



Iran's sponsor of terrorism in Iraq

November 20, 2003

Linda Vester: *Welcome back to Dayside, our next guest says he has evidence that the government of Iran is behind much of the terror in Iraq. His sources tell him that Tehran has smuggled enormous caches of weapons into Iraq in just the past two months. He is Alireza Jafarzadeh. He's a Fox News foreign affairs analyst and president of Strategic Policy Consulting.*

Linda Vester: Welcome.

Jafarzadeh: Thank you Linda.

Linda Vester You're talking about the smuggling of weapons. How many are we talking about and what kinds?

Jafarzadeh: well, in the past few months, particularly in past 2 months, large amounts of weaponry including mortars, anti aircraft missiles, 160 mm guns, 170 mm multiple rocket launchers, RPG-7, heavy machine guns have been smuggled into the country using trucks who were carrying vegetables and fruits, buses or utility vehicles, and they have been hidden in villages and agricultural fields to be used by them. They have also sent, since the fall of Baghdad in April, thousands of their clerics, revolutionary guards, their agents and also their surrogate groups into the country. They now dominate a major portion of the southern part of Iraq including the provinces of Samawah, Meissan, Basra, Alwaset, Najaf and Karbala. So this is a very frightening situation, because this puts Tehran in a much better position every day with the rise in violence and the US casualties. And this is exactly what they want to do. They want to establish an Islamic Republic in Iraq.

Linda Vester: Let me get down to brass tax here. We're talking about Iranian government soldiers being part of this. This is a state sponsor of terrorism, correct?

Jafarzadeh: This is clearly a state sponsor of terrorism. And in fact the organization that is involved in it is a part of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards known as the Jerusalem force which is responsible for all their extra territorial activities --meaning all their terrorism outside of Iran. This is the very same force that was responsible for the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia, the Jewish community center bombing in Argentina, and a number of other attacks in the past. And now they are most active in Iraq. In addition to that, they are supporting their surrogate groups who have been trained, funded

and groomed in Iran for many years and they were sent into their country. So they are using every leverage possible. Because they realize that everyday that passes, they can take better advantage of the chaos there and tilt the balance of power in their favor. Eventually with the natural dominance that Iran has over Iraq, You know 60% of the Iraqi population is Shiite which is the largest in the region after Iran. 800 miles of common border with Iran --which is a very porous border-- and the 2 holiest sites of Shiites are not in Iran, they are in Iraq. So that gives a tremendous ground for the ayatollahs who have always had this ambition of establishing an Islamic Republic there. It's also a means for their own survival. Because they realize that they are already in trouble in terms of Afghanistan and they don't like to see any kind of democratic process in their neighboring country. They would do anything to derail any possible future political process there, simply for their own survival.

Linda Vester: Alireza, thank you very much for this information. It's disturbing stuff. We appreciate it.