

Kuwait Terrorism Disadvantage

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Uniqueness: Kuwait Terrorism OK Now

There have been no outbreaks in Kuwait since 2006 – this is a signifier of the United States’ military presence and its ability to prevent and treat terrorism in the area.

“Kuwait 2010 Crisis and Safety Report,” **Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSEAC)**, March 1, 2010, <https://www.osac.gov/Reports/report.cfm?contentID=114382>

Kuwait is a close partner and major non-NATO Ally of the United States. Anti-Americanism, particularly following the 1991 Gulf War, has been more muted in Kuwait than elsewhere in Middle East. Policy disagreements are usually voiced through Kuwait’s vibrant local media and in Kuwait’s traditional diwaniyyas – social gatherings where policy issues or disagreements are openly discussed. Public demonstrations are rare, but have previously occurred. Several large demonstrations occurred during the 2006 Israel-Lebanon Summer War and the 2006 controversy over the Danish cartoons. Two of the protests were held in front of the U.S. Embassy.

The Kuwaiti police were not prepared for how quickly the anti-Israel protest materialized and grew in size – both protests attracted hundreds of participants. In addition, protestors burned American and Israeli flags, while waving Hezbollah flags and chanting “death to Israel” and “death to America.” **There have been no additional anti-American demonstrations in Kuwait since 2006.**

Uniqueness: Kuwait Terrorism OK Now (2)

Terrorism in Kuwait has been quelled for the past few years.

“Kuwait fears Iraq violence could spread,” **Reuters**, January 17, 2010,
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE60G03C>

Jan 17 (Reuters) - Kuwait fears a rise in militant attacks and sectarian tensions in Iraq could cause a new security threat for the Gulf Arab oil producer, a minister said in remarks published on Sunday.

The sectarian bloodshed unleashed by the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq has largely abated but U.S. and Shi'ite-dominated Iraqi authorities expect attacks by Sunni militants to increase ahead of key parliamentary elections in March.

Large-scale bombings killed dozens this month across Iraq, which Baghdad blamed on al Qaeda militants and elements of former leader Saddam Hussein's outlawed Baath party.

"I'm worried about the collapse of the security system in Iraq, which could drive many Iraqis to seek refuge in Kuwait," Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad al-Salem al-Sabah told al-Qabas daily.

"I am worried about ... a sectarian conflict that would spread to Kuwait ... I'm worried that conflicts, terrorism and al Qaeda groups could spread to Kuwait," he said.

Kuwait, which is almost one-third Shi'ite, waged a largely successful campaign to stamp out violence by Islamist militants after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on U.S. cities and Iraq war.

Last year, Kuwait said it had foiled an al Qaeda-linked plan to bomb a U.S. army camp and an oil refinery in the OPEC oil exporting state.

Relations between Iraq and Kuwait became tense last year because of a dispute over billion of dollars Baghdad owes to Kuwait in reparations for 1990-91 occupation of the small state in the era of Saddam Hussein.

Link: Iraq Withdrawal

Withdrawing troops from Iraq causes lots of instability and violence in Kuwait.

“Kuwaiti National Security and the US-Kuwaiti Strategic Relationship after Saddam,” W. Andrew Terrill, Strategic Studies Institute, September 2007, p. 50-52

In Kuwait fear is increasing that the United States will leave Iraq in anarchy due to domestic political pressure, and Iraq will subsequently devolve into a large and uncontrollable civil war.¹⁶³ According to a November 30, 2006, statement by the emir, “Under the current circumstances, an American withdrawal would not help at all in bringing back stability [to Iraq]. On the contrary, the situation would get worse, and we would be looking at a very intense civil war.” This concern has been reiterated at various other meetings of Kuwaitis and U.S. officials. The Kuwaitis have also publicly supported President Bush’s “surge” option into Baghdad, although they have also indicated that they would like to see the United States open a dialogue on Iraq with all regional powers including Iran and Syria. The Kuwaiti government is also seriously concerned about an Iraqi refugee crisis should the United States leave that country and an uncontrolled civil war break out. While the Kuwaiti border is fenced and provided with a number of security measures, it is not unbreachable. This problem is especially serious since Kuwait is a small country unable to absorb or provide facilities for large numbers of Iraqi citizens within its borders. Thus, the Kuwaitis are not expected to allow refugee camps within Kuwait but would under proper circumstances support the administration of Iraqi refugee camps outside Kuwaiti borders...

...Another set of problems can be seen on the internet. Iraqi insurgents using jihadist websites have sometimes specifically threatened Kuwait and Kuwaitis inside Iraq. These threats are increasingly irrelevant since very few Kuwaitis are currently interested in traveling to Iraq. Threats against Kuwait itself are another matter. In this regard, many Kuwaitis are extremely worried about the claim that Iraq has replaced Afghanistan as the chief training ground for the next generation of “professionalized” terrorists. In particular, a danger is that radical Kuwaitis who infiltrate into Iraq will then return and apply their terrorist skills against the Kuwaiti government and society. Such a situation would recreate the problems that Saudi Arabia and other Arab states had in coping with returning veterans from the anti-Soviet jihad in Afghanistan. These individuals in many cases were both radicalized and professionalized with a variety of military and terrorist skills. Currently, there are believed to be about Kuwaitis who participated in the Soviet- Afghan war living at home in Kuwait. A handful of Kuwaitis have also participated in various other Islamic military causes such as the wars in Bosnia and Chechnya. All of these individuals are believed to be under surveillance, and they currently present no clear threat to the Kuwaiti government. An uncontrolled civil war in Iraq’s near future could change everything. Such a conflict would attract much more serious attention from Kuwait’s radical fringe, and present a significantly less manageable problem for Kuwait authorities once these radicals begin returning home.

Link: Kuwait Withdrawal

Withdrawing US' presence from Kuwait leaves Kuwait susceptible to harbor terrorism and be attacked by it.

“Kuwaiti National Security and the US-Kuwaiti Strategic Relationship after Saddam,” W. Andrew **Terrill**, Strategic Studies Institute, September **2007**, p. 83-84

The United States must continue to do all that it can to support Kuwaiti counterterrorism efforts. This policy is important since terrorism in Kuwait may rise in response to continuing instability in Iraq. Any effort to strengthen Kuwait might involve major efforts at intelligence sharing about aspects of the internal Iraq situation. Kuwait's national security needs may change as the situation in Iraq evolves and may become particularly **severe should the United States choose to withdraw substantial numbers of its forces**. The United States, to the extent it can, needs to help Kuwait develop policies that target dangerous terrorists without alienating significant segments of the Kuwaiti population. The ideal response to pro-Iranian terrorism would be to confront such outrages without implying the Kuwait's entire Shi'ite population is under suspicion.

Brink: Hostility High

Military and police presence are needed in Kuwait due to ongoing threats of terrorism.

“Kuwait 2010 Crisis and Safety Report,” **Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSEAC)**, March 1, 2010,
<https://www.osac.gov/Reports/report.cfm?contentID=114382>

In August 2009, a group of Kuwaitis were arrested for planning attacks on U.S. military installations in Kuwait. Some of these individuals had previously been detained by the Kuwaiti security forces for their participation in the Failaka Island attack in 2005. The trial for these individuals will begin in February 2010.

Like many other U.S. embassies in the Middle East, U.S. Embassy Kuwait City continues to receive threat information indicating official and private American citizens may be targeted for terrorist attacks. Soft targets, such as western hotels and restaurants, can be considered vulnerable to terrorist attack, although many soft targets are making security upgrades to their perimeter and internal security.

Brink: Terrorism Threats

Terrorism and post-Iraq forces continue to spill over to Kuwait.

“Kuwaiti National Security and the US-Kuwaiti Strategic Relationship after Saddam,” W. Andrew **Terrill**, Strategic Studies Institute, September **2007**, p. 3

Yet, despite an enormous sense of relief, Kuwait’s national security problems have not disappeared with Saddam’s removal and death on the gallows. Rather, the end of his dictatorship has created new and extremely serious national security challenges for Kuwait. Iran has viewed Saddam’s replacement with a weak and divided Iraqi government as an opportunity to expand its political influence throughout the Gulf in ways that are potentially threatening to Kuwait. Moreover, a variety of alternative Iraqi political futures concern Kuwait, and whatever future Iraq eventually finds will occur only after a prolonged period of instability and violence that could well involve Kuwait. Additionally, Kuwaitis are concerned about an expansion of terrorism in the Gulf due to increased regional sectarianism and radicalism that may emerge as a by-product of Iraqi factional and intercommunal warfare. All of these problems are of special concern to the United States as well, and addressing them effectively is vital to both nations.

Brink: al-Qaeda

Terrorism in Kuwait has been quelled for the past few years.

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<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE60G03C>

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Impact: Terrorism

By withdrawing, the US will not be able to control terrorism in the area, causing a massive outbreak of regional terrorism in the Middle East which is bad.

“Terrorism myths and realities,” Yonah **Alexander**, Inter-University for Terrorism Studies Director, The Washington Ties, August 28, 2003

Last week's brutal suicide bombings in Baghdad and Jerusalem have once again illustrated dramatically that the international community failed, thus far at least, to understand the magnitude and implications of the terrorist threats to the very **survival of civilization itself**. Even the United States and Israel have for decades tended to regard terrorism as a mere tactical nuisance or irritant rather than a critical strategic challenge to their national security concerns. It is not surprising, therefore, that on September 11, 2001, Americans were stunned by the unprecedented tragedy of 19 al Qaeda terrorists striking a devastating blow at the center of the nation's commercial and military powers. Likewise, Israel and its citizens, despite the collapse of the Oslo Agreements of 1993 and numerous acts of terrorism triggered by the second intifada that began almost three years ago, are still "shocked" by each suicide attack at a time of intensive diplomatic efforts to revive the moribund peace process through the now revoked cease-fire arrangements [hudna]. Why are the United States and Israel, as well as scores of other countries affected by the universal nightmare of modern terrorism surprised by new terrorist "surprises"? There are many reasons, including misunderstanding of the manifold specific factors that contribute to terrorism's expansion, such as lack of a universal definition of terrorism, the religionization of politics, double standards of morality, weak punishment of terrorists, and the exploitation of the media by terrorist propaganda and psychological warfare. Unlike their historical counterparts, contemporary terrorists have introduced a new scale of violence in terms of conventional and unconventional threats and impact. The internationalization and brutalization of current and future terrorism make it clear we have entered an Age of Super Terrorism [e.g. biological, chemical, radiological, nuclear and cyber] with its serious implications concerning national, regional and global security concerns.

Impact Calc: Terrorism is Worst Impact

Terrorism is the worst impact because it includes all types of warfare – biological, chemical, nuclear or otherwise – and risks entire global extinction.

“Extinction!” Mohamed **Sid-Ahmed**, staff writer, Al-Ahram Issue 705, September 1, 2004,
<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2004/705/op5.htm>

We have reached a point in human history where the phenomenon of terrorism has to be completely uprooted, not through persecution and oppression, but by removing the reasons that make particular sections of the world population resort to terrorism. This means that fundamental changes must be brought to the world system itself. The phenomenon of terrorism is even more dangerous than is generally believed. We are in for surprises no less serious than 9/11 and with far more devastating consequences.

A nuclear attack by terrorists will be much more critical than Hiroshima and Nagasaki, even if -- and this is far from certain -- the weapons used are less harmful than those used then, Japan, at the time, with no knowledge of nuclear technology, had no choice but to capitulate. Today, the technology is a secret for nobody. So far, except for the two bombs dropped on Japan, nuclear weapons have been used only to threaten. Now we are at a stage where they can be detonated. This completely changes the rules of the game. We have reached a point where anticipatory measures can determine the course of events. Allegations of a terrorist connection can be used to justify anticipatory measures, including the invasion of a sovereign state like Iraq. As it turned out, these allegations, as well as the allegation that Saddam was harboring WMD, proved to be unfounded.

What would be the consequences of a nuclear attack by terrorists? Even if it fails, it would further exacerbate the negative features of the new and frightening world in which we are now living. Societies would close in on themselves, police measures would be stepped up at the expense of human rights, tensions between civilizations and religions would rise and ethnic conflicts would proliferate. It would also speed up the arms race and develop the awareness that a different type of world order is imperative if humankind is to survive.

But the still more critical scenario is if the attack succeeds. This could lead to a third world war, from which no one will emerge victorious. Unlike a conventional war which ends when one side triumphs over another, this war will be without winners and losers. When nuclear pollution infects the whole planet, we will all be losers.

AT: US Presence causes hostility

The US does not create hostility since there have been no attacks against the US.

“Kuwait 2010 Crisis and Safety Report,” **Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSEAC)**, March 1, 2010,
<https://www.osac.gov/Reports/report.cfm?contentID=114382>

The presence of U.S. military personnel and contractors in Kuwait may raise the overall threat profile; however, there have been no lethal attacks on U.S. military and government personnel in Kuwait in the last several years

AT: US Presence causes hostility (2)

Terrorist hostility in Kuwait has happened with and without the US' presence.

“Kuwaiti National Security and the US-Kuwaiti Strategic Relationship after Saddam,” W. Andrew **Terrill**, Strategic Studies Institute, September **2007**, p. 68-69

Kuwait has faced a number of dangers from terrorism and subversion throughout its existence, as has been noted earlier. Fears of Nasserite subversion were taken seriously in the early days of Kuwaiti independence, although the newly independent government managed to play off Nasser and the Iraqis to some extent. The Iranian-backed terrorist campaign in the 1980s was another instance of a serious internal security threat. Moreover, from 1991-2003 the Kuwaiti intelligence services were especially concerned about the dangers from Saddam Hussein's agents. Now, with Saddam gone, new threats have come to the forefront of Kuwaiti concerns. Additionally, a small number of violent Kuwaiti extremists have engaged in isolated and usually ineffective attacks on U.S. military personnel in Kuwait. **These actual and planned attacks have occurred both before and after the U.S. invasion of Iraq.**