

Phares on Fox News Radio: The success of the surge depends on sustaining the pressure on Tehran

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In an interview on Fox News Radio, Terrorism expert Walid Phares said the "surge in Baghdad and in Iraq is working, but the strategic success of the move depends on the US determination to pursue its pressures against al Qaeda and the pro Iranian militias as well as containing the Iranian and Syrian regimes." Phares, a senior fellow at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies in Washington, said "the Iranian regime is on the offensive in the region. It is behind the activities aiming at crumbling the political process in Iraq, behind Hezbollah's terror in Lebanon and is racing to obtain the nuclear bomb as soon as it can. The only force blocking Ahmedinijad's ambitions is the United States presence in Iraq and Afghanistan. If America is forced by its own Government to pull out abruptly, without leaving behind an Iraqi Government to withstand the Iranian-Syria axis, Iranian power will stretch from Afghanistan to Lebanon, and the Mullahs nuclear bomb will be threatening the region, Europe and beyond."

Phares, the author of the War of Ideas said the decision of al Sadr forces to play it low profile for few months is a direct result of the recent US surge. "The maneuvers by the Coalition emboldened the Iraqi forces. The Sadr militia wanted to test the latter in Shia areas. Iraq's security forces surprised al Sadr militias with their determination to fight them head on in Karbala and other spots. Which compelled the Sadrist to chose another tactic. They will try to find other plans to retaliate, but this indicates that the US messages to the Iranian regime, the listing of the Pasdaran on the Terror list and ordering commanders to confront the Iranian operatives in Iraq shows that Tehran can be contained but only if the US can sustain a policy of strategic response to the Iranian Mullahs for many months."

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