



## Huge crowds in Iran for commander's funeral, daughter warns U.S. of 'dark day'

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*Hundreds of thousands of Iranians thronged Tehran's streets on Monday for the funeral of military commander Qassem Soleimani, killed by a U.S. drone strike last week, as his daughter warned his death would bring a "dark day" for the United States.*

1. In their hundreds of thousands, Iranians thronged to the streets of Tehran on Monday (January 6) for the funeral of their military commander Qassem Soleimani.
2. Four days after he was killed by a U.S. drone strike in Iraq, finally a chance to say goodbye.
3. Soleimani was a national hero to many Iranians, even to those who don't consider themselves devoted supporters of Iran's clerical rulers.
4. The sheer size of the crowds along the almost three-kilometer procession testament to the high regard in which he was held here.
5. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei led prayers at the funeral of Soleimani and others killed in the strike.
6. At times, he struggled to hold back tears; his voice cracking with emotion.
7. Since authorizing the killing, U.S. President Donald Trump has warned Iran will be targeted again if Americans or American assets are attacked.
8. But Iran is not sounding deterred - Soleimani's daughter Zeinab, telling mourners her father's death would bring a dark day for the United States.

**QASSEM SOLEIMANI'S DAUGHTER, ZEINAB SOLEIMANI, SAYING:**

"America and Zionism should know that my father's martyrdom has led to a greater awakening of the people's consciousness in the resistance front and bring about dark days for them and flatten their spiderwebs."

9. Newly appointed Quds Force commander, Esmail Ghaani, broke down in tears as he kissed his hero's coffin.

10. For some on the streets too, the emotion of the occasion was overwhelming.

11. The funeral ceremonies will culminate with Soleimani's burial in his home city of Kerman, in southern Iran.