

ENCLOSURE A1

Interview with US national security advisor John Bolton, June 20, 2018, in connection with the US' withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council.

YouTube (Fox News) and cnsnews.com. Accessed June 29, 2018. Extract.

John Bolton took office as national security advisor to President Donald Trump on April 9, 2018.

The US is withdrawing from the UN Human Rights Council. What is your comment on this?

I think it is right on target. In many respects, this decision has been decades in the making. The Human Rights Council and its predecessor the Human Rights Commission were really not places where human rights were made a priority, strange as that may seem. It is clearly the right decision to get out, and it is the right decision to defund the Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. It is something that goes to the broader question of American sovereignty. We are actually self-governing in this country, and we have a constitution, where we make our share of mistakes, but then we correct them. We do not need advice from the UN or other international bodies on how to govern ourselves.

This decision follows one day after their High Commissioner criticized the United States over President Trump's immigration policies separating families. Has the decision been influenced by this at all?

It had nothing to do with that. This decision was made by President Trump weeks ago, and it followed a long decision-making process and a review of the Human Rights Council's performance. The decision to leave the Council must be seen in a longer perspective. In 2006, when I was at the UN, we voted against creating this Council. It was not adequately reformed and did not change its behavior from that of its predecessor, the Human Rights Commission. Leaving was exactly the right thing to do, and it will have broader implications for American sovereignty around the world.

Can you tell Americans exactly what leaving this Council means to them at home?

Getting off the Council is an assertion of American determination to stick by its constitution and refuse to recognize that there is a higher authority at the UN, whether it is a Council or a Commissioner for Human Rights, judging our performance or giving us advice on how to implement the constitution. We are perfectly capable of doing that ourselves. That is what this is about: self-government. Fundamentally, this is a rejection of the notion that multilateral organizations are in a position to judge representative governments like the United States, or to try and impose their view of what an adequate human rights performance is.