

Iran's president travels to Nicaragua, Cuba, Venezuela in anti-US blitz

The visit will take the Iranian president to three leftist countries with which Tehran shares both American sanctions and a vigorous anti-American agenda.

TEHRAN — Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi will depart for a Latin American tour on Sunday to bolster relations with "like-minded and friendly states" there, reported the state-run IRNA news agency.

Accompanied by a delegation including the ministers of foreign affairs, oil and health, Raisi is scheduled to sign multiple agreements on political, trade, industrial and scientific cooperation with Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba.

The Islamic Republic's growing tendency toward Latin America dates back to the tenure of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (2005-2013). Known for his anti-Western rhetoric, the hard-line leader relentlessly pursued partnerships with leftist Latin American states, promoting the notion of expanding Iran's influence in "America's backyard" to curtail the influence of its arch-foe.

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