



(in the test day)

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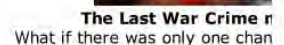
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On April 18th, militants shelled the Green Zone in Baghdad in the first such attack in more than three months.

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Article: It Is Not Looking Good | OpEdNews

The rounds were fired from the predominantly Shiite eastern Baghdad. There were no casualties and no reports of damage, but the attack had a sense of ominous foreboding. The Green Zone houses the Iraqi government and the U.S. government in their spanking new \$700M embassy.

On April 20th, a suicide bomber attacked members of an American military unit visiting city officials on Monday in Baquba, a volatile city northeast of Baghdad. At least three Iraqis were killed, and eight American soldiers were wounded. The bomber was wearing an Iraqi special forces uniform and he blew himself up around 10 a.m. outside the city's administrative office on Tabu Street, north of Baquba's center, shortly after the American troops arrived in armored vehicles. It would appear that whenever Iraqi troops or police gather they must each pat themselves down looking for hidden explosive vests. Isn't that a charming thought.

It doesn't take a military genius to figure out that there just might be a trend here. Colonel Gary Volesky, a U.S. commander in northern Iraq, was quick to get in the loop. He suggested that American troops would remain in volatile Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, if Maliki asked them to do so. That, of course, begs a question. How about volatile Baghdad, Habbaniyah, Hilla, and Baquba?

True to form for the past eight years, it only gets worse. On April 14, ten Sahwa-controlled checkpoints were abandoned in Babel, south of Baghdad. The Sahwa forces left their posts after not receiving their salaries. They had not been paid since October. A Sahwa commander in Baghdad feared it was only a matter of time before they would leave their posts to likely resume resistance operations. Also on April 14th, Iraqi Vice President Adel Abdel Mahdi accused members of the Sahwa of biding their time to wait for a chance to resume attacks against the Shiite-led government. Curiously, Mahdi's statements came just after an announcement made by Sheikh Ahmed Abu Risha, president of the Sahwa of al-Anbar province, stating he was renouncing armed struggle and was prepared to work with Prime Minister, Nouri al-Maliki. "If we want a unified Iraq," he said, "we must work in that direction, on uniting Sunnis and Shias, to build one country."

Dahr Jamail concludes, "The US-created al-Sahwa (Sons of Iraq) ... now threatens to fade back into the shadows in order to resume anti-occupation resistance operations against the US military and Iraqi government security forces. The Sahwa, which were to be incorporated into the government security apparatus, have instead been suffering attacks by that same apparatus for several months - attacks that are now occurring daily. And they are reacting in kind."

I am, by nature, the eternal optimist, believing that things will get better despite the chasm of despair now. On the other hand, I need something, anything, on which to hang my hopes. The Maliki government's attack on the al-Sahwa seem incongruous in light of the rather obvious fact that those forces aided the Maliki government in 2007 and 2008. This is a rather formidable force. Turning against it, despite the aid it rendered to the Iraqi government, appears to be abysmally foolish and the policy may revive the threat of civil war in Iraq.

Equally disturbing is America's shunning of al-Sahwa. We hired these fighters to help bring relative peace to Iraq, and they did their job. Noting once again, this is a formidable force financed, armed, and trained by the U.S., how stupid is it to now neglect them?

Hello, Washington. Anyone home? Duh!



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I am the author of two novels, "The Bode Testament" and "Impeachment." I am also a columnist who keeps a wary eye on other columnists and the failures of the MSM (mainstream media). I was born in Minnesota, and, to this day, I love the Vikings ([more...](#))



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