



**After Ahwaz attack: Will Iran provide more support for terrorism?!**



Sunday, 14 October 2018



special reading 40

The recent military attack in Ahwaz is the most serious blow to the Iranian regime since it came to power in 1979. Such attack has led to a decline in confidence in the capabilities of authoritarian regime. The Revolutionary Guard Forces (RGF) incurred losses from these events; more similar operations may be supported, it means that confrontation has become open to all possibilities.

The Iranian regime recently suffers an economic crisis that is undermining its legitimacy, as the local currency has collapsed, inflation has risen. Protests have affected stability in Iran have spread. Tehran is also under growing pressure after US President Donald Trump decided in May to withdraw his country from the nuclear deal signed with Iran in 2015 and re-impose sanctions in an effort to isolate it.



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## The significance of Ahwaz process

The Ahwaz process revealed two important indications which can be referred to as follows:

### Security indication

It cannot be ignored that the implementation of the attacks in this way reflects a major security imbalance, given the special importance shown by the Iranian regime institutions to these celebrations of the start of the war with Iraq (1980-1988), contrary to the allegations propagated by Iran as “the most stable country in A region that suffers from instability at the political and security levels.” It seems that this will prompt the Iranian authorities to review their security procedures, whether by the Ministry of Security or by the organs of the Revolutionary Guard, which was the main objective of these attacks, in light of the role played by the internal and external arena, inside and outside.

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## Assassinations by the Iranian Regime



In 1989, the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and his assistant Abdullah Ather were assassinated in Vienna



The secretary-general of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Sadiq Sharafkandi in 1992



Four Saudi diplomats in Thailand Abdullah al-Maliki, Abdullah al-Basri, Fahd al-Bahli and Ahmad al-Şayf from 1989-1990



Bombings in Buenos Aires. It resulted in the deaths of more than 85 people, injuring about 300 others in 1994



Assassination of Saudi diplomat Hassan al-Qahtani in Karachi in 2011





# Political significance

The attacks occurred in the city of Ahwaz inhabited by Arab nationalism highlights the many problems faced by the city. It has large natural resources of oil and gas, but is subject to discrimination and marginalization by the regime, at various levels, a policy also followed in other regions and regions inhabited by non-Persian nationalities, Similar to the Kurdish and Baluchi ethnic groups.



Ahwaz military attack has led to a decline in confidence in the capabilities of authoritarian regime



## The terrorist history of the Iran regime

Iranian regime is considered the first sponsor and supporter of terrorism in the world. It has established many terrorist organizations inside and outside Lebanon, including Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hizballah, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq in Iraq and Houthis in Yemen. One can point to examples of terrorist practices in Iran:

- Iran has been involved in a series of assassinations of the Iranian opposition In 1989, the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and his assistant Abdullah Ather were assassinated in Vienna.
- RGF assassinated Shahabur Bakhtiar, the last prime minister of Iran under the Shah In Paris in 1991
- Iranian regime assassinated the secretary-general of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Sadiq Sharafkandi, and three of his aides Fattah Abdellah, Huayman Ardalan and Nuri Dehkurdi in 1992.
- Iranian regime was involved in the assassination of four Saudi diplomats in Thailand: Abdullah al-Maliki, Abdullah al-Basri, Fahd al-Bahli and Ahmad al-Saif from 1989-1990.
- Iran was involved in the bombings in Buenos Aires, which resulted in the deaths of more than 85 people, injuring about 300 others in 1994.
- British police arrested Hadi Bauer, the former Iranian ambassador to Argentina for plotting to carry out the attack in 2003.
- Iranian regime was involved in the assassination of Saudi diplomat Hassan al-Qahtani in the city of Karachi in 201. In the same year the United States foiled an assassination attempt on the Saudi ambassador and proved the involvement of the Iranian regime in that attempt



Indeed, The Kuwaiti Criminal Court sentenced two convicted persons to death in 2016 in the case known as the Abdali cell, one of them an Iranian national, on charges of committing acts that would undermine the unity and territorial integrity of the State of Kuwait and seek and communicate with Iran and Hezbollah for hostile acts.

## The motives for revenge

After the Ahwas attack the Iranian regime launched a sharp attack on all opponents in the province of Ahwaz, due to the following motives:

## Security defect

The storming of the military parade of the IRGC, which was held in the most volatile areas of the regime, showed a clear and unmistakable security imbalance in conjunction with the presence of Iranian President Hassan Rowhani. This caused great confusion among the executive branches of the state, The Ahwazi opposition to involvement in the incident, which caused great embarrassment to the regime and the Revolutionary Guard to the world and specifically to opponents of the regime.



# Revenge of opponents

The Iranian regime considered that what happened in the military parade was a green light for RGF to begin to move against the opponents under the pretext that these opponents are using weapons to stand up to the regime and resist it with weapons and to condemn to the world what the regime considers “.

## An excuse for an external attack

Shortly after the incident, the Iranian regime launched its criticism of Arab states and USA, which considered the Iranian regime to have supported the attack with funding and training, as well as the US position on Iran, especially after its withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear agreement. European countries accused Iran of harboring terrorists, which called for the recall of a number of ambassadors of European countries to condemn the incident and communicate the image of their countries on the matter.



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## The repercussions of the events on the territory of Ahwaz

The Iranian authorities launched a massive campaign of arrests among the Ahwazi citizens, exploiting the specific process of abuse and a pretext for their repressive practices against them.

The low living conditions in Ahwaz have been exacerbated by power cuts, severe droughts and landslides, which residents blame for poor management by the central government, which has failed to provide aid to the region with a population of about 8 million.

Ahwaz area is more than 375,000 square kilometers, while the region suffers from brutal suppression of racial motives, imprisoning all those who call their children an Arab name, banning the teaching of the Arabic language, classified by the World Health Organization within the global contaminated areas, and the authorities arrest anyone calling for self-rule.



In April of the same year, the Revolutionary Court of Iran sentenced Al-Ahwaz to death. Three activists from the town of Hamidiya, Qais' Abidawi, Ahmed Abidawi and their cousin Sajjad Abidawi, were accused of carrying out armed operations against the Revolutionary Guards. In September last year, And the death sentences on Eid al-Adha in Ahwaz after accusing Ahwaz Arabs of forming organizations opposed to the overthrow of the regime.

## Future implications of the Ahwaz process

The Ahwaz attack has a number of direct implications:

1st , Armed confrontations:

The Iranian authorities may be keen to link these potential confrontations to recent protests in several cities and governorates as they seek to reduce the importance of these protests and consider them to be fueled by internal actors working for external forces.





## 2nd A counters diplomatic campaign

Iran is trying to exploit the recent attacks in the diplomatic campaign led by the United Nations General Assembly in New York, which includes President Hassan Rowhani, as part of its attempts to counter the pressures imposed by US policies on them, as the administration of US President Donald Trump in turn to mobilize the largest number Of the international forces in support of its policy towards Iran, as the latter represents a source of threat to regional stability in the region, because of its nuclear and missile programs and its continuing interference in the internal affairs of the States of the region, and support for terrorism.

## 3rd, Increasingly Pressure

Iran may be tempted to exploit the latest attacks to put new pressure on European countries, which are currently making efforts to enhance the chances of continuing the nuclear deal. Iran may try to force those countries to take security measures against their opposition Iranian groups as part of the “package of incentives” that could keep Iran in the nuclear deal and not withdraw from it, and reactivate its nuclear program.



The Iranian authorities launched a massive campaign of arrests among the Ahwazi citizens



## Conclusion

The Ahwaz attack has great implications; it reveals the depth of the Iranian security penetration, where it came in a very sensitive place and timing planned in advance and with great potential.

The repercussions of these attack revealed to the whole world that Iran is the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world. It funds all extremist organizations in the region, It's also interventions are exposed in neighboring countries such as Syria, Yemen and Bahrain.

Finally, it cannot be ruled out that Iran is trying to exploit the attacks in order to promote the reasons for its insistence on consecrating its military presence inside Syria, as this is part of the advanced defense policy, which claims that its presence in Syria aims to fight terrorist organizations before reaching Tehran , Which does not tolerate the data on the ground that indicate that the roles played by Iran in the regional arena was one of the main reasons that led to the escalation of activity of these organizations.





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