

# Ali Khamenei

Avenue of the Islamic Republic, Teheran

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Born : 18 April 1939, Mashhad (northeastern Iran)

## Iran

Supreme Guide of the Islamic Republic



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## Training/education

**1940s-1950s:** Koranic schools in the holy cities of Qom and Mashhad.

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## Professional experience

**2006:** Condemns publication of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed in European press as a “Zionist conspiracy.”

**September-November 2004:** Launches crackdown on online media, with arrest of a score of journalists and bloggers.

**March-November 2004:** Suspends about 20 newspapers.

**2003:** Publicly backs Teheran prosecutor Said Mortazavi, accused of involvement in death of Iranian-Canadian photojournalist Zahra Kazemi.

**2001-02:** Sets up “parallel” secret police run by his aides to crack down on press. At least 36 journalists jailed. Iran becomes the Middle East’s biggest prison for journalists.

**6 August 2000:** Forces pro-reformist parliament to cancel planned debate on amending press law.

**March-August 2000:** Orders closure of 48 newspapers and jailing of a score of journalists.

**1998-99:** Closes investigation into murder of a dozen intellectuals and journalists despite admission by intelligence ministry that its agents were involved. Ministry announces arrest of a dozen suspects.

**4 June 1989:** Elected Supreme Guide by the Assembly of Experts on death of Ayatollah Khomeini.

**1982-89:** First religious figure elected president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**1978-80:** Member of Council of the Revolution set up by Ayatollah Khomeini. Named head of the Revolutionary Guards.

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## Hobbies/interests

Unknown.

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