

Rick Santorum: Radical Islam Is a 'Death Cult'

U.S. Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum said on Wednesday that radical Shi'ite Muslims in Iran and Iraq believe in an "apocalyptic version" of Islam that he called a "death cult."

Santorum, a former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania whose popularity among Republicans hovers in the low single digits, made the comments during a televised debate while assailing the international deal to curb Iran's nuclear program.

Santorum said more than two-thirds of Iranian and Iraqi Shi'ite Muslims "believe that the end of the world is going to come within their lifetime" because "their regime preaches it."

"They believe in bringing about the end of times. That's their theological goal, and we are in the process of giving them a nuclear weapon to do just that," Santorum said.

"Yes, they're radical Islamists, that's true. But they're a particular version of it, which is an apocalyptic version, which is a death cult," he said.

(Reporting by Roberta Rampton; Editing by Howard Goller)

© 2015 Thomson Reuters. All rights reserved.