

Editorial – February 28, 2007

Iraqi Government Cannot Secure the Nation

The American people are waiting for the day when the Iraqi government can secure, govern, and sustain itself without the presence of U.S. military forces. We have all been told that this day is fast approaching.

Given what we have witnessed *vis à vis* the un-civilized execution of Saddam Hussein, there exists great doubt that such a day will ever come.

The Iraqi government was unable to rule the small execution chamber where Saddam was taken. The execution was a rushed affair. No rehearsal was had. No briefings were had explaining that the protocol required by the Iraqi Constitution did not allow for taunting the condemned at the gallows. How about security? Can we believe that the Iraqi government can secure the nation, when they were unable to keep cell phones out of the death chamber?

How about the Iraqi Prime Minister's reaction to the world seeing what really went on in that death chamber: Was he upset because of the conduct itself, or because it was broadcast to the world? Adding insult to injury, when another Arab state criticized the execution, Iraq cut off all diplomatic ties. Is this the conduct of a democratic government?

Is this what America's sons and daughters are fighting and dying for? A government that does not value the dignity of human life, acts in the heat of revenge, and scorns those that dare to dissent.

The Iraqi government turned down a suggestion, by the U.S., that independent observers from the U.N. be present for the execution. I suspect we all now know why.

Wasn't it Saddam that purportedly carried out his hangings in secret? How much more sunshine does the new Iraqi regime let in? Will America regret in some not too distant future its support for the current Iraqi regime, as some now regret sending Donald Rumsfeld to meet with Saddam, on behalf of the U.S., in 1983?

It is time for America to recognize that there may never come a day when this Iraqi government can secure, govern and sustain itself. Sectarian violence is a 1,000 year old phenomenon. The French could not win the hearts and minds of the Algerians in the late 1950's, the U.S. could not win the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese in the 1960's, and perhaps now the Iraqi's will not submit to living as one nation, under one government in 2007.

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