

## Marching to Armageddon

With the veto today of the Arab League resolution on Syria by Russia and the People's Republic of China, I believe we have set ourselves firmly on the road to Armageddon. The war between the Sunnis lead by Saudi Arabia and the Shiites lead by Iran approaches quickly. And we are not being told the full story.

The report of the monitors sent by the Arab League to Syria has been leaked. It paints an entirely different picture of the situation in Syria than the mainstream media.

*25. On being assigned to their zones and starting work, the observers witnessed acts of violence perpetrated by Government forces and an exchange of gunfire with armed elements in Homs and Hama. As a result of the Mission's insistence on a complete end to violence and the withdrawal of Army vehicles and equipment, this problem has receded. The most recent reports of the Mission point to a considerable calming of the situation and restraint on the part of those forces.*

*26. In Homs and Dera'a, the Mission observed armed groups committing acts of violence against Government forces, resulting in death and injury among their ranks. In certain situations, Government forces responded to attacks against their personnel with force. The observers noted that some of the armed groups were using flares and armour-piercing projectiles.*

*27. In Homs, Idlib and Hama, the Observer Mission witnessed acts of violence being committed against Government forces and civilians that resulted in several deaths and injuries. Examples of those acts include the bombing of a civilian bus, killing eight persons and injuring others, including women and children, and the bombing of a train carrying diesel oil. In another incident in Homs, a police bus was blown up, killing two police officers. A fuel pipeline and some small bridges were also bombed.*

*28. The Mission noted that many parties falsely reported that explosions or violence had occurred in several locations. When the observers went to those locations, they found that those reports were unfounded.*

*29. The Mission also noted that, according to its teams in the field, the media exaggerated the nature of the incidents and the number of persons killed in incidents and protests in certain towns.*

*([http://www.columbia.edu/~hauben/Report\\_of\\_Arab\\_League\\_Observer\\_Mission.pdf](http://www.columbia.edu/~hauben/Report_of_Arab_League_Observer_Mission.pdf))*

*The report is adamant. There was no organized, lethal repression by the Syrian government against peaceful protesters. Instead, the report points to shady armed gangs as responsible for hundreds of deaths among Syrian civilians, and over one thousand among the Syrian army, using lethal tactics such as bombing of civilian buses, bombing of trains carrying diesel oil, bombing of police buses and bombing of bridges and pipelines.*

*Once again, the official NATOGCC version of Syria is of a popular uprising smashed by bullets and tanks. Instead, BRICS members Russia and China, and large swathes of the developing world see it as the Syrian government fighting heavily armed foreign mercenaries. The report largely confirms these suspicions.*

*The Syrian National Council is essentially a Muslim Brotherhood outfit affiliated with both the House of Saud and Qatar - with an uneasy Israel quietly supporting it in the background. Legitimacy is not exactly its cup of green tea. As for the Free Syrian Army, it does have its defectors, and well-meaning opponents of the Assad regime, but most of all is infested with these foreign mercenaries weaponized by the GCC, especially Salafist gangs. ([http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Middle\\_East/NB04Ak01.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Middle_East/NB04Ak01.html))*

So why the hue and cry to rid Syria of the Assad family? Assad refused to throw the Iranians out of his country when asked by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia in February, 2009.

So where are we today after the veto?

*debkafle's military sources report that the Russians backed their hard line against the West by putting Rapid Reaction Force (aka Spetsnaz) units in Black Sea bases on the ready to set out for Syria and defend Damascus. A Cold War dimension has been injected into the Syrian crisis, which is fast descending into a sectarian war between Syria's ruling Alawites (Shiites) and the majority Sunnis. The*

*regional dimension is provided by pitting Iran and Syria against Turkey and the Gulf Arabs.*

*The Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's earlier announcement that he would visit Damascus next Tuesday, Feb 7, with Russian Foreign Intelligence Service chief Mikhail Fradkov was meant to buy Bashar Assad another three days' grace to polish off the opposition before a possible UN-ordered ceasefire. (<http://www.debka.com/article/21710/>)*

*While quietly casting lines to draw Tehran into talks on their nuclear dispute, President **Barack Obama** is reported exclusively by **DEBKA-Net-Weekly's** military and Washington sources to have secretly ordered US air, naval and marine forces to build up heavy concentrations on two strategic islands – Socotra, which is part of a Yemeni archipelago in the Indian Ocean, and the Omani island of Masirah at the southern exit of the Strait of Hormuz.*

...

*The Socotra facilities are so secret that they are never mentioned in any catalogue listing US military facilities in this part of the world, which include Jebel Ali and Al Dahfra in the United Arab Emirates; Arifjan in Kuwait; and Al Udeid in Qatar – all within short flying distances from Iran.*

*Additional US forces are also being poured into Camp Justice on the barren, 70-kilometer long Omani island of Masirah, just south of the Hormuz entry point to the Gulf of Oman from the Arabian Sea.*

*US military facilities were established there after the signing of an access agreement with Oman in 1980.*

**Up to 100,000 US troops present by early March**

(<http://www.pacificrimcoins.com/pacrim/content/debka-massive-us-military-buildup-two-strategic-islands-socotra-and-masirah>)

Please read all of the cited articles for more extremely important information.

**Analysis.** I believe that we are witnessing the countdown to a fight that has been brewing since before the death of Mohammad some 1430 years ago. It is the fight between those who believe that the leadership of Islam should have been continued through the family of Mohammad and those who believe that the most pious Muslim should lead Islam. The theocratic leadership of Iran believes that the Hidden Imam (Imam al-Mahdi) is preparing to return to our World and lead Shi'i Islam to victory over the infidels (and the Sunnis).

We are focused on Syria because it constitutes the Shiite “western front”. It is the threat to the legitimacy of the House of Saud. From Syria it is pretty much a straight shot south to the Two Mosques. If you read articles in Asharq al-Awsat, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia is first referred to as Custodian of the Two Mosques. It is from this declaration made by ibn Wahhab in the 1850s that the House of Saud was able to consolidate its rule over what is now Saudi Arabia. This is also why Wahhabi Islam is the official religion of Saudi Arabia. The House of Saud must retain control of the Two Mosques. They cannot be allowed to fall and especially not to Shiites.

However, Saudi Arabia is a big country with a small population. The Saudis are not particularly equipped to move large forces from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea. Therefore, the threat posed by the Syrian Army must either be blocked or removed. I have believed for a long time that one Egyptian field army would be deployed across the Sinai to Jordan to block the Syrian Army's thrust towards Mecca. Given the current instability in Egypt this option may not be available.

The Jordanian armed forces are very good but very small. It is doubtful that they would constitute more than a “speed bump” to the Syrians without major outside help. Presuming a two front war, the Saudis would be unable to reinforce the Red Sea area with sufficient forces to defeat the Syrians. If Assad cannot be convinced to abrogate his alliance with the Iranians, he must be removed from power and replaced by a Sunni government that will throw the Iranians out.

There is no doubt in my mind that Iran is preparing for war in the short term. Iran has been effectively put under siege for its uranium enrichment program and its failure to make it entirely public. Given the nature of the current Iranian government, we must, for our own safety, presume that Iran is developing a nuclear weapon. As long as the mullahocracy continues to have the faithful chant "Death to America. Death to Israel." after Friday prayers, we would be fool hardy not to take them at their word.

Israel is in even greater peril from Iran and its proxies. It faces the probability of a massive missile attack from Hezbollah in Lebanon, a missile attack with possible chemical or biological weapons from Syria and a missile attack from Iran with nuclear weapons. While Israel can withstand a missile bombardment with conventional or even chemical warheads, it cannot withstand the use of nuclear weapons. Israel's population is concentrated in a few major cities that are located close to each other. If Tel Aviv and Ashkelon were struck with Nagasaki sized weapons, Israel would cease to exist as an organized country. No Israeli government will allow that to happen.

To further complicate matters, the Russians and the PRC have entered the fray. Russia is a long time ally of Syria dating back to just after the Six Day War (1967). Then the Soviet Union armed and trained the Egyptian and Syrian armed forces. This assistance led to the Yom Kippur War (October, 1973) which the Egyptians were actually winning until they were forced to come out from under their Soviet supplied Surface-to-Air (SAM) missile umbrella. Armored forces under Ariel Sharon defeated the Egyptian army and did a quick about face and headed for Damascus.

The Soviets warned Israel not to go to Damascus. The Soviets even were prepared to send troops to defend the Hafez Assad regime. Not deterred the Israelis kept on the road to Damascus. Well aware that a clash between Israeli and Soviet forces would mean that the Soviets would use nuclear weapons to defeat Israel and save their client state in the Middle East, the United States went to DEFCON THREE. This was announced by President Nixon on national television. Eventually the Israelis stopped their armored columns some 22 kilometers from Damascus and we avoided World War Three.

We are apparently back in the same place as we were in 1973. The Russians have placed their aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov and its battle group in Tartus harbor. According to the Debka article cited above, they have alerted their Spetsnaz units of the Black Sea Fleet to be prepared to go to Damascus and assist the Bashar Assad regime. These units would be placed between any invading force and Damascus. We are back in almost the same place we were in October, 1973.

Except the PRC has decided to enter the fray. They have made it clear that they consider the uninterrupted supply of oil from Iran to be in their vital national interests. Usually when a nation declares their vital national interests at stake, they are prepared to go to war to defend them. The PRC's veto of the Arab League resolution is probably their opening gambit. We have yet to see exactly how far the PRC is prepared to go to defend Iran.

Yet it is apparent that all sides are building up their forces and exercising them in as realistic a wartime environment as possible. The Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) started an exercise today in the southwestern part of Iran near the Straits of Hormuz. The Iranians have already announced a naval exercise for the end of February in the area of the Straits of Hormuz with the objective of practicing to close the Straits. I presume that the land exercise is to support the naval exercise by having the land forces practice to defend the naval facilities in the Straits of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman.

While it is impossible to know when this conflict will start, there are several indicators that can be used to estimate the time frame. Probably the most indicative was Secretary of Defense Panetta's statement

aboard the USS Enterprise that CVN-65 and its battle group would transit the Straits of Hormuz on March 20th. The Enterprise Strike Group will be the third carrier strike group in the area presumably. The others will be the Carl Vinson and the Abraham Lincoln. Depending on the situation at the time, the Iranians may attempt to block the Straits.

There are other factors at work also. Even though the European Union has voted sanctions against the purchase of Iranian oil by its members, Spain, Italy and especially Greece are highly dependent on Iranian oil. In the case of Greece, Iran supplies somewhere in the vicinity of 20% of its crude oil supply. Iran supplies this oil on very favorable credit terms that Greece has been unable to obtain from other sources. Last weekend the Iranians were preparing to pass a bill to immediately cut off all oil supplies to countries that honored the EU embargo. That bill appears to have been side tracked after having been passed and sent to the Guardian Council for action.

At last Friday prayers, Ali Khamenei warned of a coming great event.

*Amid crippling sanctions over its nuclear weapons program, Iran is continuing to prepare itself for war against the West, and now is warning of a coming great event.*

*“In light of the realization of the divine promise by almighty God, the Zionists and the Great Satan (America) will soon be defeated,” Ayatollah Khamenei, the Iranian supreme leader, [is warning](#).*

*Khamenei then claimed the current century as the century of Islam and promised that human history is on the verge of a great event and that soon the world will realize the power of Allah.*

*Many clerics in Iran have stated that Khamenei is the deputy of the last Islamic messiah on earth and that obedience to him is necessary for the final glorification of Islam.*

*Khamenei has been heard to say that the coming of the last Islamic Messiah, the Shiites' 12th Imam Mahdi, is near and that specific actions need to be taken to protect the Islamic regime for upcoming events.*

*Mahdi, according to Shiite belief, will reappear at the time of Armageddon. Selected forces within the Revolutionary Guards and Basij reportedly have been trained under a task force called “Soldiers of Imam Mahdi” and they will bear the responsibility of security and protecting the regime against uprisings. Many in the Guards and Basij have been told that the 12th Imam is on earth, facilitated the victory of Hezbollah over Israel in the 2006 war and soon will announce publicly his presence after the needed environment is created.*

*Khamenei then claimed the current century as the century of Islam and promised that human history is on the verge of a great event and that soon the world will realize the power of Allah.*

*Many clerics in Iran have stated that Khamenei is the deputy of the last Islamic messiah on earth and that obedience to him is necessary for the final glorification of Islam.*

*Khamenei has been heard to say that the coming of the last Islamic Messiah, the Shiites' 12th Imam Mahdi, is near and that specific actions need to be taken to protect the Islamic regime for upcoming events.*

*Mahdi, according to Shiite belief, will reappear at the time of Armageddon. Selected forces within the Revolutionary Guards and Basij reportedly have been trained under a task force called “Soldiers of Imam Mahdi” and they will bear the responsibility of security and protecting the regime against uprisings. Many in the Guards and Basij have been told that the 12th Imam is on earth, facilitated the victory of Hezbollah over Israel in the 2006 war and soon will announce publicly his presence after the needed environment is created. (<http://www.wnd.com/2012/02/iran-warns-world-of-coming-great->*

[event/](#)

At the bottom of this article written by Reza Kahlili is the movie *The Coming is Upon Us*. If you have not yet watched the movie, NOW is a very good time to do so. This movie will show you the Shiite theological underpinnings of Iran's actions. It is vital that you understand this theology. Without an understanding of the theology you cannot understand what the Iranians are doing and why.

We are at the point where the Saudis and their allies are attempting to change the government of Syria while King Abdullah is still alive. King Abdullah's death is one of the events that must precede the coming of the Mahdi. The other major event is the capture of Jerusalem for Islam. It was only about three weeks ago that Hamas called for the formation of Al Qods (Jerusalem) brigades in all of Israel's neighbors. Considering that it takes about two months to take an Islamic youth off the streets, send him to camp and teach him how to shoot Jews with an AK or an PRG, these brigades, where they exist, should be read to martyr themselves about the middle of March. Correlation?

Which is why it is apparent to me that the Israelis are running a bit on the scared side. They have the luxury of single focus. All that matters to the Israeli government is the survival of Israel. To insure their freedom of action, Netanyahu canceled exercise "Austere Challenge". This was the combined anti-missile exercise that put command and control cells in each other's headquarters. Couldn't have the Americans in a position to monitor everything the Israelis might be doing.

As for Syria, so far it appears that the Russians are prepared to defend the Assad regime against interference from the United States, the EU or the combined Arab League. Russia does not appear to be prepared to call out the Saudis for their support of the Syrian insurgency or Lebanon and probably Qatar for its execution of the Syrian insurgency. As long as the Assad government is able to maintain itself, the Russians will probably not call out the Saudis. If they do, there will be problems.

Meanwhile, back in Europe, it appears that Greece and its creditors will not reach an agreement on the next bailout loan. The projected date for an agreement to be reached is February 13th. This is well ahead of the bond payment date of March 20th. (That's a familiar date isn't it?) Greece has 14.5 billion Euros worth of bonds due and Greece is effectively broke. This gives Iran a fairly big stake in Greece's economy. If the Iranians were to cut off Greece from their oil in retribution for the EU embargo, Greece would probably go into serious depression quickly with the associated civil dislocations. Italy and Spain are not quite so ready to fall off the cliff but they are close. While the EU can support Greece through its economic difficulties, Spain is probably too big and Italy is definitely too big to be supported.

The GCC states will increase their efforts both inside Syria and on the propaganda front to topple the Assad regime. They will fail absent US intervention or total withdrawal of Russian and Iranian support. I don't believe that the US/NATO is ready to bait the Russian bear and especially not in Winter with the Russians controlling a large part of Europe's natural gas supply. For their own reasons neither the Russians nor the Iranians will abandon Assad.

The next big event is the IRGC Navy exercise in the Straits of Hormuz the end of this month. I suspect that nothing serious will happen until then. There are two exceptions to that suspicion: the death of Abdullah and a Sunni revolt in Iraq. I don't know how old King Abdullah is but suffice it to say that the probability of him waking up on any given morning is getting smaller at a rapid rate. His death will be the trigger for efforts to recapture Jerusalem.

The situation in Iraq is tenuous at best. There has been no information on the activities of Ayatollah Shahroudi as "Guardian of the Jurists" and his efforts to co-opt the Iraqi Shiite clergy to the Iranian position of the rapid approach of the return of Imam al-Mahdi. His efforts undoubtedly dovetail with al-Maliki's apparent persecution of Sunnis senior members of the Iraqi government. This all at the

behest of Khamenei through both civil and religious channels.

*SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called Sunday for "friends of democratic Syria" to unite and rally against President Bashar Assad's regime, previewing the possible formation of a formal group of likeminded nations to coordinate assistance to the Syrian opposition.*

*Speaking in the Bulgarian capital Sofia a day after Russia and China blocked U.N. Security Council action on Syria, Clinton said the international community had a duty to halt ongoing bloodshed and promote a political transition that would see Assad step down. She said the "friends of Syria" should work together to promote those ends.*

*Clinton was bluntly critical of Saturday's veto by Russia and China at the United Nations blocking action against the continuing violence in Syria. (<http://news.yahoo.com/clinton-calls-friends-syria-unite-132749258.html>)*

It would appear that Madame Secretary is calling openly for Syria to follow the same fate as Libya. Such action is fraught with nuclear danger. There are still too many pieces in motion to get an exact picture. Watch carefully the actions of Russia both in the Mediterranean and in Europe. They will tell us how serious the Russians are. I believe they are very serious.

ADDENDUM: Received this from Reza Kahlili just after I had finished this article. This should leave no doubt exactly where the Iranian mullahocracy is going.

*The Iranian government, through a website proxy, has laid out the legal and religious justification for the destruction of Israel and the slaughter of its people. The doctrine includes wiping out Israeli assets and Jewish people worldwide.*

*Calling Israel a danger to Islam, the conservative [website Alef](#), with ties to Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said the opportunity must not be lost to remove "this corrupting material. It is a 'jurisprudential justification' to kill all the Jews and annihilate Israel, and in that, the Islamic government of Iran must take the helm." (<http://www.wnd.com/2012/02/ayatollah-kill-all-jews-annihilate-israel/>)*

Again Reza has put the video *The Coming is Upon Us* as part of the article. I cannot stress enough that you watch and understand what the Ayatollahs are saying here. They cannot make their plans any clearer. We now have ayatollahs with ICBMs. That's half the battle. A nuke is next and probably sooner than anyone believes possible.