

## **US presence, source of Iraqi problems - 25 /Jun/ 2011**

Islamic Revolution Leader Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei told a visiting Iraqi President Jalal Talabani on Saturday that the US interfering presence in Iraq was the source of problems in the country and in the region.

Ayatollah Khamenei said however that in spite of the presence, the developments indicate that the US Middle Eastern policies are growingly feeble and that nations should take the advantage.

Expressing pleasure with the Iraqi government for taking strong steps to solve problems, Ayatollah Khamenei noted that the Iraqi great nation and its authorities have successfully passed difficult passages and now are departing from those hard years' situations.

He underlined expansion of cooperation between Iran and Iraq and called the cooperation a show of brotherhood and friendship among the two nations.

Referring to good relations between authorities of Iran and Iraq, the IR Leader said that efforts to weaken such friendly ties would be failed.

"Thank to their deep religious and cultural bonds, the two nations and governments enjoy ever expanding relations," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Ayatollah Khamenei warned that the US was stirring disunion and disperse among Iraqi factions so as to find an excuse to keep its presence in Iraq. He urged the factions to prevent the US from materializing its intentions.

During the meeting, in which President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was also present, the Iraqi president, by referring to the deep historical ties between Iran and Iraq, said that the relations between Tehran and Baghdad were developing.

Talabani expressed hope that Iraq would be able to rebuild its infrastructure by using Iran's experiences and technical abilities.

President Talabani added that all Iraqi groups and factions have the same views on progress and development for the country and they every faction in Iraq opposes the US military presence.