

Fox & Friends Weekend Sunday, June 20, 2004, 8:13 Eastern Time

Is the UN too soft on Iran?

Coming up, how close is Iran to make nuclear weapons and what is the UN doing about it?

Mike Jerrick: There is word this morning that allies like Pakistan and Saudi Arabia may have cut some deals with Usama Bin Laden and the Taliban.

Julian Phillips: Yes, that's what we are hearing. Joining us is Fox News foreign affair analyst, former US Representative of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, Alireza Jafarzadeh.



Alireza Jafarzadeh: Happy Father's day!

Mike Jerrick: ... Same to you

Alireza Jafarzadeh: ... Good to see you.

Julian Phillips: What would you think about this new allegation coming up by the 9/11 Commission? Do you think it has any credibility at all?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, I don't know. To tell you the truth, I just read the reports in the paper. But, I think what it tells me, further strengthens my view that when it comes to Islamic extremists and terrorists, there is no way that you can cut a deal and have some sort of like a "gentleman's agreement" and thinking that you are gonna be safe. They're eventually gonna come back and bite you.

Mike Jerrick: ... That eventually may have been May when those Riyadh bombings happened... Because it is pretty less internationally known.... universally known that Saudi Arabia did have a deal with Usama Ben Laden.... You know we'll send you some money. We'll have this deal where you don't attack us. But, now they're being attacked.



Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, I think this, the most recent attack, the hostage taking on Friday, and the decapitation of the American hostage, I think, it shows us that we are dealing with a much bigger, broader threat and problem of Islamic extremism that is not really limited to Saudi Arabia or Iraq. It's also in Iran, which is really the main capital of this kind of mentality. We need to fight this in two ways. We need to, number one, send a very strong message to the Islamic extremists that there is not going to be any political gains for them. Unfortunately, so far terrorism has been a profitable business...

Julian Phillips: Hmm.

Alireza Jafarzadeh:and they have not paid the price for whatever they have done and we need to turn that into a costly business.

Mike Jerrick: Okay, costly, what do you mean?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, they have to pay a price. Look, Iran officially announced that they were behind the [US] Marine Barracks bombing in Lebanon. What happened? The Khober Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia; the Jewish Community Center bombing in Argentina; the painful ordeal of the hostages for many years in Lebanon; what was the price that Iran paid? and that sends a message to others, that, look, we can do all these terrorist activities, and we have all

these political gains, and we can get away with it. So, you can't allow that, because that is going to resonate in other countries. And we also need to offer an alternative ideology or point of view to this.... to counter this kind of terrorism that is driven by the ideology of Islamic extremism, ideology of hate. We need to strengthen the position of anti-fundamentalist, anti-extremist Muslims to form the united front of anti-fundamentalists to counter balance the de facto united front of Islamic extremists.

Julian Phillips: There is a question that has been with me since yesterday, I was cooking dinner and talking about it with my wife. I want you to answer that question to the best of your ability after we come back after the break, okay?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: I sure will.

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Julian Phillips:We are talking about terror...and joining us here in the studio is our foreign affairs analyst Alireza Jafarzadeh. I have a question for you. I was talking with my wife yesterday cooking dinner last night. The Saudis say that they are cracking down on terror. And of course they killed, I think, 4 terrorists responsible for the beheading of Paul Johnson. My question to you is that they had 15,000 looking for this.... Paul Johnsonand these terrorists. They were able to assassinate the cell leader so quickly afterwards. I don't understand that. If they were able to catch these guys so quickly and assassinate them afterwards they found that this guy was beheaded how couldn't they nail these guys beforehand?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, that is a good question and I truly; honestly, don't know the answer to that. But, what I can say really -- and I know there have been different suggestions to that -- I think whether it is the Saudis or any other country within the Islamic world, if anybody thinks there is a shortcut or there is a way of cutting deals, or being soft, or being indecisive against the Islamic extremists and stay safe, or eliminate terrorism, Islamic extremism, they are dead wrong. I think the only way is to really be decisive and firm and go head on against them and at the same time strengthen the position of antifundamentalist Muslims with tolerant views of Islam, which is the main stream.

Mike Jerrick: We have teased.... probably we should ask this question about Iran and the UN. Is the UN being too soft when it comes to sanctions or with every one, the nuclear situation in Iran is concerned? We had some pictures in FOX News channel this week about nuclear weapons in Iran. Talking about nuclear weapons in Iran, talk about that just a little bit. And then also with June 30th coming up are we going to end up with an Iranian model with the government in Iraq?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: First, on the nuclear issue, I think that this is in fact a good example of what I was talking about earlier. Iran is in a very ambitious way proceeding with its nuclear weapons program. It's very advanced. Unfortunately, I think, what we see on the ground is that the whole world is watching Iran building the bomb. That's the bottom line. We just had a resolution at the IAEA meeting in Vienna. Even though it was strongly worded, but I think it had no teeth. Iran can leave with it at the end of the day. And they just bought another three

months or so. Iran has gotten the whole world in this cycle of negotiations, and talks, and inspections, and resolutions, while at the same time they are building their nuclear weapons program. We just saw those new images that were Fox exclusive images that show tremendous advancement. You see, on the left side, you have those main uranium hauls that once completed...

Julian Phillips: Huge...

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Huge! Together they can have as many as 50,000 centrifuge machines in them that once operational they could have enough highly enriched uranium for 15 to 20 bombs a year. On the right hand side, you see [the new image] that it seems to me that it has been completed. This is an underground facility; it's 25 feet deep; it's protected by 8-feet-thick concrete walls. And this shows how rapidly they have been progressing while there have been talks.

Mike Jerrick: Some people analyze that as they had been wiped away, so they were trying to get rid of them. You say it's all underground?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: That's the way it is supposed to be built. This is the site actually that I revealed in August of 2002. And I said at the time that it is underground. I think Iran should have been referred to the UN Security Council and sanctions should have been imposed.

Mike Jerrick: We have to have you back to answer the question about Iraq and Iran, in the next few days, as June 30th gets closer.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Thank you very much.