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'duplicitous approach'  
toward human rights

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### 'Devouring' Iran has long been US objective: **Leader**



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a large gathering of Iranian people in Tehran on January 17, 2026.  khamenei.ir

#### National Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei stressed on Saturday that the all-time goal and policy in different US administrations has been to "devour" Iran and reassert Washington's pre-1979 Revolution military, political, and economic dominance on the Islamic Republic, much as what transpired in the recent unrest and American "sedition" in Iran. "Having a country this vast with this population, capacities, and scientific and technological achievements — on this geographical po-

sition no less — is unbearable to them," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a meeting with thousands of Iranians in Tehran on the occasion of Eid al-Mab'ath, the anniversary of the appointment of Muhammad (PBUH) as the last and greatest prophet of God. Instigated by expressions of support on behalf of US President Donald Trump as well as Zionists, armed groups and individuals in various cities, including the capital Tehran, turned the peaceful protests of guilds and businessmen into violent clashes, claiming innocent lives and destroying

and setting on fire various economic centers, religious and public sites, busses, and urban amenities. The Leader underlined that in previous seditions, it was mostly up to media figures and low-level politicians to fuel the fires of violence. However, this time, he added, the president of the United States personally intervened by making unfounded claims and empty threats, as well as encouraging seditionists to advance because "help is on the way." As such, the Leader said that Donald Trump is regarded by Tehran as a

"criminal", both for inflicting damage and casualties on the country and for accusing the Iranian nation to be "saboteurs and murderers." Despite all this, Ayatollah Khamenei stated that "the Iranian nation has broken the back of sedition," calling on officials to uncover the nature and goals of the sedition and its trained agents. "Fortunately, and by God's will, this sedition was snuffed out by our cognizant nation and officials," he asserted. The Leader pointed out that relevant Iranian bodies, including the Foreign

Ministry, are obligated with holding the US accountable for its crimes by adopting the proper methods. "We will not push the country toward war, and we will not let go of internal and, more importantly, international criminals either," he highlighted. Ayatollah Khamenei further stressed the necessity of Iranians keeping united in defense of the Islamic Republic and their beloved country. God willing, he concluded, the Iranian nation will break the back of seditionists just as it broke the back of sedition.

