



US backing terrorists: Iran

Posted 8 hours 13 minutes ago

Updated 8 hours 14 minutes ago

Iran has access to evidence of US support for terrorist groups in the Middle East, a senior Iranian official was quoted as saying.

Iran's new chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, made the allegation in comments to visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan, whose country may soon send troops to hunt down Kurdish guerrillas in northern Iraq.

Iran says the rebels are operating in Iraq with US forces present in the country and this shows the US is refraining from tackling them.

Like Turkey, Iran has also faced cross-border attacks by Kurdish rebels and has shelled targets inside Iraq in response.

"Escalation of terrorism in the region is one of the direct results of the presence of occupiers in Iraq, particularly America," Mr Jalili, an ally of Iranian President Mahmood Ahmadinejad, said according to the country's state broadcaster.

"And there are documents and information available proving America's support for terrorist groups in the region," he said, without giving details.

The United States often accuses Iran of backing and training militias responsible for some of the bloodshed threatening to tear Iraq apart. Iran denies the charge and blames the violence in Iraq on the presence of US forces.

The two countries are also locked in a stand-off over Iran's nuclear program, which Western powers suspect is aimed at developing bombs. Iran says it only wants to generate electricity.

-Reuters

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