



What's Next for Iran After Raisi's Death?

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(U) This infographic provides an overview of Death of Iranian President Raisi. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, a hardliner seen as a potential successor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed when his helicopter crashed in poor weather in mountains near the Azerbaijan border. Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and six other passengers and crew was found early on 20 May after an overnight search in blizzard conditions.

The Supreme Leader



Supreme
Leader
Ayatollah Ali
Khamenei

- [Seyyed Ali Hosseini Khamenei](#) is an Iranian [Twelver Shia Marja'](#).
- The second Supreme Leader of Iran since 1989.
- The third President of Iran from 1981 to 1989.
- Has not endorsed a successor.
- Rumored successor
 - Raisi was one of the two names most often mentioned as successor
 - The second being Khamenei's second son, [Mujtaba](#)

With the Death of President Raisi, there is no clear successor for Supreme Leader Khamenei. The next supreme leader will be chosen by the 88-seat [Assembly of Experts](#), who are elected every eight years from candidates vetted by the [Guardian Council](#). The chosen leader traditionally must have several years of experience in managing one of the country's major political establishments, be knowledgeable about military and security affairs, and be familiar to the public.

The Supreme Leader oversees a multilayered and sophisticated bureaucracy called the "[Beit-e Rahbari](#)" (Leader's Office). The Supreme Leader, who is also known as the Vali-e Faqih, or supreme jurisprudent, exercises ultimate authority over the executive, judiciary, and legislative branches of government and is Iran's commander in chief. The Supreme Leader appoints the head of the judiciary, approves the elected president, and exerts significant influence over the choice of the speaker of parliament.

Key Leaders that died in the helicopter crash



President
Ebrahim Raisi

- [Ebrahim Raisolsadati](#), commonly known as Ebrahim Raisi, was the eighth president of Iran.
- Since taking office:
 - ordered a tightening of morality laws.
 - oversaw a bloody crackdown on anti-government protests.
 - pushed hard in nuclear talks with world powers.
- Was considered leading candidate to replace Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.



Foreign Minister
Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian

- [Hossein Amir-Abdollahian](#) was an Iranian politician and diplomat who served as foreign minister of Iran from 2021
- PhD in International Relations from Tehran University.
- His appointment was representative a shift from negotiations with the West to renewed attention on regional relations.

Key Leaders Successors



Acting
President
Mohammad
Mokhber

- [Mohammad Mokhber](#) is an Iranian politician who has been serving as the acting president of Iran since the death of President Raisi
- Held the position of First Vice President of Iran
- Possesses two doctoral degrees
 - International law
 - Management.



Foreign Minister
Dr. Mohammad
Javad Zarif

- [Mohammad Javad Zarif Khansari](#) is an Iranian career diplomat and academic.
- At age 17, he left Iran for the United States for his education.
- Received Ph.D. in international law and policy in 1988 from Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver
- Iran's representative at the United Nations from 2002 to 2007.

With the death of President Raisi, a new President is to be elected within a maximum period of fifty days. The Iranian presidential election is scheduled for 28 June 2024. After the election, the president is required to gain the Supreme Leader's official approval before being sworn in by the Parliament.