

## **What Comes After Khamenei's Death?**

Following the successful assassination of Ali Khamenei by the US and the State of Israel, the process of appointing a new supreme leader in Iran might be one of the most significant challenges the current regime is now facing.

Article (107) of the Iranian constitution states that the selection of the supreme leader is entrusted to the Assembly of Experts, which is chosen by the people every 8 years. This assembly chooses a leader who meets the requirements of competence, ability to issue a fatwa, justice, and piety based on article (109).

While it seems that everyone can run for the position of membership of the Assembly of Experts, this acceptance is contingent on the approval of the Guardian Council in application of the article (99). And it is noteworthy that the choosing of six members of the Guardian Council is given to the supreme leader, simultaneously as the other six members who are legal persons will be nominated by the president of the judicial branch in Iran (who is chosen by the supreme leader) and voted on them by the Iranian parliament in accordance with the article (91) of the constitution. This makes it clear that the supreme leader has an indirect effect on all the Guardian Council members.

Based on that, the appointment process for the supreme leader will be entrusted to the Assembly of Experts, which was elected in 2024 and will last until 2032. However, this appointment process will only be carried out after the current Iranian government survives the assault.