



Troubling Developments in Iran and Iraq

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Linda Vester: *Now to other news. Some troubling developments coming out of Iran and Iraq for that matter. The country called part of the “axis of evil”, Iran we’re speaking of, is boasting now that it has enriched uranium and it’s promising to use it for only peaceful purposes? Hum, equally disturbing, a brand new revelation of Iran sending spies into Iraq to mess up everything America is doing to get that nation back on its feet.*

Alireza Jafarzadeh, has been sounding the alarm on this for days now, he is a fox news foreign affairs analyst and president of Strategic Policy Consulting. Welcome back to Dayside.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Thank you very much.

Linda Vester: First, I’m going to ask you about the Iraq stuff because that’s a mess, you’ve been trying to tell me and others that Iran is up to no good, they’ve been sending tens of thousands of Islamic extremists and spies across the border into Iraq, is that true?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Linda, in the past ten months Iran has been using the opportunity of everybody being preoccupied with the Sunni Triangle, building their network in the south. They’re basically pursuing a two-prong strategie, number one: they are building a secret network of arms and intelligence, military structure. And also they were doing some overt activities. On the covert side, they have been making their own groups there. And a number of groups are there, including Hezbollah, the same way they did in Lebanon, you know with the Lebanese Hezbollah...

Linda Vester: Of course.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Using the same trainings, they have now formed a Hezbollah there, it’s headquartered in Amarrhah and they have offices in Kut. They also built another group, it’s called the 15th Sha’ban group in Naserieh, and another group, Said Ol Shohada group down in Basrah.

Linda Vester: All extremists?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: These are all basically groups...

Linda Vester: And they all basically want to destabilize Iraq?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: They want to establish an Islamic Republic the same way that Iran has been ruled in the past 25 years.

Linda Vester: Because basically the Iranian extremists fear that if Iraq succeeds and becomes a democracy and everyone lives happily ever after, they're doomed.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: That's exactly the same situation. The Iranian regime sees their fate very much intertwined with how things are going to develop in Iraq.

Linda Vester: Yeah.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Because it's a guarantee for their own survival so they don't want to see any kind of democracy or political pluralism there. They are using every means they have, even in terms of their overt activities they have been sending thousands of clerics, who were studying in theological schools in Qom, and in Mashhad. They are now all back in Iraq, running mosques and you know ...

Linda Vester: Is this going to end up in civil war?! Is this going to end up being civil war between Shiites and Sunnis?!

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, what they want to do, they want to find a way of escaping that in trying to maybe dominate everything before it gets to that point. They want to have a strong enough network of activities and support in the southern part,

Linda Vester: They are playing with fire.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well the whole country is like that. They have their own leverages that they can pull.

Linda Vester: Ok. The police station attack over the weekend, these guys were armed to the teeth, the police were completely outgunned, and long behold two of them have Iranian documents on them.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Yes.

Linda Vester: Is this Tehran's doing?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well I don't know about this particular operation because we need to get more information...

Linda Vester: Right.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: But I can tell you Tehran has been sending arms to Iraq, in terms of mortars and anti missile rockets, Kalishinkof, machine guns,

Linda Vester: Machine guns, you got it!

Alireza Jafarzadeh: ... everything and they've been providing it to their surrogate groups. They have their own sleeper cells inside Iraq and they've been recruiting Iraqis because they wanted to have as less visible presence as possible, so they have to recruit all kinds of Iraqis there to do the job for them. They've been casing on US military forces there, gathering intelligence, so I wouldn't be surprised if this attack or other attacks similar to that, would end up being totally connected to Tehran.

Linda Vester: Now I have to ask you about Iran saying, Oh yeah, we have enriched nuclear fuel and but no, don't worry about it, we're only going to use it for peaceful purposes, do you really believe that?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Linda, if a fox came to you, and told you that 'look I have nothing to do with the hen house, all I want to do is guard the chicken feed,' wouldn't you or anyone in the audience get a little skeptical about this?

Linda Vester: Um, it smells a little funny to me!!!

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Look these ayatollahs, the Iranian regime has been lying in the past 18 years about their specific nuclear weapons program. They were caught just this past October, they were caught just days ago that they had this very sophisticated design of very super efficient enrichment machine...

Linda Vester: Yeah.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: And they're the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, and suddenly they want to provide nuclear fuel to the world market! So who would buy this?

Linda Vester: So as an Iranian, yourself, you say you don't believe it?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Absolutely not, these ayatollahs are truly known as fox in Iran. They have a clear agenda to undermine everything in the region and eventually be able to establish an Islamic republic in Iraq, next door and extend it to other places.

Linda Vester: Right.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Nuclear weapons are a means that they can guarantee that.

Linda Vester: We shall see, Alireza Jafarzadeh, thank you very much.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Thank you Linda.