

“Half a Century of Seeking Justice”; A Review of the Global Thought of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Martyred Leader of Iran

In Vienna, the capital of Austria, on the occasion of the assassination of Iran’s second Supreme Leader by the United States and Israel and the launching of an illegitimate and criminal war against Iran, a scientific conference titled “Khamenei: Half a Century of Seeking Justice in the World” was held. The event was dedicated to a macro-level review of the martyred leader of the Islamic Revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei’s, half-century-long endeavor in the path of seeking justice worldwide.

The program, under the slogan “Justice in the World,” took place on Tuesday, 26 Esfand, corresponding to 17 March 2026, at the Iranian Cultural Center in Austria (House of Iranian Wisdom, Vienna).

In this specialized and dialogue-oriented gathering, a group of Iranian and Austrian professors and researchers delivered speeches. The speakers were:

- Professor Mohammad Waldmann, Shia scholar
 - Professor Mohammad Lenser, President of the Institute for Islamic Culture and Education in Austria
 - Dr. Dieter Reinisch, Editor-in-Chief of the Austrian International Magazine
 - Dr. Reza Gholami, Iran’s Cultural Representative in Austria and Professor of Political Philosophy, Cultural and Civilizational Studies

This event focused on the intellectual, political, and international dimensions of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei’s perspective on the concept of global justice and held special symbolic significance under the current circumstances of the region and the world.

The session was chaired by Dr. Dieter Reinisch, Editor-in-Chief of the Austrian International Magazine and senior correspondent for Press TV and Axios Austria. In addition to chairing the event, he was also one of the speakers and delivered a separate speech. In his introduction, he offered condolences to the Iranian people for the martyrdom of a number of Iranians, especially civilians including schoolchildren in Minab, and added: “This conference is being held while an illegitimate war against Iran is currently underway.”

Professor Mohammad Waldmann, a prominent Shia scholar in Austria, as the first speaker, offered condolences on the occasion of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. He described this event as the loss of a great religious authority, an influential leader, a benevolent and virtuous personality, and a heavy blow to the Shia world, especially Iran. He then reviewed the scientific and political life of the late Leader and explained the dimensions of his personality and his strategic role in contemporary developments.

In another part of his speech, Waldmann elaborated on the theoretical foundations of the Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist (Wilayat al-Faqih) — the legitimate leadership of the senior knowledgeable and just religious scholar — in Shia Islam. Emphasizing the compatibility of this

theory with democracy, he considered it to possess unique advantages in simultaneously ensuring religious legitimacy and popular acceptance. He also criticized the incorrect narratives of mass media that portray the Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist as “rule by clerics,” stating: “The practical experience of the past 47 years has shown that such narrations are part of a targeted propaganda aimed at serving the interests of the hegemonic system and paving the way for the return of foreign powers’ influence over Iran.”

This Shia scholar further pointed to some of the most important views of Ayatollah Imam Khamenei, especially in the field of global justice, and emphasized that these ideas are needed by the global community today more than ever. He added: “The trend of global developments shows that the policies of unrighteous leaders have distanced the world from justice day by day and exposed it to major threats and crises.”

The second speaker, Professor Lenser, one of the Shia leaders in Austria and a senior expert on international affairs, in his speech emphasized the prominent yet oppressed position of Imam Khamenei and described him as one of the underestimated figures in the world. Despite possessing profound scientific, moral, and educational depth, he has played an enduring role as a historical teacher. He attributed the relative obscurity of this personality to the performance of the international media system, which, according to him, prevented the full reflection of his influence until his martyrdom.

Lenser compared this position with the historical role of Imam Khomeini as the creator of a “paradigm shift” in the international system. He referred to the atmosphere of doubt and crisis-laden predictions by the media regarding the future of leadership after him, and added: “Contrary to these predictions, Imam Khamenei managed the transfer of power with unparalleled skill, without widespread tensions, and preserved the stability of the system.” Referring to the experience of major revolutions such as those in France, Russia, and China, he emphasized that preserving a revolution is far more difficult than creating one, and this is considered one of the most important achievements of the new leadership.

This international affairs expert further introduced Imam Khamenei, in addition to his religious and political position, as a cultured personality in the field of world literature who had a deep familiarity with major European literary works and literature related to social developments and revolutions. He also pointed to his international connections and intellectual influence among some leaders and regions of the world, including Russia and Latin America.

Lenser described another outstanding feature of this leader as the simultaneous growth in spirituality and politics, stating: “Imam Khamenei, alongside exercising power, has emphasized ‘jihad of the self’ and self-purification, which has distinguished him from many political leaders.” According to him, in complex domestic and international conditions, the ability to manage conflicts, create political balance, reduce social divides, and even accept personal mistakes have been among the most important strengths of his leadership.

At the end, referring to recent developments, he evaluated the martyrdom of Imam Khamenei as the beginning of a new era and said: “This event, by reviving the spirit of resistance, can pave

the way for the formation of a new age based on justice, freedom, humanity, and peace at the global level.”

In the continuation of the session, Dr. Dieter Reinisch, Editor-in-Chief of the Austrian International Magazine, in his speech paid tribute to the memory of Ayatollah Imam Khamenei. He described him as a great, influential personality with an important position in contemporary intellectual and political developments and strongly condemned his unjust assassination by the United States and Israel.

He then continued with a comparative approach, examining some of the most important ideas of Imam Seyyed Ali Khamenei in the field of global justice in relation to the teachings of Christianity, and emphasized the existence of fundamental similarities between the two. Referring to the teachings of Christianity, Reinisch noted that this religion has always emphasized peace, tranquility, and avoidance of war and violence in human society, and considers the realization of sustainable peace to require the formation of an ethical foundation at the level of human society and the rule of the righteous.

According to him, this approach has significant overlap with the views of Ayatollah Imam Khamenei; because he too has emphasized the necessity of establishing justice in the structure of international relations and believes that its realization depends on confronting self-centeredness, immorality, greed, and bullying in the global system. Reinisch overall evaluated this conceptual convergence as a sign of the capacity for interfaith dialogue and the role of ethics in rebuilding a just global order.

The final speaker of the session was Dr. Reza Gholami, Iran’s Cultural Representative in Austria and Professor of Political Philosophy, Cultural and Civilizational Studies. He said: “In the thought of the martyred Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, justice is not an abstract moral ideal, but the fundamental principle of the legitimacy of power and the main criterion for organizing political and social relations. From this perspective, the existing global order, which is built upon domination, power, and the interests of great powers, lacks real legitimacy, and the contemporary crises of the world — from wars and military interventions to widespread economic inequalities — are rooted in this unjust structure.”

Iran’s Cultural Representative in Austria and Head of the House of Iranian Wisdom in Vienna added: “In Ayatollah Khamenei’s view, although the full realization of justice is an ideal and supra-historical horizon, its relative realization is possible and obligatory in every era, and those in power bear a special responsibility in this path. In this framework, great powers misuse international institutions, human rights literature, and global organizations as tools to preserve domination and justify unilateral interventions, and this violates the principle of equality and independence of nations.”

This university professor added: “From the viewpoint of the martyred Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran’s foreign policy must be based on three principles: dignity, wisdom, and expediency — a combination that both preserves national independence and dignity, operates with precise analysis of global conditions, and maintains the necessary flexibility in methods.” Dr. Gholami

then introduced the doctrine of resistance in the thought of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, saying: "Resistance is not a defensive reaction, but an active strategy to prevent the consolidation of domination and to bring about gradual change in the global balance of power. Strengthening national power in scientific, economic, cultural, and military dimensions, cooperation among independence-seeking countries, and reforming international structures are among other strategies for realizing justice in the global system. Of course, ultimately, the main arena of this competition is the field of discourse; because the expansion of the discourse of justice and the critique of the existing unequal order weakens the moral legitimacy of domination structures at the global level."

The conference was held in a calm and academic atmosphere and provided an opportunity for the exchange of views among Iranian and European thinkers. At this event, a book titled **Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Wise, Prudent and Moderate Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran (A Brief Look at the Cultural and Political Life of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei)**, which had been published in German, was distributed among the attendees. Additionally, at the beginning of the session, a documentary titled **The History of American Violence in Contemporary History** was screened in English.