

**Iraq Arabic News, Wednesday, January 9th, 2008**  
**By Nathaniel Rabkin**

*The Adhamiya Awakening Mourns Its Leader;*  
*Adnan al-Dulaymi Refuses to Blame al-Qaeda For Killing His Son in Law*

- The Adhamiya Awakening Council lifted yesterday the curfew imposed after the assassination of the Council's leader, Riyadh al-Samarrai, by a suicide bomber on January 7th. Radio Sawa reports that stores have reopened in the Adhamiya area, but that the Awakening Council's fighters are present in force and "have their fingers' on the trigger at the first sign of suspicious movement." Al-Hayat confirmed that the curfew had been lifted, but noted that vehicle traffic in the neighborhood was light, and that Awakening Council fighters were searching every car on the streets. Al-Hayat's headline was "Adhamiya 'mujahidin' swear vengeance against al-Qaeda," while an assistant of Samarrai's interviewed by Radio Sawa said that the assassination would increase the determination of the Awakening's fighters to defeat al-Qaeda.

Both al-Hayat and Radio Sawa report that the Awakening fighters in Adhamiya identify themselves by wearing red keffiyehs. (Radio Sawa website, January 8th; al-Hayat, January 9th)

Meanwhile, Asma al-Dulaymi, a parliamentarian for the Iraqi Accord Front (IAF), confirmed that her husband, Diya al-Hadithi, was killed in the explosion which targeted Samarrai. Hadithi worked as an assistant to the architectural director of the Sunni Waqf, and was entering the Waqf office as the explosion went off. Asma's father, IAF leader Adnan al-Dulaymi, refused to blame any particular group for the attack, telling Radio Sawa: "there are many actors who are not pleased with the work of the Awakening . . . and there are many actors who are trying to place obstacles in the path of the Awakening." (Radio Sawa) Adnan al-Dulaymi's comments seemed intended to leave open the possibility that the attack was carried out by Shi'ite groups rather than by al-Qaeda affiliated terrorists.

*Report: Iraqi Army Receives 35 Brazilian EE9 Armored Cars*

An anonymous army source says that the Iraqi Army has received 35 Brazilian made EE9 Cascavel armored cars, which were displayed today at a "celebration" at the Taji military base. (Aswat al-Iraq, January 9th)

*Diyala Governor Calls on Citizens to Support Tribal Movement in Kanaan*

Diyala governor Raad Jawad al-Tamimi called on citizens to join a new "National Reconciliation Council" in Diyala's Kanaan district. The leader of this Council, Thair al-Karkhi, said that the Council has already selected Sadoun al-Shamari and Mahdi Daoud al-Humayri to act as his first and second deputies respectively; he also said that the Council has named Hisham al-Jafari as its official speaker. According to al-Karkhi: "15 tribes [ashira] and clans [fakhdh] have announced that they are joining the National Reconciliation Council. The most prominent of these are the tribes of Nida, Karkhiyah, Jawraniyah, and Shubaylat. The number of fighters who have been incorporated into the program is about 700." (al-Hayat, Umar Sattar and Muhammad Tamimi, "Tribal Agreement in Diyala to Form a National Reconciliation Council . . . Atta: We Have Warned the Leaders of the 'Awakening Councils' of al-Qaeda's Plans to Infiltrate Their Ranks" January 9th)

*Al-Qaeda Emir Arrested in Sinjar*

- Muhammad Jiyad, the "media relations official" of the Iraqi Army's 2nd division, says that elements of the 3rd army division have arrested Raad Awwad Issa, who Jiyad described as "the al-Qaeda Emir [commander] in Sinjar." According to Jiyad, the arrest took place on Wednesday in the village of Barzan, near the Syrian border in the Zummar sub-district. A number of al-Qaeda related documents were found in Issa's possession. According to Jiyad, Issa was responsible for the murder of seven members of a Yezidi family in the Sinjar district in mid December of last year. Jiyad also said that Issa was on his way out of Iraq when he was arrested earlier today. (Aswat al-Iraq, "Iraqi Army: al-Qaeda's Emir in Sinjar, Responsible For Killing Seven Yezidis, Has been Arrested," January 9th)

**Iraq Arabic News, Wednesday, January 7th, 2008**  
**By Nathaniel Rabkin**

*Local Authorities in Karbala Seize Farmland to Build Houses for Victims of the Ba'ath.*

Local authorities in Karbala have begun clearing hundreds of hectares of agricultural land south of the city. The land, which belongs to members of the Banu Hilal tribe, will be turned into a residential area to house victims of the Ba'ath regime. The land's current owners received it during the mid 1990s, when the Ba'ath government, trying to overcome the economic effects of international sanctions, began an irrigation project and distributed land to local residents.

According to Ahmad Hilali, a former judge in the Karbala court and the owner of one of the seized farms, "the owners of the farms were taken by surprise about a week ago when they received orders from the provincial authorities to leave their farms so that they could be cleared and turned into residential areas." Hilali alleges that the local government's talk of compensating Saddam's victims is just an excuse to distribute the land to influential members of political parties.

Altogether, about 35 farms have been confiscated. Abd al-Kazim Hilali, described as the leader of the Banu Hilal, told al-Hayat that he feared his family would face vengeance if they offered any resistance to the local government's bulldozers. In his words: "The honor of my family is being destroyed by the bulldozers. Today might as well be recorded as the date of my death." (al-Hayat, January 6)

The deputy head of the Karbala Provincial Council, Hamid al-Turfi, told Radio Sawa that the lands would be distributed to former political prisoners, the families of persons executed by the Ba'ath regime, and local government officials. He said that the lands slated for building belonged to the government and had been wrongly seized by local farmers in 1994. (interview with Radio Sawa, January 7)

*Commander of Adhamiya Awakening Killed in Bomb Attack*

- Riyadh al-Samarrai, the commander of the "Adhamiya Awakening," was assassinated by a suicide bomber at the entrance to the office of the Sunni Waqf in Baghdad's Adhamiya neighborhood. The attack took place at about 11:00 on Monday morning, January 7. Shortly thereafter, a car bomb exploded outside the Waqf building. All told, 14 people were killed, including Samarrai, and 25 were wounded. The Adhamiya Awakening is closely associated with the Sunni Waqf, and Riyadh Samarrai also served as the commander of the Sunni Waqf's security detail. (Aswat al-Iraq, January 7)

The Association of Muslim Scholars in Iraq  
[http://heyetnet.org/en/component/option.com\\_frontpage/Itemid.1/](http://heyetnet.org/en/component/option.com_frontpage/Itemid.1/) (AMSI) reported the assassination on its website without comment. The guards of the Sunni Waqf evicted AMSI from its offices in the Umm al-Qura mosque in November of 2007, because of what they described as AMSI's continued support of al-Qaeda.

*Interior Ministry Official in Samarra Speaks About Sources of Terrorist Funding*

Rashid Falih, the "Commander of Operations" for the Interior Ministry in Samarra, says that the Interior Ministry's intelligence apparatus has identified three main sources of funding for armed groups operating in the area: The Bayji oil refineries, the Samarra pharmaceutical factory, and contributions from residents of Basra province. According to Falih, armed groups force employees at the Bayji oil refinery and the Samarra pharmaceutical factory to pay protection money. Also, some members of armed groups have secured control over contracts related to these facilities. According to Falih, the manager of the Samarra factory has been arrested, and security services are working "to distinguish those who were forced to transfer sums of money to the militants to save their lives from those who really were contributors to terrorism." Falih also claimed that many of the contributions made by Basra residents to armed groups in Samarra were extracted by force. (Aswat al-Iraq, January 7)

## *Other News*

- A chief engineer was killed and fifteen other employees were wounded when an accidental explosion set off fires at the Bayji refinery on Monday afternoon, January 7. The fire was put out by Iraqi firefighters with help from the US military. (Aswat al-Iraq, January 7)

- al-Qaeda affiliated gunman attacked the home of sheikh Dari ibn Wihab al-Mandil, of the Ubayd tribe, in the Tahwilah area of Diyala province, near the city of Khalis. Mandil was shot in the stomach in the course of the attack. Thirteen of Mandil's relatives were kidnapped in the attack, and several houses were burned. Mandil, a member of the Khalis city council, had called for the creation of an "Awakening Council" in the area. (Ash-sharq al-Awsat, January 7)

### **Iraq Arabic News, Wednesday, January 4th, 2008**

**By Nathaniel Rabkin**

- Abd al-Aziz al-Hakim yesterday in Najaf: The "strategy of using non-governmental forces must continue" in order to defeat al-Qaeda; "the concept of centralized government in Iraq has come to an end, because the constitution recognizes federalism." (al-Hayat, January 4)

- Lu'ay Battat, the deputy governor of Basra, says that members of the Jashaam and Badour tribes in the southern desert areas of the province have asked permission to form a "Council for Supporting the Law" in order to assist in policing the border. According to Battat, their request will be discussed by the Provincial Council. (al-Sharq al-Awsat, January 4)

- Unnamed "government sources" say that the government has received information indicating that the Iraqi Islamic Party has been involved in organizing "Awakening Councils" in a number of Baghdad neighborhoods, including Doura, Saydiya, and Adhamiya. Meanwhile, "rumors in security circles" indicate that some of these councils have been infiltrated by AQL. (al-Hayat, December 24)

- Sadr's "special emissary" Muhannad al-Gharawi and the director of the Sadr office in Karbala, Abd al-Hadi al-Mahmadawi, met with Karbala governor Aqil Khazali in the latter's office. According to the governor, the Sadrist expressed their support for the local government's efforts to restore security to the province. According to Gharawi: "Our negotiations were undertaken on orders from Muqtada al-Sadr. We wanted to release a dove of peace from the land of Karbala, in order to improve security and stability. . . . no one won from the wounds of the Shabaniya pilgrimage [ i.e., the August fighting], but rather, all were losers." (al-Sharq al-Awsat, December 30)

- The head of the Ninawa Provincial Council, Hisham al-Hamadani, says that the Provincial Council has voted to give the new commander of the Ninawa police force, Salih Muhammad al-Hasan, three months to prove his effectiveness in restoring security to the province. (Aswat al-Iraq, January 2) *Notes:* Hasan had announced earlier this fall to Iraqi media that he had been appointed to replace Wathiq al-Hamadani. Hasan claimed that Hamadani had been "promoted" to the position of "deputy assistant for police officers" in the Interior Ministry. This story seems to indicate that Hasan really is in control of the Ninawa police.

- Speaking at a December 25th press conference, Babil police chief Fadil Ridad insisted that he was independent of all political actors and that he would undertake the responsibilities of his new position "with complete fairness and dedication." He also denied rumors that he had worked as a member of the Saddamist intelligence apparatus in Najaf at the time of the murder of Muhammad Sadiq al-Sadr. Ridad: "At the beginning of 1998 I was transferred to the city of Hilla, that is, longer before the assassination incident. And after the collapse of the former regime, I contributed to the building of the Babil police force from Jurf al-Sakhr to Shawmili." Nonetheless, Ridad's appointment drew strong criticism from the Sadrist opposition in Babil's Provincial Council, which threatened to block roads in the province to protest his appointment. The opposition has cast doubts on Ridad's independence (but without making specific allegations) and also objects to his appointment on technical grounds: he seems to have been appointed by Interior Minister Boulani, while the Sadrists seem to think that the Provincial Council should have the authority to appoint the police chief. (Aswat al-Iraq, December 25)

