

Iranian president says wherever U.S. goes, terrorism expands



New York, September 26 (RHC)-- Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has blasted the United States for sponsoring the terrorists who have been wreaking havoc across the Middle East, saying terrorism has only expanded in every country Washington has set foot. In an interview with Fox News' Chris Wallace, Rouhani expressed surprise at U.S. President Donald Trump's highly hostile accusations during his UN speech, in which he called Iran "the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism."

Trump also accused Iran of adopting a "menacing behavior" and claimed that the country was "fueling the tragic wars in both Syria and Yemen." In response, Rouhani said he was "amazed at the interpretations of Mr. Trump, vis-a-vis terrorism," and that unlike the U.S. president's claims, "Wherever we have gone, we have defeated terrorism." "Today, America, unfortunately, is the supporter of terrorism in our region — and wherever America has set foot, terrorism has expanded in its wake," Rouhani said. The Iranian chief executive also described Washington's bombing campaign in Syria as an example of American terrorism in the region.

"The country that is present and flying over the air space of and bombarding the soil of the country of Syria without permission of the government is the United States of America," he said.

Rouhani denounced the harsh economic sanctions that the U.S. has imposed on the Iranian nation as another type of terrorism, which has made life difficult for civilians, especially children and patients.

Elsewhere in his interview, the Iranian president censured Trump for further undermining trust between the two countries by pulling the US out of a multilateral 2015 nuclear deal and re-imposing sanctions on Iran. Asked if there was any chance that the two leaders would meet on the sidelines of the annual General Assembly summit, Rouhani said: "Why would we bump into each other? If we seek to pursue higher goals to benefit both countries, both people, it must be planned, and talks must be based on those plans."

"But, prior to that, we must create mutual trust, and that trust is something that Mr. Trump took away from this framework. We had an agreement. Mr. Trump exited without a valid justification, and illegally, from an international agreement. So, if the United States of America's government is willing to talk, it must create the needed conditions," he added.

A key way to rebuilding trust between Tehran and Washington would be lifting the sanctions the US imposed on Iran after leaving the nuclear deal, he said, noting that such a measure could lead to diplomacy between the two countries. "Trust must be restored, and the restoration of trust consists in taking away the pressure imposed upon the nation and the people of Iran," he pointed out. "This is a type of terrorism. This is inhumane, and if there is a cessation to this, then, of course, the atmosphere will change. Of course, then it can be envisioned, and we can talk about many different topics of mutual interest for both sides."

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