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Ali Alfoneh is a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and a top expert on Iran and the inner workings of its regime.

Alfoneh came to FDD from the American Enterprise Institute, where he worked as a resident fellow specializing on civil-military relations in Iran and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). He is the originator of the thesis that the Islamic Republic is transforming into a military dictatorship, which he first published in 2005, and has since been adopted by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Alfoneh is the author of *Iran Unveiled: How the Revolutionary Guards Is Transforming Iran from Theocracy into Military Dictatorship*. AEI Press, April 2013. He also follows the military career of Major General Qassem Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force, the IRGC's extraterritorial operations branch.

Alfoneh grew up in Tehran, but moved to Denmark with his family in 1988. In 1993, he ran for public office, and served as elected member of the Herlev City Council from 1994 to 1998. His work experience includes various positions at the Federation of Industries, the parliamentary group of the Social Democratic Party of Denmark, a lectureship in political economy at the University of Southern Denmark from 2003 to 2004, and a research fellowship at the Institute for Strategy at the Royal Danish Defence College from 2004 to 2006.

Alfoneh is a political scientist by training and holds Bachelor's/Master's Degree from the University of Copenhagen. He speaks Persian, Danish, English, and reads German.