



Disposition of Remains Report

The updated legal requirements and costs for burial, preparation for transportation to the United States and exhumation of remains of deceased persons hereafter listed were compiled in June 2016 according to the best knowledge of the Foreign Interests Section of the Embassy of Switzerland in Iran. Please note that legal regulations of Iran may change without prior notification and might make additional steps necessary. All costs and tariffs were calculated on the current exchange rates and might change any time.

1. Maximum Period Before Burial

There is no specific time frame for burial. Basically by Islamic belief the remains of a deceased should be buried in the shortest time possible, i.e. within days. However, there is no law requiring the remains to be buried within a specific time. According to the Iranian State Forensic Organization, in some cases, where the cause of death was under question, burial could not take place until receipt of an official court order, which in some cases had taken close to a year.

Basically in normal cases it is up to the next-of-kin to decide when to have the remains buried.

2. Embalming

Embalming as known in the United States is rarely performed in Iran. Remains, which are to be exported, are normally given a minimum treatment, which allows the remains to be shipped out of the country. The embalming of remains in Iran is only handled by the State Forensic Organization.

3. Cremation

Local and national laws do not permit cremation. The only exceptions granted are to the small Hindu community in the country, which is handled by the Indian Embassy in Tehran, Iran.

4. Caskets and Containers

Caskets and containers that meet the requirements for shipment out of the country meeting the U.S. quarantine regulations are available locally.

5. Export of Remains

In order to have the remains of a deceased exported out of the country the under noted documents are required:

- a) An official death certificate, issued by the State Vital Records Organization;
- b) Certificate issued by the National Forensic Organization confirming the body having been disease-free, embalmed and encased in a wooden and metal coffin, as well as permit to transit;
- c) The U.S. passport of the deceased;
- d) Canceled Iranian birth certificate (commonly known as Shenanameh), in which the death has been registered;
- e) Consular Mortuary Certificate issued by the Swiss Protecting Power stating that the remains can be buried in the United States;
- f) A letter from the next-of-kin requesting the shipment and a letter from the funeral home to confirm receiving the remains upon arrival in the United States.

6. Costs

- a) Local Christian burial at the Bourastan Gregorian Cemetery in Tehran is from USD 350 to 850.

The cost of local burial with Moslem rites varies from city to city. Below are the costs of burial in four major cities:

Tehran: Cost of grave at the main cemetery, i.e. Behesht-e-Zahra is from USD 600 to 8500 (the lowest cost is for graves in the new sections, which come in three levels and if buried in the lowest level the grave would be free of charge); Cost of preparation of the remains for burial is USD 150 for adults and USD 100 for minor children;

Esfahan: In total the cost of grave and preparation of the remains for burial at Baagh-e-Rezvan Cemetery is from USD 600 to 1600;

Shiraz: As the land at Dar-ol-Rahmeh Cemetery is piously endowed, only the cost of grave will be charged, i.e. USD 90 (however, they are running out of space);

Kerman: In total the cost of grave and preparation of remains for burial at Behesht-e-Zahra Cemetery is USD 350 – 850.

- b) As cremation is not allowed in Iran, no cost is known for it. The only exceptions granted are to the small Hindu community, which the Indian Embassy in Tehran could take on the task.
- c) Since cremation is illegal in Iran the question of shipment of ashes by air to the U.S. could not be raised. However, in some air crash incidents; where only a few bones and ashes were left of the victims the Iranian Government permitted shipment of remains. Bags of soil, bones and ashes were handed over to the next-of-kin as a symbolic gesture. In cases where the next-of-kin wished to do have the remains shipped out of the country the bag in its entirety had to be submitted to the State Forensic Organization, which apart from embalment had to take necessary steps to have the remains shipped out of the country. The bag would then have to be put in a coffin in order to be permitted out of the country.
- d) The cost of embalment, container, maintenance and transportation of the remains to the airport for shipment are as follows:

• Cost of Embalming	USD	750
• Forensic Confirmation Letter	USD	25
• Use of freezer chamber in Coroner's Office (per day)	USD	15
• Cost of coffin	USD	200 – 250
• Ambulance transportation	USD	30 – 35
• Tips	USD	50 – 100
Total cost would come up to approx.		<u>USD 1'070 to 1'130</u>

Currently the only airlines that provide air shipment of remains to the United States are Turkish Airlines, Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways. The said airlines fly to the following destinations:

Turkish Airlines	Qatar Airways	Etihad Airways
Atlanta, GA (ATL) Boston, MA (BOS) Chicago, IL (ORD) Houston, TX (IAH) Los Angeles, CA (LAX) Miami, FL (MIA) New York, NY (JFK) San Francisco, CA (SFO)	Atlanta, GA (ATL) Boston, MA (BOS) Chicago, IL (ORD) Dallas, TX (DFW) Houston, TX (IAH) Los Angeles, CA (LAX) Miami, FL (MIA) New York, NY (JFK)	Houston, TX (IAH) Los Angeles, CA (LAX) San Francisco, CA (SFO)

Costs of shipment by each airline:

Turkish Airlines

minimum 120kg at USD 08.00 per kilo, USD 15 for AWB and USD 101.79 for VAT

Qatar Airways

minimum 130kg at USD 13.00 per kilo, USD 15 for AWB and USD 101.79 for VAT

Etihad Airways

minimum 120kg at USD 07.00 per kilo, USD 15 for AWB and USD 101.79 for VAT

The cost depends on the weight of the coffin and as a standard rule, the airlines consider 120 – 130kg to be the minimum weight for calculating the cost. This means that even if the coffin weighs less than 120kg the airline will still charge the minimum weight. If it is more, the cost will be higher.

Arrangements for shipment should be made through the Cargo Departments of the mentioned airlines, located at Imam Khomeini Airport; their city offices are not able to provide information on the matter.

7. Exhumation and Shipment

Being under Islamic law, local regulations do not permit exhumation of remains in any way; unless the cause of death is questionable. In such a case under supervision of the Police exhumation may be done through a court order only.

8. Exchange Rate

Exchange rates fluctuate. The indicated costs were calculated at IRR 34,600 to USD 1.00, effective June 6, 2016.