



5 Arrests for the Spain Bomb Attack Iran's postponement of UN inspectors' trip

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***Rick Folbaum:** And a fox news alert. The bombings were on Thursday, the arrests coming on Saturday. Today as we look at live pictures of people protesting on the streets of Spain. They're very upset to what's happened in their country, but they are just getting the news as is the rest of the world that Spain has arrested three Moroccans and two Indians in connection to the Madrid train bombings. This is the strongest indication yet of a possible Islamic link to the attack on one of the US's staunchest allies in the war on terrorism and the recent war in Iraq.*



Joining us now for more on this is Alireza Jafarzadeh, who is the president of Strategic Policy Consulting incorporated, he is also an expert on the Middle East and terrorism and a Fox News foreign affairs analyst. And it's good to see you. Thanks very much for being here again.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Good to see you, Rick.

Rick Folbaum: So these arrests are coming in pretty pretty quickly, only a little bit more than 48 hours after the bombings. Does it sound to you that they've got the right guys so far in Spain?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, I don't have all the details about this and I guess we need to get more information. But from what I can see, the way the whole attack was carried out, the casualties, the coordination, the organization, certainly does have the signature of the similar attacks that were actually carried out by Islamic fundamentalists and extremists. We shouldn't forget that the vast majority of such attacks in the past two decades have been carried out by Islamic fundamentalists. The driving engine behind these attacks have been extremism, Islamic extremism. It doesn't recognize borders; it doesn't recognize religion, race, and it's not limited to a certain sect or religious denomination. In fact many people who have been victimized themselves have been Muslims, whether in the Middle East, Europe or even in a country like Iran that the anti-fundamentalist Shiites actually have been the target of this kind of killings.



Rick Folbaum: Al'Qaeda. You know, that's the question everybody is asking, as we hear about these Islamic fundamentalists. Certainly not all Islamic fundamentalists are members of Al'Qaeda, but does it sound to you that perhaps those who were arrested today might have ties to Al'Qaeda or might be some kind of Al'Qaeda splinter group or a group that sort of learned their lessons from Al'Qaeda and they're now going out and committing Al'Qaeda type acts of terrorism?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: What I can actually describe is that that kind of Islamic fundamentalist groups they don't necessarily have to be tied to a certain group. As I said they don't recognize boundaries, they're not limited to a certain denomination and they get their motives from the epicenter of terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism. Unfortunately the past two decades Iran has been the center. They have supported groups who were not necessarily Shiites, who were not necessarily Iranians, who were not necessarily having common borders with them, so I wouldn't be surprised that you know, and as I said these attacks were actually the work of Islamic fundamentalists.

Rick Folbaum: Let me switch gears with you one moment, and ask to comment on the story coming out of Iran which is itself a very significant and major story today.

The country has pretty much given the boot to the UN weapons inspectors, there had been talks about these inspectors getting in and doing this work, but now they're not being allowed in. They might not be allowed in anytime soon. What's going on in Iran?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: I think this clearly shows the intentions and the new attitude of the Iranian regime in dealing with the IAEA. Because there was a recent meeting in Iran, in Tehran, attended by the supreme leader, Khamenei. And in that meeting they decided that they would pursue getting the nuclear weapons at all costs, and they would try to speed it up to get the bomb before 2005. They decided what they would do with the international community is to basically kick this cooperation can as far as they can. But when time comes and the push comes to shove, they would pursue a confrontational approach. And that's what they're doing. They are trying to show muscle, they're trying to be aggressive with the international community because they don't want the inspectors back in Iran. They don't want the inspectors to know more than what they already know, they don't want the answer to the unanswered question about the P2 machines, about the traces of highly enriched uranium that they found in equipments in two sites in Iran.

Rick Folbaum: Right.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: They're trying to delay the trip.

Rick Folbaum: Are they trying to start a war? Is that what they're trying to do?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Not now. They want to feign cooperation and drag this whole issue to buy time that they need to build the bomb. But when time comes, they would go confrontational and they would muscle their way to get the bomb. They've waged a war in order to get the bomb and dominate the whole region and influence the whole region including Iraq.

Rick Folbaum: That's very interesting. We're going to have to keep our eye on Iran, and we're going to have Alireza Jafarzadeh back. Of course to fill us in, and explain to us exactly what's happening there? Alireza Jafarzadeh, again thank you very much for coming.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Thank you very much.