

## Stirring the Pot in the Persian Gulf

Various sources are reporting that there has been unrest in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in the last few days. This from Asharq al-Awsat:

*The Saudi Interior Ministry yesterday announced that security forces had dispersed a gathering by a “group of instigators of sedition, discord, and unrest” near Al-Reef Roundabout in the town of al-Awamia in Qatif Governorate. Some members of this group were reportedly on motorcycles, whilst others were carrying Molotov cocktails. After the Saudi Arabian security forces had dispersed this group, they were subject to “automatic weapons fire from a nearby neighborhood” resulting in the injury of 11 security officers; nine of whom were injured by weapons fire, and two by Molotov cocktail attack. A man and two women in a nearby building were also injured.*

*In the statement issued by the Saudi Interior Ministry on Tuesday, Riyadh accused this “group of instigators” of acting “at the behest of a foreign country seeking to undermine the security and stability” of Saudi Arabia. (<http://www.asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=26822>)*

This from Debka:

*Last week, Riyadh sent military reinforcements to Bahrain to help suppress a new wave of disturbances after discovering that the Shiite activists in Bahrain and Qatif had linked up for action. The Saudi expeditionary force in the tiny neighboring kingdom has been more than doubled to 3,600 fighting men plus 30 tanks.*

*Echoing the slogans of the uprisings in other Arab lands, Mohamed al-Saeed, a Qatif resident, accused the Saudi state of ruthlessly suppressing the protest. “For the third day our families in Awwamiya town and Qatif live under brutal crackdown by Saudi forces, just because they went out and [asked] for our human rights and freedom.” (<http://www.debka.com/article/21359/>)*

Please read both articles for more important information.

**Analysis.** The first thing to remember when assessing any reports of violence towards Shiites by Sunnis is that Sunnis consider Shiites to be apostates. For the history behind this please read *After the Prophet* by Lesley Hazleton ( paperback: ISBN-10: 0385523947 hardcover: ISBN-13: 978-0385523943). To cut to the chase, the argument is about who will lead Islam: Sunni or Shi'i. For a better understanding of Shi'i Islam I suggest *An Introduction to Shi'i Islam* by Moojan Momen (paperback ISBN: 978-0-300-03531-5).

I do not doubt the Saudi assertion that the Iranians have a hand in this mess. This would be in line with the increasing bellicose rhetoric emanating from Tehran. This action would also be in line with the plan for the bringing forth of the Mahdi (Twelfth or Hidden Imam) by some in the senior leadership of Iran. This plan was revealed in *The Coming Is Upon Us* available for viewing on Reza Kahlili's website at (<http://atimetobetrays.com/blog/iran-leaders-the-coming-is-upon-us-%E2%80%93-israel-shall-be-destroyed-watch-the-video/>).

Iran attempted to assist in the overthrow of the al-Khalifa regime in Bahrain by sending a boat load of “students and other” (read Bassiji) when the first violent protests occurred several months ago. This prompted the Gulf Cooperation Council to send a rapid reaction force of mostly the Saudi National Guard and some Omanis to help put down the violence and provide defense against external threats. This detachment has since been increased to about 3600 troops and 30 tanks.

This violence may also be a distractor from what is happening in Syria. It appears from some media

outlets that Assad may have gained the upper hand on the protesters. Iran is attempting to pay the Saudis back for their support if not instigation of the uprising in Syria. Both Tehran and Damascus appear to be trying to head off military action lead by Turkey against the Assad regime by threatening the destruction of Tel Aviv as a response to any attack.

There is no doubt that the Iranians will continue to provoke violence within the Shiite populations along the western Persian Gulf. They would really like to control all of the Persian Gulf oil and not just their dwindling portion. That would not be good for the rest of the World.