

Iranian cleric says U.S. should leave Iraq

by UPI

TEHRAN - An Iranian cleric in Tehran said Friday that if the United States wants security in Iraq, it should withdraw its forces.

"If you (the United States) believe in democracy, and you don't, the Iraqis have elected a government which should run the affairs in Iraq and you must leave the country with its people," Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati said to thousands of people, IRNA reported. "After you leave Iraq, we will give our help to provide security and Iraqis will feel relaxed in a short while."

Speaking of diplomatic talks Monday between the United States and Iran, Jannati said, "The hostility between Iran and United States, which is not a personal dispute rather a fighting over principles, is still here with us. We believe that justice should be administered and the oppressed should be supported."

"You (the United States) kill the innocent in Palestine, exert pressure on Hezbollah, make mischief everyday and loot people's property. Why are you causing discord in the Muslim world?" Jannati said, IRNA reported.

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