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Excerpts:

MONICA CROWLEY: *We are joined right now, by Alireza Jafarzadeh, Alireza is the President of Strategic Policy Consulting, Inc. He is also a well known authority on issues relating to Iran's nuclear weapons program, terrorism and the export of Islamic fundamentalism to Iraq. The international concerns about Iran's nuclear weapons program has arisen largely because of Alireza's stunning revelations about seven major previously secret nuclear sites in Iran, including the sites at Natanz, Arak, Karaj, Abali, and Tehran. Alireza, welcome.*

ALIREZA JAFARZADEH: Thank you very much, Monica, it's a great, great pleasure to be on your show.

MONICA CROWLEY: *Well, it's nice to talk to you, too, because you've done some really pioneering work here exposing the Iranian nuclear weapons program, and we have so much to talk to you about today.*

... Alright, Alireza, before we get to the Iranian nuclear program, let me ask you specifically about what Iran has been doing to try to disrupt the democratic experiment in Iraq. Tell us specifically, in terms of exporting terror to Iraq, in terms of the Iranian support for that young Shi'ite cleric with the militia, Muqtada Al-Sadr, tell us everything that Iran is doing to destabilize Iraq.

ALIREZA JAFARZADEH: Iran has been at work, even months before the war started. They knew that this is both an opportunity for them, and also a threat, and it's not a matter of luxury for them. So what they did, right after the fall of Baghdad, they sent large groups of the Badr brigade, a military structure belonging to the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution of Iraq that was formed in Iran by the Revolutionary Guards, funded by them, it was part of their structure, it was part of the notorious Jerusalem Force, and they were sent into Iraq the same night that Baghdad fell, mostly in the southern part of Iraq, and they had members of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution of Iraq who were sent into the country to take over a number of positions there.

Then, they had their own Ministry of Intelligence agents who presented themselves under the cover of pilgrims who went to various cities, mostly in the southern part of the country, then they were sending arms, hidden in trucks carrying fruits, into the country, spreading it among their own forces, then they started setting up benign-looking organizations, charity groups, under the cover of helping the population with medicine, and food.

They were also involved in setting up religious centers, erecting new mosques, trying to repair the damaged mosques, and then they had several thousand of clerics who were studying in the theological school in Qom and Mashhad for nearly two decades, they're all sent back to Iraq, taking over the leadership positions in these mosques. Their mission obviously, was to incite violence and to build anti-Americanism, and build support for an Iranian-modeled Islamic Republic there.

MONICA CROWLEY: *Now is this something that they are doing specifically in Fallulah, because we are hearing that Fallujah is sort of a mini-Taliban state, that the city of Fallujah, which as we know has long been a hot bed of terrorist activity in Iraq, giving us a heck of a hard time, probably the home to Al-Zarqawi, the al-Qaida linked terrorist who has been causing so much damage in Iraq, do you see the Iranian influence in Fallujah, because now we understand the city is basically an Islamic territory?*

ALIREZA JAFARZADEH: What the Iranian regime did is that, they felt that right after the fall of Baghdad, there was enough hostility going on in Fallujah, and a lot of the attention, both on the part of the US military and others, was really refocused on the “Sunni triangle” in Fallujah, so they felt that they don’t need to do much there, and they should use the opportunity and build their network in the southern part of Iraq, which there was very little attention there. They had this wide open, 900 miles of Iran-Iraq border, so they spent a year building a network of support and activities there because they knew at the end, if they have a big bulk of Iraq in their pocket, with their influence and the money and the clerics, and agents, then, eventually, they could have a big impact on Fallujah, even if they didn’t start strong there. This might be even worse in the coming months, because with the level of influence and activities and money and the organization, they can eventually influence the situation in Fallujah, some of which you already mentioned. So certainly, when we’re talking about Iraq, whether we’re talking about the southern part or whether we’re talking about Fallujah, we’re eventually talking about the threat of Islamic extremism, period.

MONICA CROWLEY: *We’re talking with Alireza Jafarzadeh. Alireza let me ask you point-blank. Based on everything we’ve said in this program, Iran is doing all it can to destabilize Iraq; obviously Iran does not want a functioning democracy next door. But the question is, do the Iranians want to go further, do the Iranians want a puppet regime that they control next door?*

ALIREZA JAFARZADEH: This has been their mission since the day that Khomeini took over in Iran in 1979. He had openly called for the spread of export “Islamic revolution.” They have this grand view of “global Islamic rule,” and they definitely want to have an Islamic republic modeled after Iran, to be erected in Iraq, and that’s why it’s very important, whether on the part of the coalition or the Iraqi interim government, to do everything possible to halt Iran’s influence and activities there. But at the same time, politically and ideologically, I think we need to do an international effort to build an anti-fundamentalist, anti-extremist, front opposing this. The voices of moderation and tolerance in the Islamic world, especially in Iraq, need to be strengthened. Every effort should be done to further unite these voices of the opposition.

One very interesting example, Monica, is that, a couple of weeks ago, some 50,000 Iraqi citizens went to the main base of the Iranian opposition who are vehemently opposed to Tehran, they are anti-fundamentalist, very tolerant, moderate, Muslims, in camp Ashraf, 100 miles north of Baghdad, where there are 4,000 of them. And they joined voices, they both denounced extremism coming from Tehran, and they both said that Iraq needs to be independent of Iran’s influence. If we want to see any kind of progress, and prospects for change and democracy and pluralism in Iraq, it must be a country that is guarded, protected against Islamic extremism coming from Iran, and certainly the Iranian opposition plays a significant role in that. The same way that the fundamentalists have formed a *de facto* united front of Islamic extremists in different countries, I think the same thing should be done that all the voices of moderation within the Islamic world must unite in denouncing what the extremists are doing, particularly coming from Iran.

MONICA CROWLEY: *I think you're absolutely right, but we haven't heard much from those so-called moderate voices in the Muslim world. Every now and then, you hear some condemnation of the be-headings, some condemnation of the violence, but they are few and far between. So we really need to get these moderates to feel that it is OK to speak out against the extremists in their own faith, and that is a very tall order, but as you said, and we didn't even have time Alireza to get to the Iranian nuclear program, we'll have to do that another time---*

ALIREZA JAFARZADEH: I would be happy to come back to that and target that issue--

MJ: *I would love to have you on that because that is also a serious problem, but I think as you just pointed out, to all of us, you cannot solve the problem of Iraq without solving the problem of Iran. So it is an enormous problem and we need to deal with it. Alireza, thank you so much.*

ALIREZA JAFARZADEH: Thank you very much, it was a great, great pleasure to be on your show.

MJ: *Nice to talk to you, too. Alireza Jafarzadeh, the President of Strategic Policy Consulting in Washington, DC.*