

World Class Hypocrisy

Sha!'s permalinks don't work, so we'll reproduce the item below. But before you read it, try guessing: what reason has the Arab League just given for not recognising the current provisional government of Iraq? Is it because...

- Iraq is a predominantly Arab country?
- Iraq is a predominantly Muslim country?
- Iraq is a member of the UN?
- It's quite hot in Iraq right now?
- ...

It couldn't be any of those, could it? And it's not even:

- Iraq was liberated by the United States.

Well...

In a completely unsurprising move, The Arab League yesterday decided that it would not recognize Iraq's recently appointed Governing Council. In his statements explaining why, Amr Moussa, Egypt's Foreign Minister and the current Secretary-General of the Arab League, said that although the Council is a good start, it isn't elected and thus lacks a certain amount of credibility.

Er, what? Could you say that again Mr Moussa? We're not sure whether to believe you.

In his column today, Tom Friedman points out the pot-calling-the-kettle-black aspect of this statement:

I love that quote. I love it, first of all, for its bold, gutsy, shameless, world-class hypocrisy. Mr. Moussa presides over an Arab League in which not one of the 22 member states has a leader elected in a free and fair election. On top of it, before the war, Mr. Moussa did all he could to shield Saddam Hussein from attack, although Saddam had never held a real election in his life. Yet, there was Mr. Moussa questioning the new U.S.-appointed Iraqi Council, which, even in its infant form, is already the most representative government

Iraq has ever had.

Friedman uses this as a jumping-off point to demonstrate, once again, that the Arab world is shitting itself at the possibility of democracy actually coming to the neighborhood. Although why anyone should be so concerned about statements from the Arab League is anybody's guess. Moussa heads a pathetic, toothless organization. In more than 50-years of activity, the League has done absolutely nothing, other than to serve as a debating society wherein Arab tyrants condemn Israel and condemn other Arabs for not condemning Israel strongly enough.

If a new wave of democracy also succeeds in doing away with the Arab League, it will only be icing on the cake.

True. But why do away with it? Regime-change it! Turn it away from the Dark Side. *Last one to become democratic doesn't get recognised.* This shall be called the Moussa Doctrine in honour of its originator.

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