

## Enemy at the Gates II

On July 11, 2012 I posted an article titled *Enemy at the Gates* describing the positioning of Hezbollah and other forces on our southern border and within the United States. These forces remain ready to act. The Islamic sectarian civil war being fought in Syria is a serious danger for the United States.

*RIYADH (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia's former intelligence chief, Prince Muqrin, once told American diplomats the Middle East's so-called Shi'ite Crescent where the Muslim sect holds sway was "becoming a full moon" as Iranian influence spread.*

*For the kingdom's Sunni ruling princes, that fear, revealed in a 2009 U.S. embassy cable released by WikiLeaks, now focuses on Syria. Iran-backed President Bashar al-Assad's forces are advancing with the aid of Lebanese Hezbollah Shi'ite fighters, while Riyadh supports the Sunni rebels fighting against him.*

*It is a war increasingly seen in Riyadh as the fulcrum of a wider geopolitical struggle with Iran, a country it believes is radical, expansionist and militant, and a potential threat to Saudi Arabia itself.*

*"If the Syrian government wins, it will prove to other Arab countries that Iran is able to protect its allies in the region. This will undermine Western alliances and Western allies," said Abdulaziz al-Sager, head of the Gulf Research Centre in Jeddah.*

*Since the fall of Syrian rebel stronghold Qusair this month, there has been growing unease in Saudi Arabia's dusty capital Riyadh about the opposition's chances. (<http://news.yahoo.com/analysis-saudi-role-syria-driven-fear-shiite-full-161830706.html>)*

*At the same time, the Iranians and Bashar Assad are warning of the possibility of terrorist reprisals for American and European involvement supporting the insurgents.*

*Iran is denouncing President Obama's decision to provide weapons to some rebel factions fighting to overthrow Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.*

*Gen. Hassan Firouzabadi, the Iranian military chief of staff, warned, "Obama has made his most dangerous blunder today as president of the U.S. when, with the deceit of the Israelis, he issued an order of sending weapons for terrorists in Syria," [reported Fars News Agency](#), a media outlet run by the Revolutionary Guards.*

*"Today the shipment of arms to the Syrian terrorists won't solve anything as the Syrian nation with its national army will force the Israeli mercenaries to retreat and escape," he said.*

*Firouzabadi claimed that providing weapons to "al-Qaida terrorists" and others in Syria is similar to the West providing chemical weapons to Saddam Hussein in Iraq. He said the weapons will be used against the Syrian people even though "the U.S. generals and the Zionists" blame the Syrian government for using chemical weapons against civilians.*

*The general also criticized France: "It is very strange that French officials demand the Syrian national army not to free their occupied country from the hands of terrorists."*

*The Islamic regime has repeatedly warned against any attempt to overthrow Assad, an action which it has called a red line. The regime's officials have openly stated that an Assad victory in Syria is essential to a greater power and role by the Islamic republic in the region and on the world stage. (<http://www.wnd.com/2013/06/iran-commander-warns-obama-on-syria/#xU5YLCeemDgJECqO.99>)*

*Even Bashar Assad has made a sort of veiled threat against Europe.*

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

**Analysis.** If you have not read the original *Enemy at the Gates* article, I suggest you do so now.

There is no doubt that Iran through Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Qods Force is able to cause a lot of trouble in the United States if it chooses to do so. Members of Hezbollah have been in the United States since at least 1987 that I know of. While those original cadres are probably beyond their active days, those that are still here no doubt serve as trainers for the new arrivals. The new arrivals are taught how to become Americans unrecognizable as a threat to the rest of the population.

Whether or not there are terrorist acts perpetrated in the United States, or more likely at the moment in Western Europe, depends on how much the Iranians are willing to risk in terms of reprisals from us. If Hezbollah uses Americans recruited from the local Shiite mosques as the perpetrators, it will be extremely difficult to prove that Iran is behind in attacks. It will require conclusive evidence to be presented to the World to justify a strike on Iran in retaliation. Failure to provide conclusive evidence risks the intervention of the Russians.

At the same time the Saudis are beginning to panic. Our removal of Saddam Hussein from leadership in Iraq has allowed the Shiites to fill in the missing piece of the Shiite crescent. The Sunnis are three-quarters surrounded by Shiites and have their backs to the Red Sea. It appears that the Saudis have finally recognized their inability to maintain Sunni supremacy in Islam. They will do anything to preserve Sunni supremacy.

We must always be aware that the title that gives the King of Saudi Arabia his power is not being the senior member of the House of Saud. It is the title unused by most of the Western press: Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. The power of the House of Saud rests upon that declaration by ibn Wahhab in the middle 1850s after the joining by marriage of the two Houses. The House of Saud has no choice but to defend its custodianship to the maximum.

I do not doubt that the Saudis are putting all possible pressure on the United States to actively intervene in the Islamic sectarian civil war being fought in Syria. Merely providing weapons to the insurgents is not sufficient for the Saudis. The United States and its allies if possible must take actions like no-fly zones that put Assad's forces at a disadvantage. Since Assad would not throw the Iranians out and break the northern cusp of the Shiite Crescent, he must go. Even if Assad is replaced by chaos and religious cleansing, Assad must go. The northern threat to the Two Holy Mosques must be eliminated.

So far all of the forces we have committed to the area have been deployed to defend our friends and allies. The 26<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) is participating in Exercise Eager Lion with the Jordanians and the British. They are also implicitly there as a trip wire against a Syrian invasion. The F-16s and the Patriot batteries that are deployed for the exercise will most likely stay in Jordan as a continuing defensive measure.

However, the Russians are on the side of Assad. Putin has made no secret of the Russian's vital interest in continuing to have access to port facilities in Syria. Russian ability to influence events in the Mediterranean depends upon these facilities. Russia has an over 50 year history of supporting the Assad family. It will not leave them to be removed by foreign action.

There are two primary methods that may be used to keep the United States out of the Syrian conflict. The first is terrorist action inside the United States perpetrated by Hezbollah. If ordered by Iran, a massive terrorist onslaught by Hezbollah would be difficult to counter. It would almost require martial law to position the resources to defeat such an operation. I have read in some places that not only would terrorist actions be taken in major cities but also in small towns across America.

I estimate that Hezbollah has been able to bring Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) into the United States across the wide open southern border. These WMDs would be primarily chemical weapons and biological weapons. These weapons would be used in conjunction with suicide operations against

places where large numbers of people gather such as hotels, conferences, sporting events. Etc. Even a major response by the United States in the form of attacks on Iran would not stop these events. Remember, the Ayatollahs want massive death and destruction to bring forth the Mahdi.

The second means of keeping the United States out of Syria is Russian escalation. The Russians will respond to things such as no-fly zones by providing Assad with S-300 systems set up and run by Russian crews. Putin will let it be known that the death of any Russian soldiers or technicians will mean a response against the source by Russian assets. The last time Russia threatened to use Russian troops to protect the Assad family was Yom Kippur, 1973. That almost resulted in World War Three. The Russians are no less determined to protect the Assad family and their facilities in Syria now.

I suspect most people consider Sarah Palin's comment "Let Allah sort it out" as rather flippant and unknowing. Actually, she is about the first person who has gotten it correct. Let the Sunnis and the Shiites send their jihadis and their militants to the Syrian meat grinder. Killing them all there is probably the best terrorist threat reduction operation we have. Let El Queda in the Islamic Maghreb, El Queda in the Arabian Peninsula, the Taliban, the Salafists in Iraq all head off to Aleppo. If they are killing Shiites and being killed in return, they aren't working on plans to commit terrorist acts here.

President Putin has said that he believes that Sunni jihadists are his primary threat in the Caucasus. He is more than happy to give Assad the weapons he needs to wipe them out. If they die in Syria they don't migrate north to organize jihad in the Caucasus or in the neighboring 'stans. Putin well remembers the incident at the school in Beslan. He is determined not to let such a thing happen again.

I believe the best thing we can do is let the slaughter continue. We should protect our friends and allies in the region but take no active part in the Islamic sectarian civil war of which Syria is the current major battle field. We must also resist having our foreign policy in this matter made for us in Riyadh. I believe that the Saudis will use whatever pressure is required to get us to fight their war for them. That pressure may include raising the price of oil. It may include threatening to price oil in something other than US dollars. There may also be other pressures than can be applied to President Obama directly of which we are not aware.

Islamic sectarian civil war is not our fight ... yet. We must wait for the appropriate time to become engaged. That time has not yet come.