

IRAQ REVIEW

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WHY SADDAM REMAINS IN POWER

OUR VIEW

Saddam Hussein of Iraq recently issued a new Law supposedly legalising opposition political parties. The six main articles of the law which were published lately, bars the formation of any political party based on aethism, religion, racism or ethnicity. This automatically outlaws the Kurds, the Shia movements based on the Islamic ideology as well as the communists or left wing groups because their philosophy is based on aethism.

The law qualifies no effective Iraqi political opposition. Further, from our experience in the past, Saddam has never honoured any agreement with internal or external groups or bodies: In 1973, Saddam tried to form a coalition with the communist party called the National Front. While the formation of this front was going on, a Baath party memorandum was sent to all its members to work hard towards the dessimation and dissintingration of the communist party. This fact which was leaked to the opposition from some party members has been confirmed recently by Hassan Al-Alawi who was Saddams personal press spokesman from 1974 to 1979 and who exposed this fact in his book the State of The Secret Organisation.

The other point is that what today is a law in Iraq can easily be annulled by Saddam tomorrow, since Saddam's laws and decrees are not worth the paper they are written on.

In addition to this, the laws change as the interest and mood of Saddam and his clique changes. This is one of the reasons why after 23 years of Baath rule in Iraq, the country is still ruled by a provisional constitution.

The latest mockery of democracy being practiced by Saddam will deceive no one but himself and the opposition forces will carry on the struggle to crush him and his corrupt and ruthless regime no matter how long it takes or how bloody the conflict becomes.

Many political observers believe that the crisis which engulfed the Saddam regime in the past twelve months would have been enough to topple that repressive system. It is now nearly six months since the end of the war and Saddam still wields power in Baghdad.

There are three main factors which political observers believe have enabled Saddam to remain in power. The first factor concerns the brutal nature of the Saddam regime in dealing with its opponents and the degree and veracity of terror used against these opponents which is hardly paralleled to any dictatorship with the exception of, may be, Hitler in Germany and Polpot in Cambodia.

The climax of this sheer terror and absolute ruthlessness became apparent during Saddam's suppression of the popular uprising that recently took place in Iraq what sketchy accounts we have received about Saddam's terror techniques during the uprising is absolutely unbelievable in terms of the sheer cruelty and brutality used. It was obvious at one point that Saddam was aiming for genocide of major sections of the Iraqi people including the Kurds in the north and the Shias in the middle and southern Iraq.

The second factor concerns the Iraqi opposition. Despite the attempted dessimation of the Iraqi opposition by Saddam over the last two decades, the Iraqi opposition was able to survive and reach a fair degree of unity.

However this level of unity was not up to the standard required during that very testing period when the opposition should have had a full strategy for an eventuality like the uprising in Iraq, waiting to be implemented and providing a viable alternative to Saddam.

There are now signs that the Iraqi opposition has learnt much from the bitter experiences of the past and will soon reach a higher degree of unity, co-operation and understanding.

Finally the third factor concerns the role that the international community played. The international community, particularly the United States of America helped Saddam to remain in power willingly or not. The American president who publicly called on the Iraqi people and army to overthrow Saddam, became a mere spectator during the popular uprising in Iraq and watched the slaughter of the Iraqi people being carried out by Saddam in the most brutal form. In the early stages of the uprising the help given to Saddam was very apparent so much information reached us from many sources confirming that the American forces actually assisted Saddam's Republican Guards who were besieged earlier in reaching the revolting cities of the south by allowing them to leave through a safe passage. Saddam's helicopter gunships, contrary to a cease fire agreement, were allowed to systematically wipe out the resistance forces of the uprising by attacking the main centres of the cities of the uprising, a process which resulted in hundreds of thousands of civilians being killed. More earth to earth missiles were used by Saddam on the cities of the uprising than was used in the war with the allies causing

NEWS

- **Many soldiers who have returned from the war in Kuwait go missing**

The Saddam regime has begun to transfer most of the soldiers returning from Kuwait to a base in Amara in the south. Our sources confirm that all those soldiers who informed the Saddam regime of their return have disappeared and nothing has been heard of them since. These events are related to secret military documents which our sources have been able to obtain from inside Iraq, the content of which include the following:

1. Returning military personnel are to be arrested for an indefinite period until an investigation committee has been formed.
2. The interrogation committee must include members of the army intelligence of that unit as well as army intelligence of the particular regiment.
3. Deserters must be brought before a military court to be given his 'just' sentence. (According to Saddam's law, desertion is always punishable by death).
4. If military personnel had any political activities or views they must be referred to a 'special investigation committee'.

- **Extension of night curfew in the area of Al-Thawra in Baghdad**

The Saddam regime has extended the period of night curfew in Al-Thawra for another month.

This is due to continuing operations by the resistance against the Saddam regime in this area. The details of the curfew prohibit anyone on the street between 12:00 am and 4:00 am as well as prohibiting anyone from entering or leaving Al-Thawra district.

- **War Trial for Saddam**

Two prominent French lawyers are attempting to bring a law suite against Saddam in the International Court of Human Rights. The charges would be based on the murder of at least a million Iraqi, Iranian and Kuwaiti people and in the deportation and exiling of at least five million Iraqi people. The two lawyers gave firm commitments that they shall not rest until the case is taken up by the court and Saddam tried.

- **Saddam stakes his support for a failed coup**

As soon as Saddam heard of the coup attempt against president Gorbachev in Moscow, he wasted no time in supporting it and giving his blessing to the "new legal leadership". He also severely criticised Gorbachev and what he stood for. All this was obviously a cheap trick to try and give some credibility to the illegitimate coup in Moscow in the hope that if the regime did last, they would break Saddam's political isolation and start supporting him.

Fortunately the coup failed and the legitimate government was restored and Saddam received another blow to his chances of survival. Another point worth bearing is that Saddam's support for the coup stood for everything that Gorbachev worked for. Thus it is a clear proof to the west and the United States of America that Saddam has no intention of bringing about peaceful political reform.

Perestroika and Glasnost are words that do not feature in his dictionary.

cont. from **WHY SADDAM REMAINS**

massive destruction of lives and property to the main cities of Iraq. Schwartzcoft's claim that he had been 'suckered' by Saddam was the worst excuse and justification to allow Saddam to massacre the Iraqi people during the uprising. The real reason for the United States of America allowing and aiding Saddam to quell the uprising is as a result of an erroneous and misguided notion that the alternative to Saddam could bring instability to Iraq and the region, however it is hard to imagine how any regime that came to power could create more instability than Saddam has already created.

In conclusion, we believe that Saddam is certainly weaker now than at any time before. Politically, he is isolated from most sections of the opposition and the deep mistrust which has been created over the years has virtually eliminated his political credibility. Diplomatically, with the sole exception of Jordan, he is surrounded by unfriendly countries who sided against him in the Gulf war and prefer not to do business with him, following the lead of the western countries. Economically, the country is ruined, the revenues have dried up long ago and the international economic blockade of the U.N. is still in force. This makes economic recovery during this period virtually impossible.

The Iraqi opposition are on the way to further cementing the co-operation between themselves.

A major conference is expected to take place shortly when a new constitutional assembly, a form of government in exile is expected to be discussed. Provided there is a genuine and sincere will by the west and the United States of America to desire the overthrow of Saddam, we are confident that before long, the opposition forces outside and inside the country will ensure the demise of this vicious regime.

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