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INFRASTRUCTURE: SWET - Sewer, Water, Electrical, & Transportation:

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ECONOMIC/TRADE:

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OTHER:

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MEDIA SOURCE BIAS LEGEND

© PRO COALITION	◆ UNBIASED
⊗ ANTI COALITION	? UNDETERMINED

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Al Nour



OSINT Media Comment: No Bias. Al Nour calls itself a daily independent political newspaper. It is an independent source of general and political news. It also features news from the sports and entertainment fields. The Editor in Chief is Issam Fahim Al Amri. Another website is almalafpress.net. There is no email address provided. The newspaper was first published April 14, 2008.

Scott Horton: New US President Plays With Slogans And Iraq Is Being Fooled (Political/Government) [♦Al Nour Newspaper] (5 MAR)

Summary: A US Political analyst believes that the policies of the Bush administration are being repeated in Iraq; however, the administration is trying to ‘beautify’ the policies in an attempt to fool the world.

The analyst claims that Obama is ‘playing with slogans’.

[Mosquito Note: The rest of the article was taken from another website and translated into Arabic. The author at Al Nour removed the names (other than Scott Horton) from the original article. The rest of the content remained the same. The following is the text of the article written by Mr. Scott Horton that was published on Antiwar.com. It is unusual for Al Nour to publish this type of article. The article is written from a very left-wing liberal point of view. Al Nour is usually a non-biased newspaper that publishes news stories rather than extremely biased editorials.]

Those who bought into the slogans ‘Hope’ and ‘Change’ last fall should have read the fine print. We were warned. Over and over during the campaign for the presidency Barack Obama made it clear that ‘withdrawal’ from Iraq on his flexible 16-month timetable meant only the removal of “combat forces.” He has also made it clear all along that “combat forces” means whatever he wants it to mean - until he decides to change his mind.

At least he’s honest.

On Friday, Obama announced in a speech at Camp Lejeune that 16 months have become 18, and that 50,000 soldiers and Marines will be continuing the occupation until 2012 under the guise of training Iraqi army and police forces, ‘counter-terrorism’, and force protection.

No mention was made of the largest embassy one nation has ever built in another, the future use of air power, or the 100,000-plus contractors and mercenaries still inside the country.

These glaring omissions, along with the announced intention to maintain 50,000-plus troops in the country after the summer of 2010, add up to nothing but a ruse, a loophole for mission creep right back to full-blown occupation. Since many of the troops scheduled to leave the country will only be headed off to another war zone in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the entire exercise may end up amounting to nothing but an escalation of the Afghanistan occupation while the door is left wide open for more troops to be sent back into Iraq.

The alleged need to leave ‘counter-terrorism’ forces in country is a farce. ‘Al Qaeda in Iraq’ only came into existence in opposition to the US invasion and occupation, and it never

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amounted to anything but the smallest percentage of the Sunni insurgency, which tolerated them only as allies against the occupation. Long before the 'surge' of 2007-2008 and the so-called Awakening movement surrounding those insurgents eventually put on the payroll by Gen. Petraeus, Iraqi Sunnis had decided they had had enough and marginalized Al Qaeda in Iraq virtually out of existence. The idea that without US troops there, foreign Jihadists would be able to take over and use their land as a safe haven to provoke the United States into invading again is beyond far-fetched. Worse is the belief that leaving 'counter-terrorism' forces inside the country will make terrorism less likely. It was, of course, in part, the blockade and ritual bombing of Iraq from Saudi Arabia in the 1990s that provoked the 9/11 attacks on America in the first place, and it has been the occupation that has provoked the hundreds of suicide bombings in Iraq over the last six years.

Obama's claim that the mission is now changing from combat to training the Iraqi military to take our soldiers' place ought to be considered no different from George W. Bush's claim, when debuting his 'Strategy for Victory' in December 2005, that "as they stand up, we'll stand down." It was a sham to delay leaving then, and it remains so.

The US 'Embassy' in Baghdad - a monument to the hubris that gripped America's imperial court as it rushed to launch this war, and a symbol of their contempt for the democracy they proclaim so loudly to uphold and deliver to the world - is now the size of a small city-state within the heart of Baghdad. Its construction alone is proof of the widely held belief in the American establishment that they have stolen Iraq fair and square and intend to hold onto it until the last helicopter leaves the roof.

Which brings us to 'force protection'. This is the most obvious excuse to leave infantry divisions in the country beyond the summer of 2010. In the speech, the president said he remained committed to the status of forces agreement (SOFA) and its mandate for the withdrawal of the entire US military presence by the end of 2011, but if the withdrawal agreement remains the law up to 2012 and all forces are removed, it will have been at the insistence of the Iraqi people and government despite all of the best efforts of the empire to find a reason to stay.

Gareth Porter's recent series for IPS News has examined the push by Secretary of Defense Gates and Generals Petraeus and Odierno to convince President Obama to extend the timetable for the combat troops' withdrawal and begin renaming infantry divisions as 'force protection' for the long haul. He doesn't seem to have required too much convincing.

The generals seem to be betting that the SOFA can be renegotiated indefinitely, as Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Al Maliki will certainly, they believe, ask them to stay and help him maintain his grip on power.

However, the War Party's ability to count on Maliki to backtrack on the withdrawal agreement in favor of prolonging the occupation may be in real doubt. Middle East correspondent Patrick Cockburn of England's Independent newspaper reports that Maliki and his Dawa Party's position has increased relative to other major Shiite factions led by the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq and Muqtada Al Sadr's Mahdi Army, and that the day when the Green Zone government is able to maintain itself in power without US help may have already come. When Cockburn first broke the story of the negotiations over the SOFA early last summer, the Bush administration was pushing to keep 58 bases in Iraq indefinitely, but over the course of the rest of the year, Maliki stuck to his position and forced Bush to agree to the 2011 timeline for complete withdrawal of all forces.

As Iraqi public opinion remains in opposition to the occupation by supermajorities, whatever legitimacy Maliki does have among them is mostly a function of his resistance to US

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demands. There seems to be little incentive for him to back down now, though NBC News is reporting that the Pentagon wants to stay for another 15-20 years and is already negotiating the option of retaining a permanent airbase near Kirkuk, an idea floated by Secretary of State Clinton during the presidential campaign last year, as though the SOFA never existed.

Despite all the propaganda about how 'the surge worked,' no one seems to notice that most of the political benchmarks the surge was supposed to accomplish by October 2007 have yet to be achieved, and that a temporary strategy of buying off - and arming up - every faction can only be temporary.

Whether the Sunni tribal councils and the Shiite-dominated Iraqi government can work out a long-term power-sharing deal remains to be seen, as does the fate of Kirkuk and many other parts of Iraq that are still in dispute. The 'surge' has done nothing to resolve these problems.

Any violence over these outstanding issues will undoubtedly serve as an excuse to abandon the withdrawal and continue the war indefinitely.

Many Iraqis watching Obama's speech may have been surprised to hear what a great favor the US has done them by invading and destroying their country. They may be sorry to find out there's more help where that came from.

Author: Not Given.

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Tamah To Al Nour: Arms Programs A Vague And Do Not Account For The Money Being Spent (Political/Government) [♦ Al Nour Newspaper] (5 MAR)

Summary: Parliament Security and Defense Committee Member, Amar Tamah, doubts the credibility of the arms program for the security organizations, the types of weapons being purchased, and the integrity of the contracts.

He stated to Al Nour that most of these contracts are confusing and have gaps regarding the money, the types of weapons, and the requested specifications for the weapons being purchased.

He confirmed that the Security and Defense Committee has demanded to be informed in detail regarding the arms programs, specifically the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program.

He pointed out that these factors, and the apprehension over reconstruction and the improvement of the security forces, represent a source of concern.

He said, "Additionally, there are other sources of concern, including political disagreements which at the moment have no clear resolution, such as the security concerns between the central government and other provinces and regions (Kurdistan). Currently, the central and regional governments have failed to clearly define the boundaries of their authority. This type of failure can cause the return to a poor security situation."

Regarding the \$5 billion USD FMS contract, he said, "Most weapons deals are ambiguous. We in the committee always demand to be briefed on technical specifications of the purchase and the lack of conformity to what was originally requested. We have received information that the weapons in this contract do not meet the required specifications."

Tamah revealed information regarding a HMMWV contract saying, "Based on this contract, US HMMWVs are sold to the MOD. These vehicles don't have the same advanced technology that the US Soldiers have in their HMMWVs. This advanced technology could help us confront our security challenges."

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[Mosquito Note: This is the second article of its type within the past day where an official from the Iraqi government basically claims that the US has pulled a bait and switch on the Iraqi government. In the past few months, the MOD and MOI have been complaining regularly that they don't have the same equipment as the US forces. Additionally, they always demand that it be given to them. It would appear that someone needs to explain the Iraqi government that they can't have our ECM systems (and other technology) because it will just turn up 'missing'... aka shipped to Iran.]

He confirmed that there are also reports which claim that there is a plan to dissolve the committees that verify weapons specifications, just like what happened to the committees that verified the specifications of the US-purchased M4 assault rifle and M60 machine gun.

He continued, "Such actions do not help the supply process, nor do they speed up the process of arming the Iraqi forces. The withdrawal of the US forces will occur soon. If such actions are not stopped, we will face security problems after the withdrawal that will directly affect the political process."

Tamah believes that US President Obama's recent speech did not come as a surprise to the Iraqi government or the political groups. He said, "This speech could help to hasten the process of: arming the Iraqi forces, determining their final numbers, their arming, and their training."

He pointed out that the concept of 'loyalty to the country' is still unclear among the members of the security forces. The question of loyalty the forces represents a dangerous risk, especially with the emergence of a political crisis.

He confirmed, "There is a need for balanced political performance based on partnership. This performance should be in accordance with valid laws in order to guarantee a solid foundation for security stability. This will prevent the weakness which causes security concerns and confusion in Iraq."

Regarding the Kurdistan Region's concerns over weapons deals and militarizing the people, he said, "First and foremost, there is no legitimate reason for Kurdistan to be concerned of the weapons deals. Security problems, the fact that Iraq is a young democracy, and external and internal threats have forced Iraqi decision makers to enter into these large weapons deals."

He pointed out, "The Kurds' fears should not exist. The Kurdish forces are part of the Iraqi military and security forces. Kurdish politicians are participating in the political decision making process."

Regarding the militarization of people (Awakenings and Support Councils), Tamah said, "Building the security forces is supposed to be based on the constitution and laws. The process of expanding military units should be monitored by the Parliament. This subject was discussed in the draft law for the MOD. The Parliament, with the participation of other political groups, is responsible for establishing the security forces... and controlling their numbers. When the Executive Branch prevents other groups from participating in the decision to increase or decrease the number of security forces it sends a negative message. This issue is unacceptable and is not in accordance with the constitution."

Author: Not Given.

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Al Mashriq



OSINT Media Comment: This paper is being given a temporary anti-Coalition Bias. It claims to be an independent paper and it focuses on various issues, such as politics, religion, culture, fashion, and sports. The Editor-in-Chief is Gandhi Mohammad Abdul Kareem and the e-mail address is almashriqco@yahoo.com.

Iranian Official: Half Of 'Badr Corps' Members Were POWs Here (Security/Crime) [⊗Al Mashriq Newspaper] (5 MAR)

Summary: In a meeting in Tehran, the Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces, Major General Hassan Firouzabadi, announced that 50% of ISCI's Badr Corps, that were formed in Iran before the fall of Saddam, used to include Iraqi prisoners of war who were captured by the Iranian Forces in the 80's.

Firouzabadi said that those who attacked Iran in the war, and were captured by Iranian Forces, joined the Badr Corps and traveled to Iraq after the fall of Saddam.

While saying this, he was pointing out charges directed at these forces for receiving support from Iran.

He added, "The Iraqi prisoners entered POW that played the role of universities to them. This is when they joined the Badr Corps. Now, they are living in Iraq and are handling responsibilities."

It is worthy to mention that after entering Iraq, the 'Badr Forces' changed its name to the 'Badr Organization' and now operates as a political organization.

Author: Not Given

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Zebari: The '6+3+1' Meeting Was Not Against Iran... There Is An American Intention To Start Dialogue With Syria And Iran (Diplomatic/Regional) [⊗Al Mashriq Newspaper] (5 MAR)

Summary: Iraq's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hoshiyar (Mahmoud) Zebari, denied that the 6+3+1 meeting that was held in Sharm Al Sheikh on Monday evening was directed towards Iran, or that there will be coordination against the country.

This meeting was attended by Foreign Affairs Ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the United States.

Zebari said that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss all mutual issues, including the Iran subject.

He added that other issues such as Iraq, Arab-Israeli conflict, the peace process, and terrorism were discussed as they are mutual issues; therefore, Iraq participated. In press statements, he said that Iraq explained its position frankly and clearly.

He pointed out that the goal behind this meeting is to "continue communication after the change in the US Administration, and we hope that the next meeting will be held in Baghdad in the spring." He explained that holding such a meeting in Baghdad "will send a message of Iraq's recovery."

Zebari also announced Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa's visit to Iraq this month.

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Regarding the Egyptian embassy in Baghdad, and whether it will be opened soon, Zebari replied, "Work is currently being done to open the embassy in Baghdad as soon as the required buildings have been allocated. A technical delegation will be visiting Iraq soon in order to run the embassy."

He pointed out that no ambassador has been named yet. He added, "This issue is being worked on more than one level."

When asked whether or not Iraq will serve as a mediator between Iran and America, he replied, "Iraq has not carried out any mediation of this type. The issue of American-Iranian and American-Syrian dialogue has been discussed."

He added that the importance of beginning these dialogues has been emphasized. He pointed out, "There is an American desire to begin dialogue with Syria and Iran. An American delegation will visit Syria to conclude these discussions soon."

Regarding the Iranian threats against the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, Zebari said, "These threats were discussed in this meeting. The Emirates summarized the issue of the three disputed islands... Bahrain addressed the group regarding their issues with Iran."

He continued, "However, an agreement was reached in the meeting. This agreement states that America will work to make progress in the issue of the dialogue with Iran, there will be consultation with the other countries, and there will be no dialogue without the knowledge of the GCC countries."

Author: Not Given

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Al Bayyna



OSINT Media Comment: Pro-Shiite, Anti-Coalition. Al Bayyna "The Truth" is published weekly in Baghdad. It is owned by the Hezbollah Movement in Iraq. The Editor-In-Chief is Issa Al Sayid Jafr and the e-mail address is al-bayyna@yahoo.com.

An Iraqi Security Source Stresses Al Diani Is Present On An American Military Base (Security/Crime) [⊗ Al Bayyna Newspaper] (05 MAR)

Summary: Although a source in the American Forces refuted the claim, the Iraqi security organizations believe that the wanted suspect, Muhammad Al Diani, is present on an American Army base in Baghdad.

An Iraqi security source emphasized, "The Special Operations Command Center has Intelligence information regarding the whereabouts of the fugitive Al Diani. The information states that he is present in the Al Taji area. However, additional information from a trustworthy source, and that is almost certainly true, confirmed that the American Forces have moved Al Diani from his hideout to one of their military bases near Al Taji area. It is likely that they (the American Forces) will attempt to transport him to outside Iraq via military aircraft."

Based on the source, this information is very reliable. Additionally, the security organizations have widely accepted this information, even though the MNF spokesman has denied having any knowledge of this information.

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It is worthy to mention that fugitive the Al Diani is legally pursued after confessions of his nephew and guards' leader. Al Diani is a former member of the dissolved Baath Party. He managed to establish strong relations with various terrorist organizations.

Author: Not Given

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Asharq Al Awsat



OSINT Media Comment: No Bias. Asharq Al Awsat is produced in London in the Arabic language. Saudi Arabian businessmen own it and its editorial views reflect those of Saudi Arabia. Asharq Al Awsat is distributed in Baghdad on a daily basis and, it is available in New York and throughout Europe and the Middle East. It is an independent source of general and political news. It also features news from the sports and entertainment fields. The Editor in Chief is Mohammed Al Awam. The website is www.asharqalawsat.com. The email address is editorial@asharqalawsat.com.

Rafsanjani In Najaf Today, But He Might Not Meet With Al Sistani; The Meeting May Not Occur Due To Conflicts With 'The Faqih State', And Iraqis Who Oppose The Visit (Diplomatic/Regional) [♦ Asharq Al Awsat Newspaper] (5 MAR)

Summary: In a first of its kind visit, Iranian former President and current Iranian Expediency and Discernment of the System Council Chairman, Ali Akbar Hashimi Rafsanjani, visited Karbala City. Rafsanjani was received by the Representative of the Supreme Religious Authority, Sheikh Abd Al Mahdi Al Karbalai.

Rafsanjani refused to speak to the press; however, knowledgeable sources stated that Rafsanjani might hold a press conference today before he travels to Najaf to visit the Imam Ali Shrine. Rafsanjani, who arrived in Baghdad on Monday, is accompanied by his wife, his sons, his daughters, and a number of his relatives.

There are conflicting news reports regarding whether or not Rafsanjani will meet with Al Sistani in Najaf. Sources in Najaf claimed that Al Sistani will not meet with Rafsanjani, because Rafsanjani follows the Faqih State [*Mosquito Note: A Faqih is an expert in Islamic Jurisprudence. The Faqih State falls under the absolute guardianship of the Islamic Jurists. This ideology maintains that Guardianship should include all issues for which the Prophets of Islam and Shiite Imams have responsibility, including the governance of the country.*]. The sources stated, "Al Sistani follows the path of the Religious Authorities, and he is the one who issues religious Fatwas, while Rafsanjani follows the path of the Al Faqih State, therefore he follows the Supreme Iranian Guide Ali Khamenei. Al Sistani studied in Najaf, while Rafsanjani studied the Faqih State Dogma in the Iranian City of Qom. Qom considers Khamenei to be its supreme guide in all matters."

From their side, sources in Najaf stated that Al Sistani will not receive Rafsanjani in his office, because some Iraqis refuse Rafsanjani's visit to Iraq. Al Sistani does not want any divisions between the Iraqis. Since the downfall of the Iraqi regime, Al Sistani has tried to not give the impression that he is affiliated with any side, including Iran. Rafsanjani's visit to Najaf will only focus on visiting Imam Ali's Shrine, visiting ISCI, and meeting with Sadr Al Din Al Qubanchi, as well as a number of Hawza students.

It is worthy to mention that Al Sistani did not meet with the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad during his visit to Iraq.

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Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, who invited Rafsanjani to visit Iraq, bid farewell to the Iranian visitor in Baghdad, yesterday.

According to a statement from the Iraqi Presidency, Talabani hoped that Rafsanjani's visit and meeting with high ranking Iraqi officials will result in fruitful developments between the two countries.

Meanwhile, yesterday, hundreds of Iraqis protested in Ramadi (110 Km Northwest of Baghdad), the largest of Anbar's cities against Rafsanjani's visit. The protesters described Rafsanjani's visit as a desecration of Iraq's land. Tribal Sheikhs and clerics took part in the protest.

A Sheikh from the Al Bu Fahad Tribe, Qassim Sadda' said, "We will never forget what the Iranians have done with the Iraqi prisoners... we strongly condemn this visit." Security forces implemented strict security procedures during the hour long demonstration.

Author: Not Given

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OSINT Media Comment: No Bias. The Azzaman Arabic Daily is a self declared "independent" newspaper printed in Great Britain and distributed throughout the Arab community. The paper does run anti-Coalition pieces that label the US presence in Iraq as an occupying force. Azzaman Arabic Daily resembles a liberal, non-religious based, western paper; providing local and international news, sports, fashion, arts, a cyber section called "@." This paper and those like it were not available in Baghdad during the Saddam regime.

'Reformed Islamic Extremists' Hold The Az'har Mosque (Egypt's 'Religious Authority') Responsible For Following Extremism; A Study In Cairo Points Out That Poverty Is The Main Reason For Egyptians Joining Terrorist Groups (Diplomatic/Regional) [♦Azzaman Newspaper] (3 MAR)

Summary: A new study has been conducted in Cairo; this new study is titled 'Social Policy and the Phenomenon of Terrorism in Egyptian Society'.

This study has revealed that 'incorrect policies' of the Egyptian state and the growth of a culture of 'sex and nudity' (vulgar obscenity) are some of the reasons which are driving many Egyptians to join 'Islamic groups'.

The study pointed out that, in Egypt today, there is: an unfair distribution of wealth, a lack of basic public services, and very little income (low pay and high unemployment). These factors have broadened the gap between social classes; and, it has caused a deepening of resentment towards these unfair circumstances. The feelings of suffering and resentment are growing deeper in much of Egypt's society. All of these factors benefit the terrorist groups by allowing them to use vengeance (and fighting for fair treatment) a common call which they use for 'recruiting'.

When an individual's basic needs are not being fulfilled, it causes a build up of tensions and frustration. At some point, this tension and frustration may result in the individual resorting to violence. People's disappointment at not being able to meet their basic needs causes tension...and eventual anger which can transform into violence.

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This study was conducted by Dr. Sosin Fayed (a female sociologist) who is an expert in Egypt's National Center for Studying Criminology and Social Issues. She studied the 'political violence' in Egyptian society in relation to cultural changes which have occurred in Egypt as well as on the international scene.

Dr. Fayed studied a group of 50 'well known Islamic members' who had been imprisoned for more than 10 years. Her studies indicated that poverty and the 'absence' of one or both parents while the 'member' was at an early age, allowed the individual to be more easily recruited. He was easier to recruit because he was disillusioned with his poor life, and he looked at the (Islamic extremist/terrorist) group as: a 'substitute parent' and a 'sponsor' (mentor and source of financial support).

The group provides the individual with: protection/security, a way to find solutions to his problems, a chance to regain his own sense of pride and identity. One of these (well known Islamic group) 'members' said, "My father died. My mother had to work most of the time. This (caused me to be alone much of the time and) allowed me to meet 'Islamic groups'. I admired them, so I joined them."

The study warned that a troubled 'parent-child relationship' can give the child a sense of justification in joining such groups. Another 'member' said, "My father put so much pressure on me. That made me hate being 'dominated'; but, when I was among the ('Islamic') group, I did not feel that 'domination'."

Solving Problems: The study noted that violence and terrorism are the result of the member's severe political, societal (including family), and financial suffering. Violence and terrorism can also result from a member's inability to achieve their personal goals. The (disillusioned) individual will then transform their 'personal problem' into a 'public case'.

One of the individuals in the study confirmed that he joined his 'Islamic group' to solve his economic problems and unemployment.

The study also pointed out that most of the groups' members live in 'disorganized' (chaotic) rural communities. ***[Mosquito Note: One of our interpreters compared these communities to 'ghettos' and troubled 'inner cities'... But, here the violent criminals, drug dealers, and arms dealers often live outside of the cities.]*** This environment can 'force' an individual to seek a 'better place'. This 'search' often begins at the Mosque and culminates in the individual joining one of these (extremist) groups. He sees "the group as a 'lifeline' which he can grab to save himself from the bad conditions of his own life."

The 'members' who were studied blamed the government's education system. They held it responsible because as they said "this system does not help (children/students) learn the proper path and teach the correct way to think; and, it does not show them how to find good solutions to their problems."

They also blamed the media for encouraging violence. They said, "The media enflames people instead of calming them. It encourages material values instead of moral values. The media seems to support the love of money and getting rich 'by any means necessary'."

The studied also pointed out that 'Islamic group members' had been unable to: take part in politics, and express their problems and needs in a safe and organized way. If they had been able to do so, then there would have been less of a chance that they would have joined such groups and resorted to violence.

The study said that the growing gap between the 'publicized social goals and values' and "the 'actual circumstances and values' which we see on the ground cause (potential) 'members' to feel a sensation of continuous struggle and anxiety. When an individual begins to

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commit himself to his religion, he tries his best to overcome his inner desires, especially sexual and aggressive desires... And, then that individual often finds himself shocked to see that society seems to be trying to awaken (and stimulate) such desires. He becomes fearful that he may slip and give into such immoral desires. Therefore, he turns his own rage, at his (own weakness and) desires, into an external conflict with society for causing him to feel this way.”

The study revealed that before becoming ‘members’ of such ‘Islamic groups’, such individuals are usually ignorant and have no real knowledge about Islam. Therefore, they decide to go to a Mosque to become ‘enlightened’; but, while there they often meet ‘a group’ which then shapes the individual’s beliefs in line with ‘explanations’ offered by the group’s leader. A main source of the ‘explanations’ which these leaders use as in justifying their teachings is “the Islamic Work Treaty (Islamic Work Agreement).”

The study also pointed out that the reason behind the ‘religious ignorance’ is due to the absence of a well designed policy by: the Az’har Mosque (Egypt’s ‘Religious Authority’) and the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment. These institutions have been unable to provide effective Imams to enlighten the people.

The study also blamed the Egyptian government for not properly coordinating between its media policies and (student’s) curriculum. The curriculum should include a large bloc of Islamic Shariya instruction in order to deepen students’ understanding of Islam’s proper teachings. The study demanded that, in order to counter ‘false teachings’ by the extremists, Islamic scholars should provide responses which are based on actual Islamic teachings. These false teachings include items found in documents known as “the ‘Islamic Work Treaty (Islamic Work Agreement)’ and ‘Conspiracy or Re-evaluation’.”

The Strategy That Caused Them To Change (Repent): The studies ‘members’ (or ‘reformed Islamic extremists’) admitted that one of their main mistakes had been to allow themselves to become convinced that violence and terrorism were a proper strategy for bringing about the changes they desired. They revealed that Salafist groups and the Islamic Brotherhood have condemned these groups’ use of violence and the killing of innocent people. This condemnation caused them to reconsider their ideology and change their beliefs.

These ‘reformed extremists’ suggested that, in order to confront terrorism, we must: protect democracy, and follow policies which encourage “free thinking, equality, and forgiveness.” They called for the state to establish legal channels for political and religious dialogue, and to give all groups a chance to be ‘open to’ each other.

At its conclusion, the study emphasized the need to adopt a new security ideology and to establish a ‘specialized department’ which will gather and analyze information about terrorist activities. This will help Egypt to confront terrorism and to prevent (some) terrorist acts from occurring.

Author: Not Given

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Addustour



OSINT Media Comment: No Bias. The Addustour newspaper is a daily Arabic news source. The paper is a general information source, covering a broad spectrum of events. The Editor-in-Chief is Basim Al Sheikh, and the e-mail address is alshikh_b@yahoo.com.

Tribal Sheikh And Wife Killed In Balad (Security/Crime) [♦Addustour Newspaper] (5 MAR)

Summary: Dhiyab Al Ahmed Al Ziyara, a Tribal Sheikh in Salah Ad Din Province was killed in an attack by Al Qaeda gunmen. His wife and two other family members were also killed in the attack. Al Ziyara was the Tribal Sheikh of the Al Ahbab Tribe, which is located in the Tal Al Dhahab village of the Yathrib area, east of Balad.

An IP source stated that the gunmen fled after the attack and their 'whereabouts are unknown'.

Last year, Sheikh Al Ziyara lost three family members during a gunfight with Al Qaeda gunmen. Tal Al Dhahab is known for its heavy vegetation, many orchards, and numerous streams; it is an easy place for Al Qaeda to hide. Tal Al Dhahab also lacks a security presence.

In other news, an IP source reported that an Awakening commander was killed in an IED explosion east of Balad. The source said, "The commander of the Tal Al Zahr area village's Awakening was killed by an IED explosion. The explosion targeted the commander's vehicle on the road located between Balad and Tal Al Zahr. The explosion killed his son, his wife, and his grandson."

Yesterday, an Awakening force member was killed in the Muellha Al Thaltha area which is a part of Al Iskandariya area (60 Km north of Hilla). A Babil IP source said, "An Awakening force member was accidentally killed by a head shot while he was cleaning his rifle. He died on the way to the hospital."

Author: Not Given

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Two IPs Martyred, 12 People Wounded In Al Masbah And Al Saydiya's Attacks (Security/Crime) [♦Addustour Newspaper] (5 MAR)

Summary: According to an IP source, two IPs were killed, and 12 people wounded, by a suicide bombing in the Al Masbah area.

Meanwhile, three civilians were wounded by an IED explosion in the Saydiya area.

The IP source said, "A suicide bomber wearing an explosive belt blew himself up near the German Embassy. The explosion killed two IPs and wounded 12 people among them were a number of IPs."

Additionally, yesterday three individuals were wounded by an IED explosion in the Saydiya area. An IP source said, "The IED exploded on a commercial street in the area. In addition to the wounded people, this explosion also damaged a number of shops."

In other news, two IPs were martyred, and ten people were wounded, by a suicide bomber attack in western Mosul City. An IP source said, "A car-bomb driven by a suicide

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bomber exploded in an attack which targeted an IP checkpoint in the Bab Sinjar area of western Mosul.”

In related news, an Iraqi Army Official source stated that his forces arrested two gunmen who specialized in kidnapping women in eastern Mosul. The source said, “Yesterday, an Iraqi Army force arrested two gunmen in the Hay Adan area (in eastern Mosul). The two gunmen had specialized in kidnapping women in Mosul. The two are being interrogated in order to identify other members of their group.”

In a related issue, yesterday security forces arrested four ‘wanted’ men in Diyala Province.

Author: Not Given

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