16 rifle.

“We think there’s a moral imperative to put these robots into war instead of soldiers,” says Mike LeBlanc, a 14-year Marine Corps veteran with multiple tours of Iraq and Afghanistan, who is a co-founder of Foundation, the company that makes Phantom. He says the aim is for the robot to wield “any kind of weapon that a human can.”

Today, Phantom is being tested in factories and dockyards from Atlanta to Singapore. But its headline claim is to be the world’s first humanoid robot specifically developed for defense applications. Foundation already has research contracts worth a combined \$24 million with the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force, including what’s known as an SBIR Phase 3, effectively making it an approved military vendor. It’s also due to begin tests with the Marine Corps “methods of entry” course, training Phantoms to put explosives on doors to help troops breach sites more safely.

In February, two Phantoms were sent to Ukraine—initially for frontline-reconnaissance support. But Foundation is also preparing Phantoms for potential deployment in combat scenarios for the Pentagon, which “continues to explore the development of militarized humanoid prototypes designed to operate alongside war fighters in complex, high-risk environments,” says a spokesman. LeBlanc says the company is also in “very close contact” with the Department of Homeland Security about possible patrol functions for Phantom along the U.S. southern border.

In just a few short years, the rapid proliferation of AI has turned what was once the stuff of dystopian sci-fi into a reality. LeBlanc argues humanoid soldiers are a natural extension of existing autonomous systems like drones. Compared with risking the lives of teenage grunts, with all the political backlash and risks of stress-induced war crimes and trauma, humanoid soldiers offer a more resilient alternative, with greater restraint and precision. Robots do not suffer from fatigue or fear and can operate continuously in extreme conditions while immune from radiation, chemicals, or biological agents. Moreover, LeBlanc believes that giant armies of humanoid robots will eventually nullify each side’s tactical advantage in any conflict much like nuclear deterrents—exponentially decreasing escalation risks.

The counterargument is, however, chilling: that humanoid soldiers lower political and ethical barriers to initiating conflict, blur responsibility for any abuses, and further dehumanize warfare. Current Pentagon protocols decree automated systems can engage only with a human green light, and Foundation insists that is also its intention for Phantom. However, AI-powered drones in Ukraine are already assessing targets and autonomously firing as Russian radio jamming renders remote operation ineffective. If an adversary decides to allow the autonomous operation of AI-powered soldiers, what’s to stop the U.S. and its allies from reciprocating in the fog of war?...”

IDF expects Iran can keep up fire for extended period despite 75% reduction in ballistic missiles

Match 9, 2026 jpost.com reported: “Despite a 75% reduction in ballistic missile launchers, the IDF expects Iran to keep up its fire on the Jewish state for an extended period, the military said.

On Saturday night, the IDF had sought to reassure Israelis that although there was a spike in Iranian ballistic missile threat sirens, sending millions of Israelis into their safe rooms and bomb shelters throughout the day, the military was making progress and had destroyed 75% of Iran’s missile launchers.

The 75% number was a jump from 65% just two days before, showing continued progress.

Further, military sources said that Saturday saw a continued drop in the number of missiles fired to fewer than 20 from a rate of 100 on the first day of the war and a rate of 20-25 in recent days...”

PLO warns against Passover Sacrifice on Temple Mount

Match 9, 2026 israelnationalnews.com reported: “The Palestine Liberation Organization’s (PLO) department for ‘Al-Quds affairs’ warned about what it described as intentions by ‘settlers’ to carry out the commandment of the Passover sacrifice on the Temple Mount during the upcoming Passover.



In a statement it published, the organization said these were systematic Israeli attempts to change the existing historical and legal status on the Temple Mount by using a religious narrative to justify a policy of establishing facts on the ground.

According to the PLO, far-right elements in the Israeli government are providing backing for moves intended to allow shared religious worship at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound (the Temple Mount) by Jews as well, and to hold ceremonies that it says contradict the ‘religious and historical character of the site.’

The PLO stressed its false claims that the entire Temple Mount area is an exclusively Islamic place of worship and that decisions by the United Nations and UNESCO affirm this. Therefore, it said, any attempt to hold Jewish religious rituals there would constitute a blatant violation of international law...”

Who is Mojtaba Khamenei, Iran's new supreme leader?

Match 8, 2026 BBC via yahoo.com reported: Mojtaba Khamenei, the son of Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who was killed in US-Israeli strikes, has been chosen as his successor.

Unlike his father, the 56-year-old has largely kept a low profile. He has never held government office, nor given public speeches or interviews, and only a limited number of photos and videos of him have ever been published.

But for years there have been rumors that he held considerable influence behind the scenes in Iran.

US diplomatic cables, which were published by WikiLeaks in the late 2000s, described him as "the power behind the robes" who was widely regarded as a "capable and forceful" figure within the regime, according to AP news agency.

Yet his selection could still prove controversial. The Islamic Republic was founded in 1979 after the monarchy was overthrown, and its ideology is based on the principle that the supreme leader should be chosen for his religious standing and proven leadership, not through hereditary succession.

During his reign, Ali Khamenei spoke only in general terms about the future leadership of the Islamic Republic.

One member of Iran's Assembly of Experts - the clerical body that selects the supreme leader - said two years ago that Ali Khamenei opposed the idea of his son being a candidate for future leadership. But he had never publicly addressed such speculation.

So, who is Mojtaba Khamenei? Born on 8 September 1969 in the northeastern city of Mashhad, Mojtaba is the second of Khamenei's six children. He received his secondary education at the religious Alavi School in Tehran.

At age 17, Mojtaba served in the military for several short periods during the Iran-Iraq War, according to Iranian media. The eight-year bloody conflict made the regime even more suspicious of the US and the West, which supported Iraq.

In 1999, Mojtaba went to Qom, a holy city which is considered an important centre of Shia theology, to continue his religious studies. It is notable that he did not wear clerical clothing until this time, and it is unclear why he decided to attend a seminary at 30, as it is more usual to do so in one's younger years.

Mojtaba remains a mid-ranking cleric, which could pose an obstacle to his ascendance as the supreme leader.

In recent days, some media outlets and officials close to centers of power in Iran have started referring to Mojtaba Khamenei as "Ayatollah", a senior clerical title. The shift appears to some observers as an attempt to elevate his religious standing and present him as a credible leader.

In the seminary system, holding the rank of "Ayatollah" and teaching advanced classes are regarded as indicators of a person's scholarly level and knowledge, and are considered one of the requirements and prerequisites for selecting a future leader...”