

Sectarian War Threat In Southwest Asia

by Hussein Askary

Jan. 11—It is no exaggeration to say that the U.S. government under President Barack Obama has entered an alliance, planned and mediated by Great Britain and its intelligence agencies, with the remnants of al-Qaeda and sundry other Islamist terrorist groups, to overthrow the governments of North Africa and Southwest Asia. The British aim is to use local conflicts and wars to implement their long-advocated plan of reducing the world's population, through letting its rivals the United States, Russia, and China bleed each other to death and ruin civilization all around them.

The policy, which was initiated in 2006 by the Cheney-Bush Administration, to spark sectarian war in Southwest Asia to divide and conquer the region and use it as a launching pad for global wars, is intensifying under President Obama. While Russia and China have spoiled the British Empire's timetable for war against Syria and Iran immediately after Libya, regional assets such as Saudi Arabia and its allies in Lebanon, Turkey, and now Qatar are activating "Plan B," by creating a bloody pretext on the streets of Syria for international military intervention.

The plan, initiated during a visit by then-Vice President Dick Cheney to Saudi Arabia, was to create a Sunni alliance of the Gulf States, Jordan, Egypt, and Sunni forces in Lebanon to counter an alleged Shia Crescent consisting of Iran, Syria, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Shia groupings in Iraq. The tool of choice was the minority Salafi/Wahhabi militant Sunni movement (of which al-Qaeda is just one asset). It might sound strange that the same jihadi forces whom the U.S. is allegedly at war with are at this moment allies in the British-American war drive against Syria and Iran. The main clue is the Anglo-Saudis

alliance,¹ which goes back to British support at the beginning of the 20th Century for creation of the al-Saud/Wahhabi kingdom over most of the Arabian Peninsula. The Anglo-Saudis used the jihadist movement to fight Russia in Afghanistan and the Caucasus, and attacked the United States on Sept. 11, 2001 to start the global war on terrorism, which is continuing to destroy nations in South Asia and Southwest Asia.

Target: Syria

The recent suicide attacks against the Syrian capital and in Iraq carry the hallmarks of Salafi terrorism. The Saudi-Qatar-Turkey-backed so-called Syrian Free Army is simultaneously targeting Alawite² security and political forces, to give the conflict a sectarian character. Although dominated by the ruling Assad family's Alawite connections, the Syrian government and the ruling Ba'ath Party are secular and socialist. Their relationship to Iran is based on strategic interests, not religious ones. Syria has long been the supporter of the nominally Sunni Palestinian group Hamas.

1. See "Britain's Assault on the Muslim Nation-States and the World," *EIR*, Dec. 26, 2008, and "New British-Saudi Prescription for Permanent War in Southwest Asia," *EIR*, March 5, 2010.

2. A Shia sect to which Syria's Assad family belongs.



Saudi Press Agency

Then Vice President Dick Cheney in Riyadh in 2006, with Saudi Prince Sultan. Cheney's trip was intended to initiate a Sunni alliance against Iran, Syria, and Hezbollah in Lebanon—a plan that President Obama is pursuing today.

The Saudi state-run media, such as the London-based *Asharq al-Awsat*, has made no secret of Riyadh's intention, and is opening the gates for Salafi propagandists to prepare the ideological ground for such an escalation. One such example is the interview posted on Jan. 2 with Omar Bakri, leader of the former London-based terrorist group al-Muhajiroon, who was allowed to leave London in 2007 to avoid arrest according to U.S. anti-terror demands, and to settle in Lebanon. Al-Muhajiroon was a propaganda, recruitment, and fundraising organization for war against the Russians in the Caucasus. Bakri is now given space in *Asharq al-Awsat* to brand the Assad regime and its allies in Iran and from Hezbollah as *kafirs* (unbelievers) according to Salafi theology, and to say that violence is the only way to overthrow that regime.

On Jan. 5 the same daily published an interview with a "Salafi fighter," code-named Kiheilan, who admitted that he moves back and forth from the Sunni-dominated area in northern Lebanon where Bakri is active, and that he was participating in attacks on Alawite security personnel. He states that the Salafi movement is the spearhead of the armed targeting of the Syrian government, and admits that the Salafi militia's spiritual and political leader is Sheikh Adnan al-Arour, a Syrian cleric who sends his orders to his fighters in Syria by video, from his residence in the Saudi capital, and through the Kuwaiti-financed satellite TV channel al-Safa. Al-Safa is totally dedicated to the war on Shi'ism in the region, and is contributing to the war drive against the "Alawite Assad regime."



The London-based terrorist leader Omar Bakri Muhammad is being given space in a Saudi state-run newspaper to call for violent overthrow of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.



Sheikh Adnan al-Arour is the Salafi militia's spiritual and political leader, who resides in the Saudi capital.

Al-Arour is the theoretician of the militant groups inside Syria, and uses TV to give marching orders to his followers. In one, he raves that once Syrian President Bashar Assad is overthrown, what he will do personally to the Alawites who supported Assad is to "make dog food of them."

While al-Arour is the political leader of the Salafi militants, there is a "field operations coordinator" based in northern Lebanon. According to Kiheilan's interview in *Asharq al-Awsat*, this person is Luay al-Zoubi, a U.S./British-backed jihadist in Afghanistan in the 1980s, who moved to the Balkans during the war there in the 1990s and later joined bin Laden in Sudan. Al-Zoubi was interviewed in *Asharq al-Awsat* on Sept. 26, 2011, and by Saudi-owned, Dubai-based al-Arabiya TV in October 2011.

The reason the Saudis are making so much space available for these fanatics is to tell their followers and others who are not decided yet, that the Saudi establishment is considering them as the leaders of the revolution. That would signal to rich Saudi and other Gulf financiers of terrorism where to send their contributions.

Al-Zoubi states clearly that he supports intervention by the Anglo-American NATO machine in Syria (working with the infidel enemies and crusaders is suddenly theologically justified!), that he is leading the fundraising and arming the Salafi militants in Syria, and that his war is sectarian, since the Shia regime of Ayatollah Khamenei and Hezbollah in Lebanon are his main enemies. He said that he has channeled millions of dollars to the Salafi militants in Syria.

Although the so-called "defectors" from the Syrian Army are said to be the core of the armed resistance to



Al-Jazeera photostream

Protesters in Bahrain last year. Now, the Shia population is being brutally crushed by the Saudis and their local puppets.

the Assad regime, it is the Afghansi jihadists, with their urban irregular warfare experience from Afghanistan, the Balkans, and Chechnya who are the real force. The Afghans from Libya's Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG), which has always been an asset of British MI6, worked with NATO to overthrow Muammar Qaddafi's regime, and are now moving into Syria through Turkey and Lebanon.

Broader Sectarian Warfare

The Saudi media campaign is the same type of propaganda that has justified sending terrorists from Saudi Arabia into Iraq to fight the "blasphemist Shia," killing civilians indiscriminately. This sectarian targeting has been intensified inside Iraq, as the country's fragile political system established after the Anglo-American invasion 2003 is right now falling apart along sectarian lines. Iraqi Shia militant groups such as the al-Mahdi Army and Badr forces are also active, using kidnappings and assassinations (rather than indiscriminate suicide bombings) against Sunni political figures.

The situation in Bahrain is explosive, as the Shia population is being brutally crushed by Saudi forces and their puppet King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa and his son the Crown Prince, who are practically under "palace arrest" by the Saudis. U.S. and European media, human rights organizations, and political elites who are drumming for the "Arab Spring" and regime

change are totally ignoring the Bahraini people.

In the oil-rich eastern province of Saudi Arabia, Shia minority groups are being harassed and imprisoned for conducting peaceful demonstrations demanding equality and political freedom. The Saudi authorities who accuse Iran of backing both the Saudi and Bahraini activists are using the "war on terrorism" as the excuse to silence the protests. The Saudi Interior Ministry held a press conference yesterday, announcing a list of 23 fugitives who are accused of sabotage and terror acts in the northeastern province; all the 23 are Shia Muslims. The Saudi authorities have called on these people to surrender themselves to the authorities. It would not be surprising if the Saudis were to announce next that the 23 were spotted in Iran, as they said about Osama bin Laden and his family before.

This sectarian warfare is a mark of the coming Dark Age being prepared by the British Empire. The Salafi movement is the new "Mongol hordes," who trampled civilization in large parts of Asia and Southwest Asia just before the outbreak of the Great Plague.

American patriots who cannot believe that their government is being dragged into a dirty war in collusion with the same al-Qaeda terrorists they have been told they were out to destroy in useless wars in Asia, should face the facts quickly and rid their republic of the puppets who are serving the British Empire's goals.