



## Fox News Live

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### Iranian Fighters in Iraq

*Well, a new article in the New Yorker Magazine is raising new concerns about Iraq and Iran. There are reports that Iranian forces are heading into Iraq to destabilize the country. Iran is reportedly hoping to see radical Muslim leadership get a foothold in Iraq. New Yorker magazine says to look out for its own security interests, Israel is reportedly sending forces into the northern area of Iraq as a precautionary measure. Let's talk about this and all the ramifications with Alireza Jafarzadeh, Fox News foreign affairs analyst and also Bob Newman, retired US Marine Corps specials ops, and director of international security and counter terrorism services for Geopscope group.*



**Rita Cosby:** Alireza, I have to ask you first, did you know if these raids are sanctioned by the government or are on a private basis that these commanders are actually in this Kurdistan northern region of Iraq?

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** No I do not. Actually, the article itself has so many denials and no-comments there, so it's very difficult to figure that out. But clearly, as the article suggests, there is a serious concern that right after the fall of Baghdad the big winner in the region has been Iran and they have been taking advantage of the situation by sending arms, weapons, money, Ministry of Intelligence agents, clerics, and forming their own groups, vast majority of them Islamic extremist groups all over Iraq, but particularly in the south.



**Rita Cosby:** what are you hearing about the North Bob? Anything that you're hearing?

**Bob Newman:** well, yes indeed. It is just a darn shame that Sy Hersh has decided to spill the beans on what Israel of course is obviously planning to do. They have two options. First we have to go back and preface Israel's argument. Remember a couple of years back they said they will not allow Iran to become a nuclear power. So that means the Natanz operation which is for uranium enrichment is now all the way under the ground and at Arak, not too far from there, they have their heavy water plutonium system right there. This leaves Israel with two options. They can either use the GBU's the Guided Bomb Unit bunker busters that we've been selling them, the advanced model, and try to hit this underground facility that way, or they can use some of their spec ops forces that they have on the ground now in northern Iraq and handle it from the ground. It just depends on what Sharon decides to be the most effective operation.

**Rita Cosby:** Bob, either way, you are talking about military operation, right?

**Bob Newman:** Oh, either way, it's going to be that way, because if Iran is allowed to get nuclear weapon, they will absolutely use it, either against Israel or against another high value target. We know that for a fact. That's their stated goal.

**Rita Cosby:** Alireza, how concerned..., today we are hearing from Condoleezza Rice a little bit ago; other folks in the administration. The rhetoric seems to definitely have increased. Even Mohammad ElBaradei, the head of the IAEA, he seemed tempered before in other interviews with him, but now recently he is even retching up the

rhetoric against Iran. Is that the sense you are getting?

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** That's exactly the sense that I'm getting, Rita. This is very very serious. I mean, this recent announcement by Tehran that they are going to resume the testing of parts of the centrifuge machines clearly shows that the European Union policy of olive branch has utterly failed. You can't have any dialog or negotiation with rogue states. Second, I think the way Iran has announced it, it makes me believe that they are most probably already enriching uranium. I think they're using this as a smoke screen to deviate attention from their actual enrichment of uranium and I will be extremely surprised if Iran is not already enriching uranium. I think what the United States needs to do, as Dr. Rice said earlier today, they need to really step up pressure on Iran by getting the Europeans to speak with one voice with the United States; to ask the Europeans to step up to the plate and urge the referral of Iran's case to UN Security Council and impose sanctions. We can't waste any more time.



**Rita Cosby:** Do you sense that that's a boiling point too, Bob?

**Bob Newman:** Oh, It really is and of course it was mentioned this morning by another guest analyst and commentator you had on, that we have a lot of carrier battle groups heading into the area that we are not necessarily scheduling to be there at this time. So one of our options is of course, a naval blockade of Iranian ports, especially ports like Busher which is where their reactor is being built. It's a Russian reactor and they paid a lot of money for it and there are a lot of Russian techs there and that's a little bit of a problem too. But also the port of Bandar Abbas which is their main oil export port. We need a lot of manpower on the seas and in the air there and if we send some extra carrier battle groups there we will be able to do that. But remember that's an act of war. It is a retaliatory act of war of course. Because we have been at war with Iran really since 1979, although not declared. And if they're going to continue to push the envelope this way, we must play poker the right way and play all our cards but play them very wisely.

**Rita Cosby:** ... Both of you, thank you, we appreciate it.