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Iran's Important Role in the 911 Tragedy

***Rick Folbaum:** The 9/11 Commission reportedly uncovering strong links between Al-Qaeda and Iran. Links that go back to well before the 2001 attacks in this country. So, can Iran be brought over to our side in the "War on Terror." Alireza Jafarzadeh is a Fox News foreign affairs analyst. Let me first of all get your reaction to these news reports that Iran may have worked with Al Qaeda leading up to the attacks on 9/11.*



Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, Rick certainly everybody knew that Iran was the worst leading state sponsor of terrorism involved in more than two decades of terrorism around the world. But as far as September 11th was concerned the general view here in Washington was that basically Iran was out of it. And I think this new piece of evidence and the report by the 9/11 Commission certainly proves that Iran has been part of it as well as played a significant role in the September 11th tragedy and this is very very important.

Rick Folbaum: If this is true that Iran tried to forge a relationship with Al Qaeda to try to plan more attacks against the United States, isn't this something that would warrant some kind of a military action right now?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, I think this is long overdue to see a strong reaction on the part of the international community particularly on the part of the United States in responding to Tehran's terrorism for more than two decades. I think this should put aside any doubt anybody has had that Iran is the epicenter of terrorism and export of Islamic fundamentalism. The policy in dealing with Tehran has to be a decisive one. Unfortunately Rick, I have to say that because of a policy of indecisiveness, Iran has been further emboldened. They have not paid a price at all for a host of terrorist activities they have been carrying out. I think the US should pursue a policy of regime change short of military attack, but heavily relying on the Iranian opposition to bring about the change.



Rick Folbaum: Alireza, I can hear critics of the Bush administration reading these reports and reading the 9/11 Commission's report when it comes out late next week saying, "We went to war with the wrong country." What do you say to them?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, I think you can have all kinds of discussions about that; but the reality is that the United States and all the countries are there [in Iraq]. The US is already there; it's been fifteen months into the war. We have to look at the realities in the region. We have to see what's the best policy to pursue regarding Iraq to make sure that Iraq would move towards progress, that Iraqi peoples' rights are preserved, and to make sure that Iraq is not turned into a sister Islamic Republic --that's exactly what the Iranians are trying to do. So that's where I think we should focus.

Rick Folbaum: Alireza Jafarzadeh, Fox News analyst; always good to talk to you my friend. Thanks very much.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Thank you Rick, always a pleasure.