

Iran urges US to abandon 'warmongering' policy as arch-hawk Bolton leaves White House

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Washington should give up its policy of aggression toward Tehran, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has said. His remarks come hours after outspoken regime-change connoisseur John Bolton stepped down as national security adviser.

During a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Rouhani pressed the US to “*abandon warmongering and its maximum pressure policy*” on Iran, and warned that failing to reverse course would further degrade Tehran’s commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif made similar calls for a US policy U-turn, tweeting on Wednesday that Washington’s “*thirst for war*” should end with the departure of its “*warmonger-in-chief*” Bolton.

A government spokesman said after the cabinet meeting that Bolton’s departure could help US policymakers have a “*less biased*” attitude toward the Islamic republic. Tehran stressed, however, that Bolton’s removal would not change its position on dialogue with Washington.

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“*The departure of US National Security Advisor John Bolton from President Donald Trump’s administration will not push Iran to reconsider talking with the US,*” Tehran’s United Nations envoy Majid Takhteravanchi said.

US President Donald Trump announced Bolton's dismissal on Tuesday, tweeting that he had "*disagreed strongly with many of his suggestions.*" Bolton claims that he'd actually resigned before Trump's announcement.

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