

Iranian foreign minister says war and talks never go together



Tehran, June 4 (RHC)-- Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has lashed out at U.S. "economic terrorism" against the "innocent" Iranian people, saying war and talks will never go together.

On his official Twitter page, Zarif posted a video showing a "little boy whose heartbroken mother can't get him prosthetic legs as he grows" and emphasized that innocent civilians are being targeted by sanctions and economic terrorism. "This is @realDonaldTrump's 'economic war'. And war and talks -- with or without preconditions -- don't go together," the top Iranian diplomat pointed out.

Zarif's post came a day after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington is keen to hold negotiations with Iran "with no preconditions" amid the intensification of tensions between the two countries.

Addressing a news conference in Switzerland earlier in the day, the U.S. secretary of state said: "We are prepared to engage in a conversation with no preconditions. We are ready to sit down with them."

In reaction to Pompeo's statements, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Abbas Moussavi said a game of words by the United States is not important to Iran, but the Islamic Republic expects a change in Washington's general approach to the Iranian nation.

“For the Islamic Republic of Iran, a game of words and expressing covert goals under the guise of new words is not a criterion for action, but a change in the United States’ general approach and practical stance toward the Iranian nation is the criterion,” he said.

Iran’s president says the US sanctions against the Islamic Republic amount to a “crime against humanity.” Rouhani said: “The hard days and the problems created by the U.S.’ economic war have started.”

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