



## **Terrorism, US-Iran Relations, Iran's Meddling in Iraq January 5, 2004**

**Steve Doocy:** Al-Jazeera has aired another possible Usama bin Laden tape. His message is step up the armed struggle against us. No word yet if the tape is authentic.

**Juliet Huddy:** Joining us now from Washington is Fox news foreign affairs analyst, president of Strategic Policy Consulting, Inc. Alireza Jafarzadeh, thank you very much for being here this morning.

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** Thank you very much, good to be here.

**Juliet Huddy:** I wanted to ask you about some reports that Usama bin Laden has been seen, there was an eyewitness that saw Usama bin Laden in Iran. And we have one of our fox news contributors saying the same thing, backing it up, Mansour Ijaz. What can you tell us about this?

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** Well, I've heard this for the past few weeks and I don't have any specific information on that, but even though it's conceivable, I think it's highly improbable.

**Juliet Huddy:** Why?

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** Well, I think the main source of such rumors or bluffs, if you will, is the Iranian regime itself and the reason they are doing it, is because they want to gain as much concessions as possible from the US and the western countries. Because this way, without committing themselves to anything, they would build up this kind of thought and expectation here in Washington and other places. You know this is a very provocative rumor that if he's there, people would say well, maybe we shouldn't be too harsh or too tough or too rough to Tehran and maybe we should find a way of working with them. So that's the purpose of such rumors, I believe.

**Brian Kilmeade:** All right, let's talk about what Elizabeth Dole's delegation proposed to do as former leader of the Red Cross. She wanted to go over there and help out with the devastating earthquake and all the victims which then number I think are over 30,000 right now. Why was it rejected, would they rescind their rejection?

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** Well, first of all as far as the aids are concerned I think President Bush has been absolutely right in sending aid to the victims in Iran directly and I think more aid and supplies should be sent to Iran because the level of devastation is beyond

imagination. President Bush was also right when he said that the Iranian government must listen to the voices of the people who long for freedom in Iran. This is a key part of his statement. I think that should be the approach and the policy that the administration here and other countries must pursue. That is to say: Sending aid, yes; Reaching out to the people of Iran and the opposition movement who long for freedom, yes; But reaching out to the Iranian regime, absolutely not. This would be like a one way love.

**Steve Doocy:** And Alireza isn't that because the people of Iran are very frustrated with how the regime has reacted to this quake and they've said that well our government isn't really doing that much for us it's the foreigners who are helping us out, like the United States, and so the regime doesn't want the people of Iran to see that the US is really trying to help; give them a hand.

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** I think that you are absolutely right. The people of Iran for many years have been very frustrated with this regime, and they were particularly frustrated over how they handled this whole disaster, this crisis. For the first couple of days it was the ordinary people with bare hands who were trying to help the victims. In the first day alone some 2,000 people were rescued by the ordinary people with empty hands. Had the regime advocated all their resources, in terms of helicopters, the Revolutionary Guards, the army, all the resources that the country has to help the population it would've made a big big difference. But the Revolutionary Guards were sent days after only to quite the people down, and not really to help the population. So the regime doesn't like to see a build up of relationship between the foreign governments, especially the United States, with the population itself.

**Juliet Huddy:** There's been a lot of concern about the relationship between Iran and Iraq and how much control Iran exerts in Iraq, even now that the United States is in there. Can you elaborate a little bit on this?

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** Certainly, Tehran has been extremely active since the fall of Baghdad. In the past nine months, according to information, they have been sending thousands of their agents into Iraq trying to destabilize the situation. There are four different agencies that are already involved. One is the office of the Supreme Leader, Khamenei, the other one is the Organization of Islamic Propaganda, the other one is the Jerusalem Force, which is a part of the Revolutionary Guards, and the fourth one is the Ministry of Intelligence itself. They have been sending arms into the country. They have thousands of the clerics who were trained and groomed in Iran for many years who are all now sent to Iraq. They are sending trucks of cassette tapes, CDs, books to do Islamic fundamentalist propaganda.

**Steve Doocy:** Interesting stuff. Alireza, thank you very much for joining us today.

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** Sure, thank you.

**Brian Kilmeade:** Of course it was great to have Alireza here, but it's sad that we have to say goodbye.