Death of Taleghani will shake Iran’s political balance

Tehran mourns the ayatollah of moderation

From Liz Thurgood in Tehran

Thousands of people poured out to the streets to pay homage to Ayatollah Mahmoud Taleghani, the country’s second-ranking religious leader, who died yesterday.

The Ayatollah, aged 68, died of a heart attack while walking near his home in the Islamic Republic’s capital.

Iran’s Interior Minister, Mr. Mohammad Khatami, announced that the Ayatollah’s funeral would take place today in Tehran’s Grand Mosque. The Ayatollah was a key figure in Iran’s Islamic Revolution and was a close advisor to Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran’s supreme leader.

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