

Iranian foreign minister tells Trump to stop threatening his country



Tehran, May 21 (RHC)-- Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has warned U.S. President Donald Trump to avoid threatening Iranians, advising him to try respect, as it is the only approach to the Iranian nation that will bear fruit.

"NeverThreatenAnIranian. Try respect -- it works!" Zarif said in a post on his official Twitter account on Monday, amid a spike in tensions between Tehran and Washington. The Iranian foreign minister added that the policy of "economic terrorism and genocidal taunts" pursued by Trump would fail to "end Iran." And he noted: "Iranians have stood tall for millennia while all aggressors have failed."

The top Iranian diplomat emphasized that Trump has been "goaded" by the B-Team and "hopes to achieve what Alexander, Genghis & other aggressors failed to do." In another tweet on Monday, Iran's top diplomat put additional emphasis on the role played by the B-Team in pushing the Middle East region toward chaos, at a time when Trump has repeatedly noted that he is not willing to engage in war with Iran.

"@realDonaldTrump rightly deplores "military-industrial complex" pushing U.S. to #ForeverWars," Zarif said in his second tweet, adding that the B-Team is doing nothing, but trashing diplomacy and abetting

war crimes through catalyzing arms sales to some regional states.

The hawkish “B-team” is comprised of U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Zarif’s comments followed an earlier Tweet by the U.S. president who said the Islamic Republic would be destroyed if it attacked U.S. interests. "If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran. Never threaten the United States again," Trump tweeted.

An activist says Trump’s recent threat to “destroy Iran” can constitute a serious escalation of military tensions in the Middle East and that his “warlike remarks” indicate that he has no consideration for the rule of international law.

Trump posted his anti-Iran tweet after a Sunday night rocket attack on the Green Zone of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, where the Iraqi government's administrative buildings and foreign missions, including the US embassy, are located. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, which came in the wake of back-to-back sudden decisions taken by the US recently, including its withdrawal of "non-essential" staff from Iraq.

Tensions started to mount between Tehran and Washington last May, when Trump pulled his country out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and re-imposed harsh sanctions against the Islamic Republic in defiance of global criticisms.

The tensions saw a sharp rise on the first anniversary of Washington's exit from the deal as the US moved to ratchet up the pressure on Iran by tightening its oil sanctions and sending military reinforcements, including an aircraft carrier strike group, a squadron of B-52 bombers, and a battery of patriot missiles, to the Middle East.

On May 5, Bolton — an ardent Iran hawk — said the deployment was in response to what he called a “troubling and escalatory indications” of Iran.

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