

Iran Asks UN to Arrange Geneva II Conference on Syria

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TEHRAN (FNA)- Tehran has asked the UN-Arab League Special Envoy on Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, to arrange a second conference on Syria in Geneva in a bid to help soothe the crisis in the Muslim country, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Amir Abdollahian announced on Wednesday.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has presented a package of proposals to the UN envoy and called for holding the Geneva II conference under the auspices of the UN," Amir Abdollahian said in a meeting with South African Deputy Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ibrahim in Tehran today. He blamed foreign meddling for the current crisis in Syria, and stressed the necessity for holding Syrian-Syrian talks for its settlement. Ibrahim, for his part, underlined the necessity for the political settlement of the Syrian crisis, and said, "South Africa has been in contact with the engaged parties in Syria within the framework of international bodies like the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)." The meeting between Amir Abdollahian and Ibrahim in Tehran today was held within the framework of a meeting of the two countries' joint political committee. The Islamic Republic of Iran is in favor of negotiations between the Syrian government and opposition groups to create stability in the Middle Eastern country. Late in November, Iran hosted a two-day meeting titled 'No to Violence, Yes to Democracy' which was attended by 200 Syrian religious and political figures, leaders of tribes and parties as well as representatives and leaders of the opposition groups in a move to pave the way for dialogue between representatives of the Syrian opposition and the government. Syria has been experiencing unrest since March 2011 with organized attacks by well-armed gangs against Syrian police forces and border guards being reported across the country. Hundreds of people, including members of the security forces, have been killed, when some protest rallies turned into armed clashes. The government blames outlaws, saboteurs, and armed terrorist groups for the deaths, stressing that the unrest is being orchestrated from abroad. In October 2011, calm was eventually restored in the Arab state after President Assad started a reform initiative in the country, but Israel, the US and its Arab allies are seeking

hard to bring the country into chaos through any possible means. Tel Aviv, Washington and some Arab capitals have been staging various plots in the hope of increasing unrests in Syria.