

The “Proud People of Iran” Gathering in Vienna; Celebrating Iranian Identity and Defending the Homeland

On the evening of 25 Ordibehesht, corresponding to May 15, 2026, a cultural and social gathering titled **“Proud People of Iran”** was held in Vienna, organized by the Cultural Consultate of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Austria (House of Iranian Wisdom in Vienna).

The program, which ran from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM at the House of Iranian Wisdom in Vienna, was dedicated to revisiting the Iranian people’s forty-day uprising in defense of their homeland. It was attended by a group of prominent Iranians residing in Austria as well as a number of Iran supporters from other nations.

The ceremony featured a professional Iranian music performance, screening of short films, Shahnameh recitation, and a series of short cultural and social speeches. The musical portion was performed by four members of the Young Musicians Concert of the city of Graz, Austria, under the direction of Mr. Faraz Majdianfar. Their three-part, 40-minute performance was warmly received and repeatedly applauded by the audience.

Since 25 Ordibehesht is officially designated in the Iranian calendar as the Day of Commemoration of Hakim Abolqasem Ferdowsi and the Preservation of the Persian Language, part of the program was dedicated to Shahnameh recitation by Mrs. Safoura Mirazi. This segment highlighted the role of the Persian language and epic literature in preserving Iranian national identity.

The program was structured and presented in three main sections. The first section, titled **“Respect for the Martyrs of the Homeland,”** honored the memory of all Iranian martyrs, especially the Martyred Leader and the martyrs of the Shajareh Tayyebah Primary School in Minab. In this part, speakers emphasized the sacrifices and selflessness of the martyrs, describing them as symbols of resilience and defense of the homeland.

The second section focused on describing the **unity, empathy, cooperation, compassion, and sacrifice** of the Iranian people. It highlighted the uprising and solidarity of Iranians both inside and outside the country in defense of their homeland. Speakers viewed this solidarity as a sign of the deep national and cultural bond among Iranians.

The third section was centered on **“Hope for the Future in Light of Cohesion and Rationality.”** This part stressed the necessity of maintaining social unity, dialogue, wisdom, and strengthening collective hope to overcome challenges and build a bright future.

Highlights of the Speeches and Positions Presented at the Gathering:

In the speech section, Dr. Assadollah Ashraq Jahromi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Austria, spoke first. While explaining the international legal dimensions of the recent forty-day war and the aggression against Iran, he described the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Revolution, and the brutal massacre of civilians — especially

the innocent children and teachers of the “Shajareh Tayyebah” School in Minab — as a clear example of flagrant violation of international law and a crime against humanity. Recalling the heartbreaking incident of the Minab children, he described their being torn apart in two U.S. attacks as heart-wrenching. He also referred to the unarmed sailors of the “Dena” vessel, calling the brutal martyrdom of over one hundred Iranian sailors a painful event. The Iranian Ambassador praised the warriors for their spirited defense of the country and expressed appreciation for the Iranian people for their unity, solidarity, and historic presence on the scene in defense of the homeland. At the end of his speech, while commemorating the Day of Hakim Abolqasem Ferdowsi and Persian Language Day, he read excerpts from the Supreme Leader’s message on this occasion and emphasized the importance of the Persian language and its role in preserving the national and religious identity of Iranians.

The next speaker was **Sholeh Hoshidar**, an Iranian resident of Austria and a veteran Persian language teacher in the country. In an emotional statement, she described hearing the news of the martyrdom of the Minab school students as a tragic event that had robbed her of the energy and peace needed for teaching for several days. While condemning this catastrophic attack, she spoke of the sympathy shown by Austrian teachers and considered this human empathy a sign of the awakened conscience of nations. She also paid tribute to all the people of Iran who stood bravely and honorably during the forty days of war and defended their country, stressing that the Iranian people will never hand over their soil to foreigners.

The third speaker, **Mrs. Narges Dorvari**, a cultural and religious activist in Vienna, described the cultural, historical, and civilizational features of Iran and addressed the inhuman dimensions of the recent war. She emphasized that the Islamic Revolution will emerge victorious in this arena and will hand the flag of this revolution to the revolution of the Savior of Humanity (may God hasten his reappearance).

The fourth speaker, **Sara Ahrabi**, another Iranian resident of Austria and an anti-war activist, said: “There is a profound difference between talking about war and directly confronting it.” She added that people inside Iran faced realities whose depth many cannot easily understand. She also stated: “Some people, when talking about the war, acted as if they were dealing with a distant event and forgot that behind every news story, there are real human lives. When the Minab school was targeted and students and teachers were killed, the silence of many foreign media outlets was painful for me. If such an incident had happened in a European country or in America, it would probably have been discussed for months or even years.”

The fifth speaker, **Farshideh Tehrani**, another anti-war activist residing in Austria, stressed the importance of continuing efforts to protect the country, maintain social calm, and strengthen national empathy. She said: “The Iranian people, under real bombardment, showed that for us Iranians, when it comes to the soil of our homeland, fear has no meaning. As Mr. Zarif said: Never threaten an Iranian.”

The sixth speaker, **Parya Jazayeri**, an Iranian resident of Austria and a peace activist, pointed to the efforts and solidarity of some Iranians abroad with the people of Iran in defending the homeland. She emphasized the need to preserve national cohesion, strengthen the spirit of

social responsibility, and consciously defend national interests. She also stated: “I have not become accustomed to being Iranian-Austrian, and I probably never will. Iran is inside me; it is in my bones; in that layer of identity that lies beneath all other layers and yields its place to nothing. But for me, Iran is not just pride; Iran means innocence and oppression — an oppression that has been with me since I knew myself, and even from this distance, I have fought for it.”

The seventh speaker, **Mohammad Reza Aameli**, a veteran Iranian resident of Austria and another anti-war activist, paid tribute to the martyrs of this war — the Martyred Leader, the children and teachers of the Minab school, and other martyrs of the country. He stressed the necessity of understanding the concept and requirements of national cohesion in the form of a social contract and its outcome, namely citizenship rights. He explained: “National unity and cohesion mean a conscious bond and solidarity among members of a society, despite ethnic, religious, linguistic, and political differences. For this concept to transform from a populist slogan into a sustainable social contract, a clear definition of the citizen and citizenship rights must be provided, based on modern theories of sociology and constitutional law.” He also deemed national unity, constant vigilance against the enemy, and not surrendering to the media war and psychological operations against Iranian public opinion as essential.

The atmosphere of the ceremony was described as vibrant and filled with active participation from the attendees. Participants considered the gathering a symbol of cultural solidarity, social dialogue, and the connection of Iranians abroad with their historical and national identity.