



THURSDAY, JUNE 02, 2005

## Iraqi Insurgency -- Apparently It's Led By Iraqis

by Michael in New York on [6/02/2005 09:51:00 AM](#)

Yesterday, the NY Post ran a story saying that **40% of the suicide bombers dispatched by Al-Zarqawi were Saudis and only about 9% were Iraqis**. That seemed a pretty remarkable claim since with most suicide bombings, there isn't enough of the attacker left to fill a Mason jar, much less make a positive ID.

How'd they determine this? The info came from **the SITE Institute**, a post 9-11 org founded to track terrorist networks and featuring an Iraqi-born head named Rita Katz. It seems to have done lots of work for the US government -- including with Richard Clarke -- and is quoted widely in the media. So how'd they back it up? Simply by looking at a Martyrs' List posted on the web by Zarqawi to commemorate killers. An "analysis" was done of 107 names listed. Since that list included their backgrounds, the "analysis" involved adding up the ones from Saudi Arabia, etc.

A couple points: the list is hardly comprehensive and surely it occurred to someone at the SITE Institute that Iraqi-born martyrs would be far less likely to have their names listed on the web for all the world to see. That would invite reprisals from the government, soldiers storming into the homes of their families, reprisals from Shiite radicals, preemptive arrests of siblings to forestall further suicide bombings from a family that produced one, job loss for the parents, etc. etc. So their analysis should have said that in a list Zarqawi chose to post on the web, very few listed were Iraqis for obvious reasons such as....

Instead, expect this misleading bit of info to be repeated by the Limbaughs of the world as proof that the Iraqi insurgency is a sham and really just the actions of foreign actions. (Agents from Saudi Arabia, the ally we coddle, one might add.)

Don't expect them to acknowledge the **LA Times article** today that acknowledges early suicide bombers came from outside Iraq, but that things have changed. Suicide bombings -- unpopular at first among Iraqis -- have exploded. In other words, not many were done before and many of those were foreigners. Now they're a lot more common and Iraqis are leading the way.

In April, there were 69 suicide bombings, more than the entire year preceding the handover in June 2004. Yesterday, three suicide bombers killed at least 20. The US commander of multinational forces admitted that the axiom that all suicide bombers were foreigners may not be the case.

JOHN'S PHOTOS

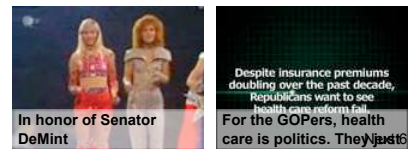


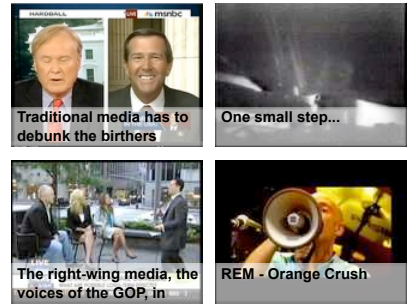
### HOT OFF THE WIRE


- Eschaton**  
Overnight - Folk On. Newish.  
*11 minutes ago*
- HuffPost Politics**  
Michael Likosky: Ed Rendell: Hardest Working Man in Infrastructure - At this year's National Governors Association (NGA) meeting, Governor Ed Rendell's tenure as Chair fittingly came to a close with a plenary session on infras...  
*14 minutes ago*
- Daily Kos**  
Open Thread and Diary Rescue - \*Today, srkp23 (pulling a double shift), ybruti, taylormattd, ItsJessMe and vcmvo2 combed through hundreds of diaries to find this powerful list. Today's...  
*30 minutes ago*
- Crooks and Liars**  
Open Thread - Open Thread below...  
*40 minutes ago*
- Firedoglake**  
Pecora in Perspective: Investment Banking, Commercial Banking, and Glass-Steagall - The Pecora Commission report devotes a substantial amount of pages to discussion of the evils of allowing the commingling of commercial banking services, i...  
*1 hour ago*

Show All

AMERICABLOG TV





I collect with  vodpod

[see all 322 videos >](#)

[Visit our AMERICAblog TV site.](#)

---

GAY POLITICS



Visit our new gay politics section, [AMERICAblog Gay](#).

FEEDS



Blog RSS



1,422 readers  
BY FEEDBURNER  
AMERICAblog TV RSS



Twitter RSS

Twitter Feed



Mobile Version



Google

Get the blog by email:

Subscribe me!

Top Ad

[Advertise in this spot.](#)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

**Ezra Klein**

Tab Dump

4 hours ago

**Wonk Room**

Sen. Byron Dorgan:  
The 'Trade' In  
Cap-And-Trade 'Makes  
No Sense To Me'  
6 hours ago

**Health Beat**

Truth Squad: Wall  
Street Journal Health  
Care Editorial Wrong on  
the Facts

SEARCH

AMERICAblog
  Web

**Search**

SEND US TIPS & COMMENTS

americablog@starpower.net

BLOG ARCHIVE

**Blog Archive**

SITES WE LIKE

- [Air America Radio](#)
- [Alan Colmes' blog](#)
- [Ari Melber \(The Nation\)](#)
- [Ben Smith](#)
- [BicycleMark's blog & podcast](#)
- [Bilerico](#)
- [BradBlog](#)
- [Bring It On](#)
- [Carrie Fisher](#)
- [Crooks and Liars](#)
- [DailyKos](#)
- [Dan Savage's "Slog"](#)
- [Daou Report](#)
- [Democratic Underground](#)
- [Eschaton](#)
- [Ezra Klein](#)
- [Fire Dog Lake](#)
- [FiveThirtyEight.com](#)
- [Freeway Blogger](#)
- [The Gavel \(Speaker Pelosi's blog\)](#)
- [Good As You](#)
- [Glenn Greenwald](#)
- [Holy Bullies and Headless Monsters](#)
- [Huffington Post](#)
- [Hullabaloo \(Digby\)](#)
- [Jack and Jill Politics](#)
- [Jed Report](#)
- [Jesus' General](#)
- [Kenneth in the 212](#)
- [Margaret and Helen](#)
- [Matthew Gross](#)
- [Media Matters](#)
- [Mike Signorile's "The Gist"](#)
- [Mudflats](#)
- [MyDD](#)
- [Open Left](#)
- [Plum Line](#)
- [Political Punch \(Jake Tapper\)](#)
- [Political Wire](#)
- [Politics 1](#)
- [Pop Surfing](#)
- [Progressive Blog Digest](#)
- [Queers United](#)
- [RawStory](#)
- [Rex Wockner](#)
- [Rude Pundit](#)
- [Smirking Chimp](#)
- [Talk Left](#)
- [Tapped](#)
- [Taylor Marsh](#)
- [Think Progress](#)
- [TowleRoad](#)
- [VetVoice.com](#)
- [Washington Note](#)
- [WayneBesen.com](#)
- [Wonkette](#)
- [Worth Repeating](#)



NEWS LINKS

- [US](#)
- [Washington Post](#)

PLEASE SUPPORT AMERICABLOG

One-time donation

\$

**Donate**

---

Recurring monthly donation

\$

**Donate**

Donations are not tax-deductible.

LABELS

Select a label

LAST 100 VISITORS

Recent Visitors

[Click to Get](#) FEEDJIT

ABOUT AMERICABLOG

**Why AMERICAblog?**

Because a great nation deserves the truth.

**What issues do you cover?**

US politics overall with a particular focus on the Obama Administration, the radical right, and civil rights.

**Who are you?**

**John Aravosis**  
 Editor  
 Washington, DC

**Joe Sudbay**  
 Deputy Editor  
 Washington, DC

**Chris Ryan**  
 Associate Editor  
 Paris, France

**Robert Arena**  
 Contributing Editor  
 Baltimore, Maryland

**Jacki Schechner**  
 Contributing Editor  
 Washington, DC

