

Iran Organizing for Jihad

Iran is going public about its attempts to organize the Middle East for a jihad against Israel to recapture Jerusalem (Al Quds).

According to the Islamic regime's [Keyhan newspaper](#), the mouthpiece of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, the Hamas leadership has called on Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh to form the first ever Arab army to liberate the holy city of Jerusalem.

The Quds News Agency reported that Hamas also called on Arab countries to champion this cause and take preliminary steps toward the establishment of an Arab military coalition. Hamas's statement reads: "The first step is to form Quds Brigades in each Arab country in order to invite the abandoned Palestinians to join, as well as establish, a central Arab military command."

Hamas reiterated in its statement: "The battle for the liberation of Jerusalem is closer than ever and, God willing, we will win." (<http://atimetobetray.com/blog/hamas-calls-for-an-arab-army-to-liberate-jerusalem/>)

Israel slammed the Palestinian deal paving the way for Hamas to join the PLO on Thursday, with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's spokesman Mark Regev saying that if Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas "embraces Hamas, if he walks toward Hamas, he is walking away from peace."

Leaders of several Palestinian groups, including Hamas and Fatah, agreed Thursday to "activate and reconstruct" the PLO so as to allow other non-member parties to join the organization.

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Regev said that anyone who had any illusions about Hamas's true character should have listened to the speeches last week in Gaza from Hamas's leaders at an event marking the 25th anniversary of the founding of the organization. "What we heard was a stream of hateful, extremist rhetoric," he said. (<http://www.jpost.com/DiplomacyAndPolitics/Article.aspx?id=250613>)

There are facts, and much glaring evidence on the ground, including the statements made by al-Maliki in a recent press conference, suggests that Iraq today is on the verge of witnessing the collapse of its political process and being ruled by a purely sectarian regime. This poses a great danger, not only for Iraq internally, but also for the wider region. There is no difference today between al-Maliki in his dealings with Kuwait, against the backdrop of the Mubarak Al Kabeer Port issue, and Saddam Hussein, who often provoked such issues, with matters ultimately culminating in the occupation of Kuwait. Indeed there is little difference between al-Maliki and Saddam Hussein whatsoever, because these days the Iraqi Prime Minister has become the Shiite Saddam! (<http://www.asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=2&id=27797>)

Iran will launch 10 days of naval drills from Saturday around the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial oil shipping route, media said, after a rumor earlier this month that it planned to close the waterway. "Our naval drill will begin from Dec. 24 lasting 10 days covering east of Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman to the Gulf of Aden," navy commander Admiral Habibollah Sayari was quoted as saying on Thursday by the Fars news agency. "This is the first time that we are covering such large area," he added. (<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/12/23/184066.html>) (Edited for spacing.)

Please read all of the articles cited above for more important information, especially the articles from *A Time to Betray* and *Jerusalem Post*.

Analysis. The first two articles point to the immediate goal of the recapture of Jerusalem by Islamic (Shiite if possible) forces. It also points to the reason that Iran was seriously upset about any attempt of Hamas to move its political leadership from Damascus to Cairo. Loss of control of the Hamas Politburo would not have allowed for such a call.

It is difficult to know at this point whether or not the Hamas statement is a real call or just propaganda to keep the Iranian funds flowing. Even though there is zero possibility of a peace treaty between Israel and the Palestine Authority, such a statement from Hamas definitely shows where the Palestinian's true goals lie.

The call for Arab countries to establish Quds Brigades will go unanswered. The Sunni Arab states realize that this is just a ploy to enhance the opportunity for the Mahdi to reappear. They are not a bit interested in the Mahdi appearing or in Shiite ascendancy over Sunni Islam. The call by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to create a union from the Gulf Cooperation Council States is a strong indication that this call for more El Quds brigades will go unheeded.

Saudi Arabia is also ratcheting up the rhetoric against al Maliki and the Iraqi government after it charged the Sunni Vice President with terrorist crimes. So far I have seen no clear acceptance of responsibility for the recent bombings in Baghdad. Both Sunni and Shi'i have reasons to punctuate their political positions with dead bodies and destruction. We must wait on the determination of who was really behind the bombings.

For the time being the Sunni Vice President is relatively safe in the Kurdish area. Maliki may well decide to challenge what Sunni militias may be in existence but he is not about to upset the Kurds. Neither he nor the Iranians would be happy to have a couple of tens of thousands of unhappy Peshmerga on their northern flank. That would put a big crimp in the Iran to Syria land bridge. The Sunni Vice President will stay in Kurdistan until this situation is sorted out; or, until Iraq officially breaks up into three more or less autonomous regions.

It is obvious from the Alhomyed editorial in Asharq al-Awsat that the Saudis are not happy with the way their co religionists are being treated in Iraq. Although it is expected that there is a lot of left over resentment by Shiites from the days of Saddam Hussein, it was also expected that the grand bargain engineered by the United States over the form of the Iraqi government would guarantee at least tolerable treatment for Iraq's Sunnis. This does not appear to be the case.

The question is how far the Saudis will let this go before supplying arms and money to the Sunni militias in Iraq as they have done to the Syrian revolutionaries. This would undoubtedly lead to civil war in Iraq. While this is something that the United States sought to avoid, there is no way to avoid it as long as the Iranians continue their attempts to organize the Shiites under Ayatollah Shahroudi. Marginalization and subjugation of the Sunnis is part of the plan to control Iraq and especially the centers of government and the two revered mosques.

I believe the Saudi government is putting al Maliki on notice through the vehicle of Alhomyed's editorial: maintain the government as written or face civil war. It is doubtful that the Iraqi Sunnis could do more than the Syrian protesters and that is to keep the Iraqi government distracted with low intensity conflict in the Western provinces. However, that may be enough to put the security of the Baghdad to Damascus shipping route in jeopardy. That would not make the Iranians happy.

The item about the Iranian naval exercise in the Straits of Hormuz may not appear to be related but I believe it is. It was known from prior reports that the Iranian Navy was going to practice closing the Straits of Hormuz. For the Iranian threat to close the Straits to be credible, their navy must actually

demonstrate the capability to do so. So it is no coincidence that this exercise is announced pretty much at the same time as the call for the Arab Al Quds brigades. The Iranians are telling us that they will start a war to retake Jerusalem (required to create the situation for the return of the Mahdi) and that western interference in that war will cause the Straits to be closed. In fewer words, sacrifice Israel or your oil.

The call for Arab Quds brigades increases the importance of coordination and combined exercises between all of the nations in the area. The anti missile exercise to be conducted between the United States and Israel in the Spring is probably only one in a series of exercises that will see the Israeli, GCC and NATO air defense and missile defense systems tied together in one theater wide defensive system. While there will probably be a split of command and control along the European Command and Central Command borders, the information will flow to all equally.

I believe that the mobility exercise of command and control equipment conducted in November using 41 C-5s was the provisioning of that equipment to contingency bases in the area. When we mobilized for Desert Shield/Desert Storm, all of the wiring was laid between these bases and the central command headquarters. While the radios and other equipment were removed at the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the wires remained and the command posts were sealed and preserved. I suspect that most of these command posts are now active. All that is required is to bring in the mass of people required to conduct the fight.