

In an apparent terror attack on the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, gunmen attacked a parade being held by the elite unit of the Iranian armed forces. The parade itself was being held to commemorate the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war from 1980-1988. Two differing groups have claimed responsibility, the Islamic State (IS) and a group called the “Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahvaz” according to Voice Of America news. It is highly likely however that similar actors are members of both groups.

Vowing revenge, Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi claimed on state-run TV, “Of the four terrorists, three were sent to hell at the scene, while the fourth who had been wounded and arrested went to hell moments ago due to his severe wounds” and went on to say, “Considering (the Guards’) full knowledge about the centers of deployment of the criminal terrorists’ leaders..., they will face a deadly and unforgettable vengeance in the near future.”

Al Jazeera is reporting that:

Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the attack was linked to the United States’ “allies in the region. This crime is a continuation of the plots of the regional states that are puppets of the United States, and their goal is to create insecurity in our dear country.

This marks the most serious challenge to Iranian power since the election protests of 2009, which were commonly viewed by Shiites in both Iran and Iraq as being US-backed. The common perception on the ground at the time was that the Obama administration was attempting a color revolution, which would later occur in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria and Ukraine. In other words, it’s not a stretch. The fact that Iranian state media is claiming them as ‘takfiris’ (*meaning apostate*) is significant for two reasons; the first is the symbology of the Sunni-Shia conflict which is at the heart of Islamic conflict in the Middle East and second, to reinforce their claim that the US, Israel and Saudi Arabia were instrumental in the creation of ISIS.

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The timing of the attack is interesting as well. Being the anniversary of the Iran-Iraq war, the symbolism certainly exists, but it also comes amid heightening tensions over the Iranian nuclear program, increasing rhetoric from all sides, and the exposing of John Kerry's deep state diplomacy. Coupled with the fact that the Obama administration gave at least \$1.7 billion in hard cash to the regime, the threat posed by Trump policy to the deep state long game is too high. It would not be far fetched to believe this attack is a justification for other purposes. Also taking into account the historically soft stance on ISIS and its meteoric rise, its a safe bet to assume the deep state is playing both sides.

It would be a mistake to assume there will be no repercussions from this incident; it will likely be used as justification for an increased presence in both Iraq and Syria both overtly with the Revolutionary Guard Corps and covertly with its proxy, Hezbollah. While I do not see a larger uprising occurring in Iran, I do expect more attacks on Saudi Arabia similar to the rocket attack launched by Shia Houthi rebels in Yemen last April. Since Iran also has close ties with both Russia and China, as well as sharing military and rocketry technology with North Korea, the tensions on all fronts appear to be ramping up.

Use your time wisely folks. It's escalating.

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