

The Al-Qaeda War Against France

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Introduction

The enemies of France, for example Iran, Turkey, Sudan, the Hezbollah of Lebanon, can support terrorist attacks against France. In the previous decades Qaddafi's Libya was another potential sponsor of terrorism against France, but after 2000 the relations between France and Libya were normalized.

Obviously there are many African countries that can support terrorist attacks against France too, but I am talking about countries that are significant military powers, so that they can provide advanced weapons and intelligence support, which are necessary for spectacular attacks against France.

In 2015 there was the agreement for the nuclear program of Iran. France opposed the Iran deal in order to protect her Arab allies, but also because Iran challenges France in North Africa, where France gets a large part of her uranium imports. France needs the uranium because for her production of nuclear energy. France covers most of her energy needs from the production of nuclear energy. See "Nuclear Power in France", November 2015.

The agreement for the Iranian nuclear program opened the road for the economic cooperation between France and Iran. Moreover, Sudan, a strong Iranian ally during the previous decades, and a strong supporter of international terrorism, changed sides and aligned itself with Saudi Arabia, and Saudi Arabia is a French ally.

These developments changed the ability of Al-Qaeda to attack France, because Iran and Sudan were strong supporters of Al-Qaeda. That does not mean that Iran or Sudan own the terrorist groups of Africa, but these groups must receive support from the enemies of France in order to attack France, and the stronger the enemies of France the greater and more sophisticated the support they can receive.

Turkey, another great military power, is an enemy of France too. However it is difficult for Turkey to support Al-Qaeda related groups, because Turkey might be an enemy of France but she is an ally of the United States. Jihadist groups are communicating vessels, and support to one group that attacks France might end up to another group that attacks the United States.

However I have to say that Al-Qaeda of North Africa (Al-Qaeda of Islamic Maghreb) is a different organization from Al-Qaeda of Asia. In Asia Al-Qaeda is fighting the Americans who are trying to bring the oil and natural gas of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to India i.e. TAPI Pipeline, while in Africa Al-Qaeda is fighting the French who support the construction of the Trans-Saharan Pipeline, which will send the natural gas of Nigeria to Algeria and Europe. See “A Summary of the Wars of the 21st Century”.

For the difference between Al-Qaeda Africa and Al-Qaeda Asia see Rand Corporation “North Africa’s Menace : AQIM's Evolution and the U.S. Policy Response”.

Therefore before the agreement for Iran’s nuclear program and before the repositioning of Sudan’s foreign policy, Iran, Sudan and Hezbollah were the

most powerful supporters of Jihadist groups who were fighting France in Africa. Now of course there is also the Islamic State, which was supported by Turkey and the Arabs, but I will come back to ISIS later on. But note that France is bombing ISIS in Syria, and therefore ISIS can support attacks against France too. ISIS consists of the ex-people of Saddam Hussein who were overturned by the Americans with the Iraq War of 2003. Saddam Hussein was a soviet ally and these people were trained by the Soviets and the KGB. See “Towards an Alliance Between Russia and ISIS”?

Note that Saudi Arabia, another country which supports Jihadist organizations has a limited ability to support Al-Qaeda, because Saudi Arabia is an ally of the United States and France, and Al-Qaeda fights both of them. Saudi Arabia buys her weapons from the United States and France, while Iran, Hezbollah and Sudan are buying their weapons from Russia and China. Therefore Iran, Hezbollah and Sudan had a lot more freedom to support Al-Qaeda against their enemies i.e. the United States and France, while the Saudis would lose the American and French support if they were to support Al-Qaeda against the United States and France.

Moreover Saudi Arabia is not interested in the exports of natural gas. It is Iran, Qatar and Russia that really care about natural gas exports, because they are the ones who are very rich in natural gas. Saudi Arabia consumes domestically her gas production. The Saudis fight for their oil exports, because Saudi Arabia is the second richest country in oil reserves, second only to Venezuela.

Image Richest in Natural Gas

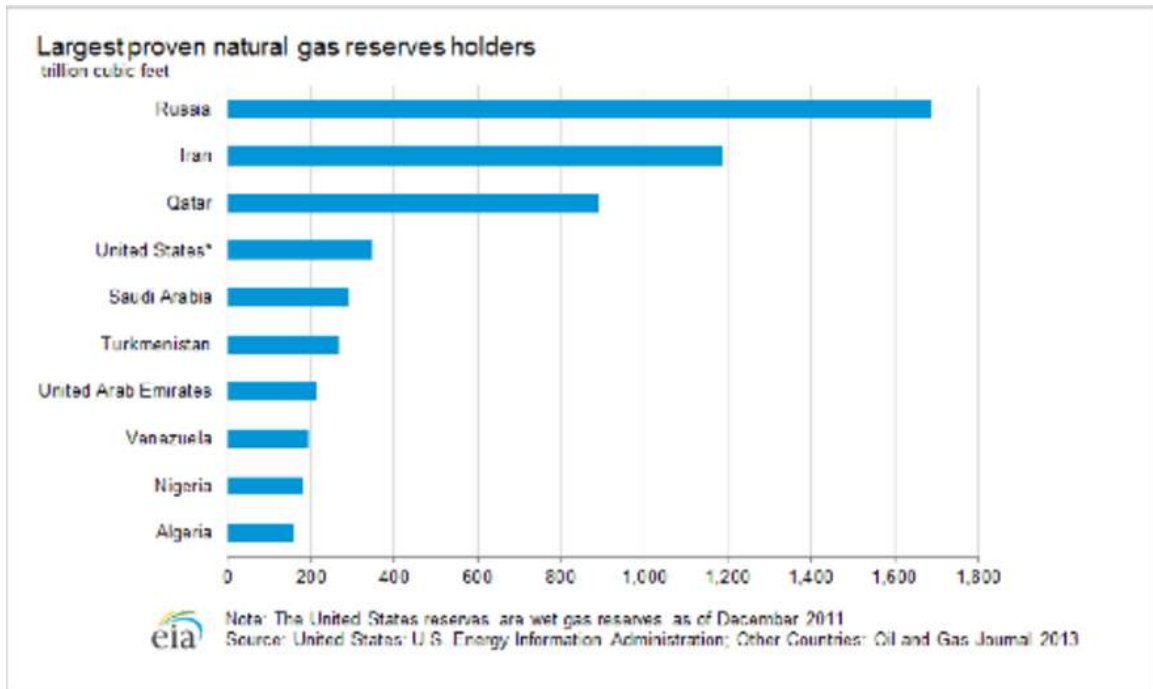
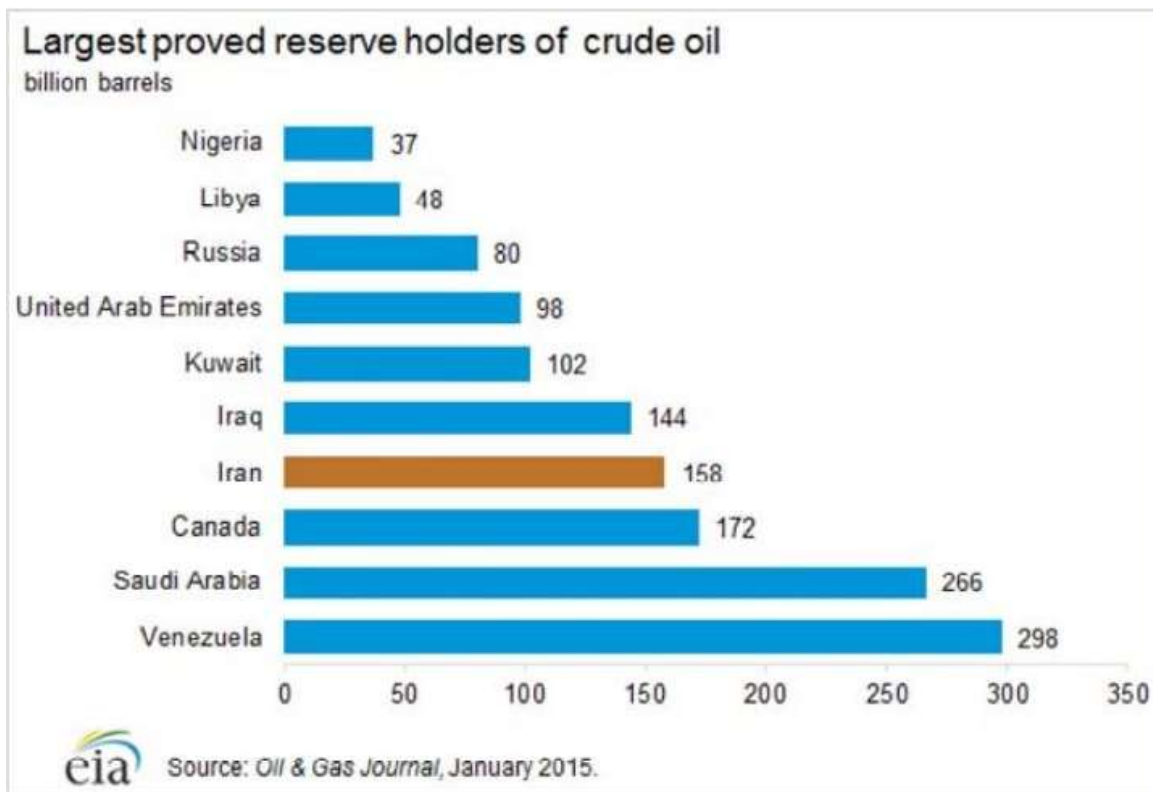


Image Richest in Oil



Therefore the Saudis do not really have to stop the TAPI Pipeline (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India), or the Trans-Saharan Pipeline (Nigeria-Niger-Algeria). It is the Iranians, the Qataris and the Iranians and the Russians that have to worry about them. The Turks must also stop the Tran-Saharan Pipeline because the Turks' main ambition is to send the natural gas of the Middle East and Central Asia to Europe, and provide an alternative to the Russian gas.

Map TAPI Pipeline



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkmenistan%E2%80%93Afghanistan%E2%80%93Pakistan%E2%80%93India_Pipeline#/media/File:TAPI-EIA.png

Map Trans-Saharan Pipeline



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7e/Gas_pipelines across Meditteranee and Sahara map-en.svg/2000px-Gas pipelines across Meditteranee and Sahara map-en.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7e/Gas_pipelines_across_Mediterranee_and_Sahara_map-en.svg/2000px-Gas_pipelines_across_Mediterranee_and_Sahara_map-en.svg.png)

Therefore, when I say that it was mainly Iran, Sudan and Hezbollah who were supporting Al-Qaeda against France in Africa, I am not saying that Saudi Arabia is a better country than Iran. I am just saying that the alliance

of Saudi Arabia with France and the United States, and also Saudi Arabia's lack of interest in natural gas pipelines, did not make Saudi Arabia the ideal backer of Al-Qaeda against France.

Sudan and Iran

At the following map you can see how important Sudan was for Iran during the previous decades. Iran and Hezbollah used Sudan as an entrance for West Africa in order to attack Niger, Nigeria, Algeria and Cameroon. Through Eritrea and Somalia they were attacking Kenya and Ethiopia.

Map Sudan's Usefulness for Iran



From the mid-seventies Egypt left the Soviets and became an ally of the United States and Saudi Arabia, and has also signed a peace treaty with Israel (1979). Only for one year Egypt became an enemy of Saudi Arabia, when the Muslim Brotherhood rose to power with the support of Turkey, Qatar and Iran (2012-2013).

When the Muslim Brother Mohamed Morsi became president of Egypt in 2012 he received Erdogan in Egypt as a real Sultan, and he invited the

Iranian President. It was the first visit of an Iranian President to Egypt since the Islamic Revolution of 1979. But other than this brief period of the Muslim Brotherhood governance Egypt has been an enemy of Iran and a Saudi ally.

Moreover Qaddafi had formed an alliance with Chad, and together they supported separatist rebel groups in South Sudan, which is where the Sudanese oil is located. See Gatestone Institute “Chad: Gaddafi's Best Ally”, July 2011.

See also “Libya, Chad and Sudan – An Ambiguous Triangle?”.

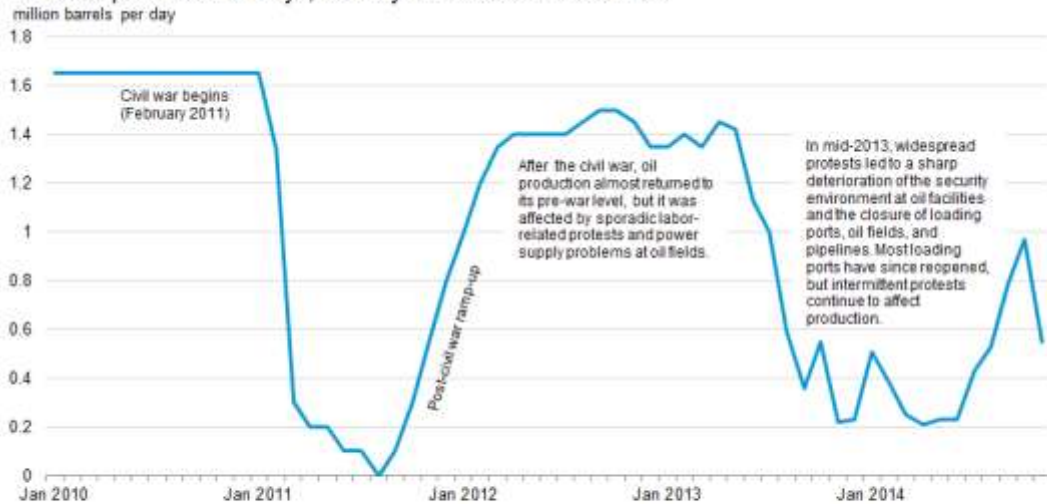
It is no coincidence that it was in 2011 that the special forces of Hezbollah and Sudan, with the blessings of Iran, and the special forces of Qatar, with the blessings of Turkey, entered Libya, and it was in 2011 that South Sudan gained its independence. It was the same war.

Qaddafi's Libya was producing 1.5 million barrels of oil per day before the Arab Spring, Sudan was producing 400 thousand barrels per day, while Chad was producing 100 thousand barrels, with the prospect to increase its production to 250.000 barrels.

After the Arab Spring and the independence of South Sudan both the Libyan and Sudanese oil productions collapsed.

Image Libyan Oil Production

Crude oil production in Libya, January 2010 to November 2014

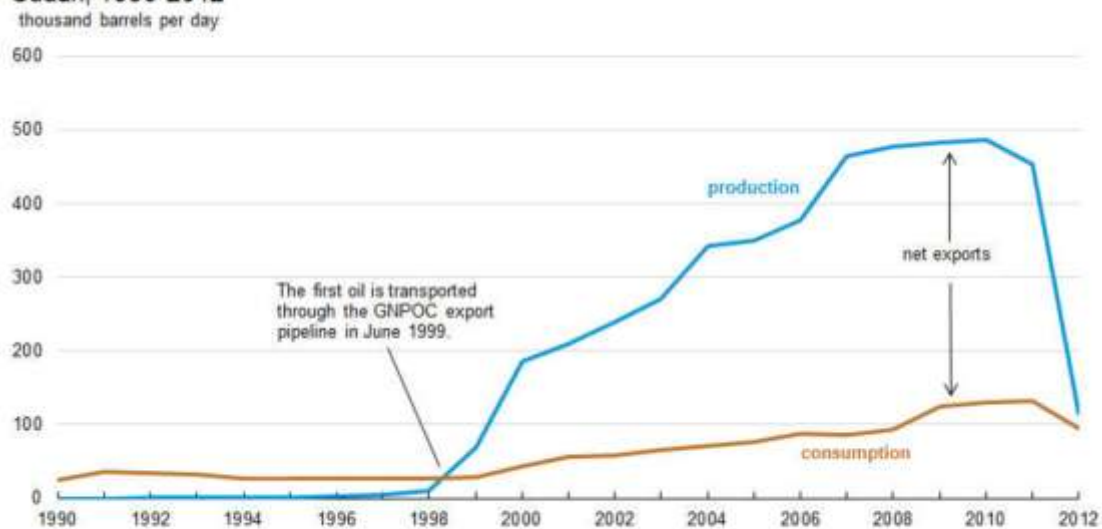


Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Short-Term Energy Outlook, November 2014

http://energy-cg.com/SmallPicsLinks_ECG/crude_oil_production.png

Image Sudanese Oil Production

Crude oil production, including lease condensate, and consumption in Sudan and South Sudan, 1990-2012

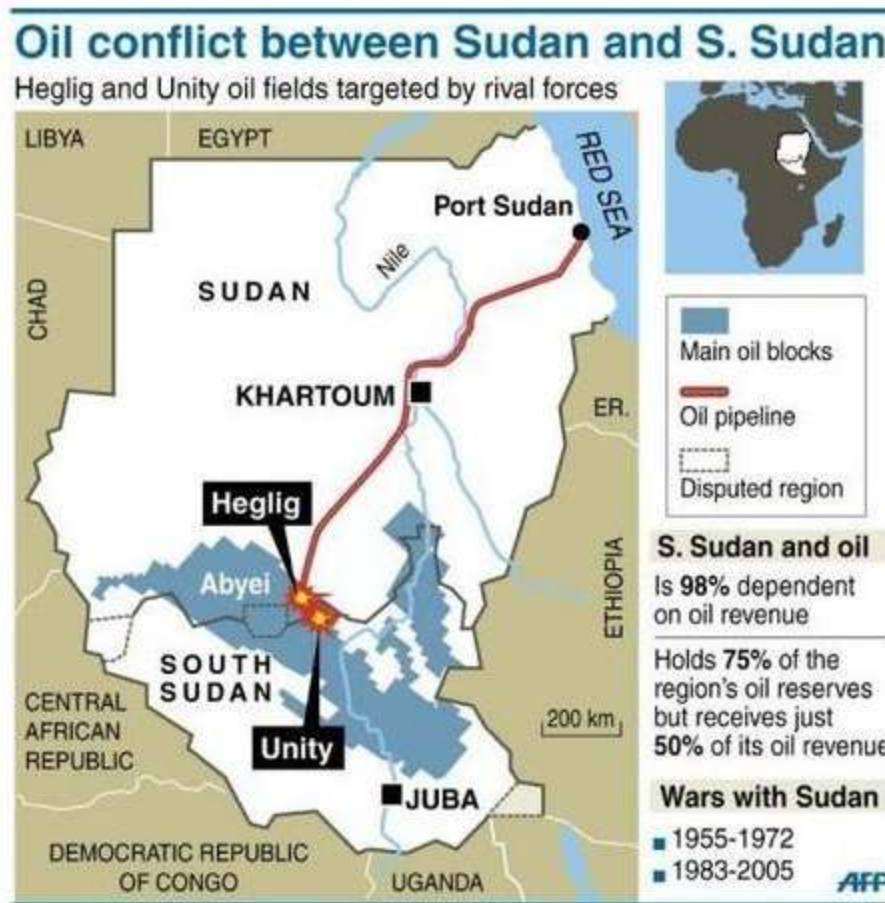


Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/images/sudan-oil-production2012.jpg>

At the following map you can see with blue the Sudanese oil fields and with red the oil pipeline that was exporting the Sudanese oil to the Red Sea through the Arab part of Sudan, very close to the Saudi oil pipeline.

Map Oil Fields and Pipeline of Sudan



Oil conflict between Sudan and South Sudan (© AFP)

<http://www.energy-pedia.com/news/sudan/new-149899>

Map Pipelines of the Red Sea



From the following map you can see that Sudan was for Iran and Hezbollah an entrance to West Africa, which allowed them to bypass South Sudan, Ethiopia and Chad.

Map Sudan as a Corridor to West Africa
















In West Africa Iran targets the oil of Nigeria, the Trans-Saharan gas pipeline (Nigeria-Niger-Algeria), and the rich uranium fields of Niger which supply the French production of nuclear energy.

Niger and Namibia are among the top 5 producers of uranium in the world.

Uranium Production by Country

This is a list of countries by uranium production in 2014.

Rank ⇄	Country/Region ⇄	Uranium production (2014) (tonnes U) ^[1] ⇄	Uranium Production (2011) (thousands pounds U ₃ O ₈) ^[2] ⇄	Percentage of World Production ⇄ (2014)
	World	56,217	139,513	
1	 Kazakhstan	23,127	46,284	41.1
2	 Canada	9,134	25,434	16.2
3	 Australia	5,001	15,339	8.9
4	 Niger	4,057	10,914	7.2
5	 Namibia	3,255	11,689	5.8
6	 Russia	2,990	1,516	5.3
7	 Uzbekistan	2,400	6,239	4.3
8	 United States	1,919	4,316	3.4
9	 China	1,500	2,150	2.7
10	 Ukraine	926	2,210	1.6
11	 South Africa	573	2,210	1.0
12	 India	385	1,040	0.7
13	 Malawi	369	1,742	0.7

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_uranium_production

Iran had also very strong connections to the terrorist organization Al-Shabaab in Somalia, but also in Eritrea. Eritrea is a very corrupt country which is for hire, but recently Eritrea said it is aligned with Saudi Arabia. See “Is the Reconciliation Between Turkey and Israel Viable”?

<https://iakal.wordpress.com/2016/07/02/is-the-reconciliation-between-turkey-and-israel-viable/>

Kenya, a country south of Sudan, is another country with problematic relations with Iran, because the Chinese want to use Kenya as an export hub, in order to export the resources of Africa to the Indian Ocean. China also wants to export the oil of South Sudan from Kenya now that there is the

Sudan-South Sudan war, and that brings Iran and Sudan together against Kenya.

Map



I must also say that Sudan is useful for Iran for one more reason. Sudan and Iran have a common politico-economic system. Both countries are Islamic societies and they have socialist economic models. However Sudan is a Sunni Islamic “Democracy” while Iran is a Shia Islamic “Democracy”.

Therefore Iran could use Sudan to set foot in Sunni terrorist organization of Africa and Asia, because 80-85% of the Muslim population adheres to Sunni Islam. The Sudanese propaganda sounds more familiar to the population of the Sunni countries. Moreover Iran and Sudan used to jointly attack the Saudi King, and Sudan was presenting itself as the model of an Islamic socialist country. Normally we do not use the words Islamists and socialists

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