

Message of Imam Khomeini on the Occasion of the Martyrdom of Ayatollah Sadr

*In the Name of God, the Merciful,
the Compassionate*

Regretfully, according to the report of the Foreign Minister derived from various sources and from the authorities in the Islamic countries, Ayatollah Seyyed Muhammad Baqer Sadr, a teacher of science and ethics and one of the distinguished personalities of science and literature, along with his meek and noble sister were tragically martyred by the corrupt Baathist regime of Iraq. Martyrdom is a legacy inherited by these personalities from their ancestors and treachery and crime are something inherited by these criminals of history from their predecessors. It is not strange that such noble personalities are being martyred by such criminals who have spent their whole life committing crimes and acts of tyranny. It would be strange if the crusaders along the path of truth died in their beds and if the treacherous criminals did not soak their dirty hands in their blood. Thus it is not strange that the late Sadr and his meek sister achieved martyrdom. However, it would be strange if the Islamic nations especially the noble nation of Iraq, the tribes of the Tigris and Euphrates; the brave students of the universities and other young people turned a blind eye to this great calamity inflicted upon Islam and the Household of the Messenger of God (ص) and allowed the accursed Baathist Party to martyr their eminent personalities one after the other. It would be even

more strange if the Iraqi Army and other forces were tools in the hands of these criminals, assisting them in the eradication of Islam. I have no faith in the top-ranking officers of the Iraqi Armed Forces but I am not disappointed in the other officers, the non-commissioned officers or the soldiers, I expect them to either rise up bravely and overthrow this oppression as was the case in Iran or to flee the garrisons and barracks. The important thing is that they should not tolerate the shameful oppression of the Baathist Party. I am not disappointed with the workers and government employees and I hope they will unite with the Iraqi nation and wipe away this stain of shame from Iraq. I hope that God the Almighty will destroy the system of oppression of these criminals.

I announce three days of public mourning in honor of this scholar and Mujahid (crusader) who was one of the prides of the theological centers and one of the great Maraji and Islamic thinkers. I implore God the Almighty to recompensate us for this great loss and make Islam and the Muslims victorious.

Peace be upon the devout servants of God.

Ruhullah al-Musavi al-Khomeini
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