

The Saudis Are Running Scared

Unable to unseat the Assad regime with a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) insurgency, the GCC is apparently resorting to more blatant acts.

Saudi rulers, seeing Bashar Assad on the verge of defeating the opposition to his rule, are reported by debkafile's intelligence sources as taking a hand in turning al Qaeda Iraqi cells loose against him. Saudi agents used their pull with Iraqi Sunnis to persuade al Qaeda leaders that Assad and his Alawite regime were their most dangerous foe.

The same message was also broadcast by their Pakistan-based leader Ayman al Zuweiri.

Al Qaeda strength was fast building up in Syria, say US intelligence agencies tracking the jihadists' Middle East movements – ten days before Zawahri Sunday, Feb. 11 issued his videotaped instruction to all combat strength in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey to converge on the Syrian battlefield.

Monday, Iraq's acting interior minister Adnan al-Assadi confirmed that "a number of jihadists had gone to Syria," reporting also that the price of weapons in Mosul had risen because they were being sent to the opposition in Syria "from Baghdad to Nineveh [province]."

[\(http://www.debka.com/article/21733/\)](http://www.debka.com/article/21733/)

CAIRO (AP) — The Arab League has called for the U.N. Security Council to create a joint peacekeeping force for Syria and urged Arab states to sever all diplomatic contact with President Bashar Assad's regime, the League's latest effort to bring an end to the violence that has killed more than 5,000 people.

Syria immediately rejected the moves, spelled out in a resolution adopted Sunday by the League's foreign ministers meeting in Cairo.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al-Faisal conveyed the 22-nation League's deep frustration with Syria, telling delegates that it was no longer appropriate to stand by and watch the bloodshed.

"Until when will we remain spectators?" he said. The bloodshed in Syria "is a disgrace for us as Muslims and Arabs to accept." (<http://www.asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=28458>)

Please read both articles for more important information.

Analysis. The Saudis are surrounded by the Shiite Crescent to the north, east and south and the Red Sea to the west. Perhaps the one thing that kept the ayatollahs at bay was that Iraq was Sunni controlled by Saddam Hussein. In 2003 we changed that for ever. Iraq is now Shiite controlled. The Shatt al-Arab is no longer the barrier to Shiite invasion that it was. The Shiite al-Maliki government is busy consolidating its power and marginalizing the Iraqi Sunnis. Ayatollah Shahroudi is busy consolidating the Iraqi Shiite religious establishment. All of this is being directed from the Iranian embassy in Baghdad where the ambassador is also a senior Qods Force general officer.

The Saudis know that the death of King Abdullah opens the flood gates. The next move will be for the Shiites, either by proxy or directly, to move to retake control of Jerusalem. The conditions of *The Coming is Upon Us* will be fulfilled. The Hidden Imam may or may not appear any time after the reconquest of Jerusalem.

The Saudis are also aware of the state of Iran's nuclear program. The Iranians are way too close to the bomb. This invites an Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear facilities that we know about. Considering the attacks on Israeli facilities worldwide and especially today in Tbilisi and New Delhi, the possibility of an Israeli strike has increased. It would not matter in the grand scheme of things if the Israelis struck Hezbollah targets in Lebanon. That would still be war on. The Shiites would attempt to retake

Jerusalem while the IDF was deployed to the northern front.

The House of Saud is well aware that its power is based upon the title “Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques”. The shortest route to these mosques is up the highway from Yemen or down the highway from Damascus. The Houthis in Yemen are an irritant but they are not powerful enough to attack Mecca and Medina by themselves. It is doubtful that the Yemeni government would permit the landing of sufficient Qods Force personnel to turn the Houthi into a respectable assault force.

That leaves Syria. That is why the Saudis will do everything at the moment short of an invasion to unseat Assad. The Russians vetoed the last Arab League Security Council resolution that would have authorized outside force to get rid of Assad. A resolution in the General Assembly is nice to have but has no “force of law”. You can be sure that the Russians will vote against such a resolution. They will also continue to let it be known that the use of outside forces risks direct confrontation between those forces and Russian forces. That can easily lead to nuclear war.

At this point I see very few non war options. The best one would be a change of government in Iran. That is unlikely. The ayatollahs have been in control too long. Too many good people have been hanged in Evin prison to insure that clerical rule continues.

Iran continues to effectively bypass the sanctions by using barter and payments in gold. While it is difficult for them to settle some accounts because they cannot effectively use dollars, they are still managing. The sanctions on refined products are evidently not working. Iran has effective control of the refinery complexes in Basra. Refined product need not be shipped but can go overland. We are unlikely to sanction Iraq. It is now effectively a province of Iran.

I still believe March 20th will be a very interesting day.

Si vis pacem, para bellum.

If you wish peace, prepare for war.