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Om eventuellt hot från Al-Qaida mot medlemmar i Awakening Councils

Fråga : Hur ser hotbilden mot medlemmar i den s.k. "väckelserörelsen" Awakening Councils ut? Hot från spec. Al-Qaida?

Svar : Andra namn på rörelsen är Sons of Iraq (Sol) och Sahwa. Enligt artikel i Washington Post finns ett hot från Al-Qaida mot medlemmar i Awakening Councils. UNHCR har gjort en sammanställning över riktade attentat mot medlemmar/ledare i Awakening Councils januari 2008 – mars 2009. New York Times har skrivit en artikel som sammanfattar historien för Awakening Councils till och med 2007. Rörelsen är mer staminriktad i Anbar-provinsen jämfört med Bagdad, se mer info nedan och via länken.

* "The Awakening movement, a predominantly Sunni Arab force recruited to fight Sunni Islamic extremists like Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia, has become a great success story after its spread from Sunni tribes in Anbar Province to become an ad-hoc armed force of 65,000 to 80,000 across the country in less than a year.

In interviews with Awakening groups in 10 locations — four interviewed during a week in Anbar, and six groups in and around Baghdad interviewed over several days — it was evident that the groups were improving security in their areas.

And while government officials are somewhat willing to accept the tribal character of the Awakening groups in Anbar Province, they are leery of the new ones in and around Baghdad, which have more Baathists from the era of Saddam Hussein in their leadership and are active in more mixed neighborhoods.

The Baghdad groups are less bound by tribal affiliation than the Anbar groups, relying instead on neighborhood pride and trust born of shared disdain for the Iraqi government. Many of the Baghdad members were Baathists and served in the security forces under the Hussein government.”

Källa: New York Times. In a Force for Iraqi Calm, Seeds of Conflict. 2007-12-23

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/23/world/middleeast/23awakening.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all

* “Al-Qaeda in Iraq has taken note of the Awakening movement's success; Sons of Iraq commanders and volunteers have routinely been targeted by AQI strikes.

CFR Senior Fellow Max Boot argues that militants consider the Awakening the most serious threat they face. "That's why they are putting so much effort into targeting Awakening members." It is unclear how many U.S.-allied fighters have been killed by the insurgent group. In response to an e-mail query about casualty figures, Lt. Col. Burwell said "that data is not releasable," noting only "it is safe to say that [Sons of Iraq members] have been targeted for attacks because of their effectiveness in providing security for their areas of responsibility."

Källa: Washington Post / Council on Foreign Relations. The Role of the 'Sons of Iraq' in Improving Security. 2008-04-28

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/28/AR2008042801120.html>

* UNHCR. UNHCR's Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-seekers. 2009-04-01.

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/49f569cf2.pdf>

Annex VIII: Targeted attacks on tribal leaders,
Awakening/Sol leaders and members
(January 2008 – March 2009, not comprehensive)