



ICT
International Institute
for Counter-Terrorism
With the Support of Keren Daniel

ICT Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group

PERIODIC REVIEW

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The First Half of October 2013

Highlights

This report summarizes notable events discussed on jihadist Web forums during the first half of October 2013. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, criticized the campaign of oppression being carried out by the Egyptian military against Islamists and Islam in Egypt. In light of this reality, al-Zawahiri called on Muslims to fight against the pact between Egypt's military forces and secular camp, and the Zionist-Crusader forces, which was designed to damage Islam's power base. In addition, he called on Muslims to avoid a repeat of events in Tunisia and to thwart the anti-Islamic conspiracy being led by secular and Western forces in Tunisia.
- The leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Mullah Mohammad Omar, praised the mujahideen in honor of Eid Al-Adha (or "Feast of the Sacrifice"), and called on them to continue waging jihad against U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan. He called on Muslim Afghanis to boycott the elections scheduled to take place in Afghanistan in 2014.
- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed responsibility for an attack on a military base in Yemen near the coastal city of Al-Mukalla, Hadramawt Province, on September 30, 2013.
- The Salafi-jihadist movement in the Sinai Peninsula declared an all-out war against the Egyptian army and its collaborators.

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New Publications

Ideology

- During the first half of October 2013, Al-Qaeda’s official jihadist media institution, Al-Sahab, released the following publications:
 - A 16-minute audio clip titled, “God’s Oneness in the Confronting the Dictator”, by Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda. He emphasized that the authorities, which are supported by the Egyptian army, are waging war against Islam at the direction of the United States and Israel. He added that “the secular army, its allies, and the enemies of Islam want to destroy anyone who raises the banner of Islam”.

Al-Zawahiri also referred to the struggle between Egyptian security forces and supporters of deposed President, Muhammad Morsi, describing it as a struggle against Islam, shari’a [Islamic law], God, Muslim independence and the [Arabic] caliphate. In light of this, he called on Muslims in Egypt to fight against the “American-Israeli, Secular-Crusader” alliance led by military secularism in order to free Egypt “from the criminal gang that disregards the law using iron and fire”.

As a result of events in Egypt, al-Zawahiri expressed concern over what happened in Tunisia. He said that the tragedy that befell Egypt following the Muslim Brotherhood’s fall from power was now happening in Tunisia as well. According to him, the Islamist Al-Nadha Party announced the dissolution of the government following pressure by the opposition, which began with the assassination of opposition member Chokri Belaid in February 2013, and the political crisis that culminated in a signed treaty between the regime and the enemies of Islam. He claimed that the treat was signed at the expense of Islamic principles, policies and laws, and turned out to be a “total failure”.¹

 - A video in honor of Eid Al-Fitr [The Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan], in which Sheikh Abu al-Khalil al-Madani, member of the Al-Qaeda Shura Council, praised the mujahideen.²

¹ <http://iraqsham.com/vb> (Arabic).

² <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/?p=7128> (Arabic); http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2012/12/121210_alqaeda_number_two_killed.shtml (English).

Over the past year, al-Khalil has taken over the job of Sheikh Khalid al-Husaynan, who was killed by an American unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), or “drone”, in Pakistan in 2012.



Abu al-Khalil al-Madani

- The Fursan Al-Balagh and Al-Masada jihadist media institutions published an article titled, “The Assistance Provided to the Virtuous Mujahideen by Their Supporters”. The article was signed by prominent authors on jihadist Web forums, such as Sheikh Sa’ad al-‘Amili and Naser al-Qaeda. According to them, the combination of armed jihad against enemies of Islam, which the mujahideen believe in, and propaganda that praises the mujahideen and jihad, which their supporters believe in, is very important and inextricably linked. In addition, the article’s authors called on all those involved in [the writing and distribution of jihadist] propaganda to insist upon unity among the ranks and avoid disagreements that plays into the hands of the enemy.³
- During the first half of October 2013, the Shumukh Al-Islam virtual jihadist workshop published the following:
 - A video in honor of Eid Al-Adha titled, “Breaking/Refuting the Allegations”, part of the propaganda campaign to support the mujahideen’s good reputation and refute the allegations that have been made against them, such as the harming of innocents.⁴

³ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



The video banner

- An article titled, “The Saudi Family Dictators and the Free Muslims” by Naser al-Qaeda, a prominent writer on jihadist Web forums. The author blamed the Saudi Royal Family for the ailments of the Sunnis. According to him, Saudi Arabia holds primary responsibility for strengthening the Shi’ite forces in Iran and Iraq due to its cooperation with the Americans and the Jews, and due to its struggle against the mujahideen and Islam. According to him, the Saudi Royal Family crossed all lines and one can no longer remain silent in the face of its crimes. According to Naser al-Qaeda, all Muslims have an obligation to start a public campaign to expose the Royal Family’s failures and to prove that its primary interest is to accumulate wealth and property rather than to preserve the religion.⁵

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- The Fursan Al-Balagh jihadist media institution published an Arabic translation of a pocket guide (23 pages) that was [originally] published by the American Ministry of Defense on the topic of fighting terrorism.⁶

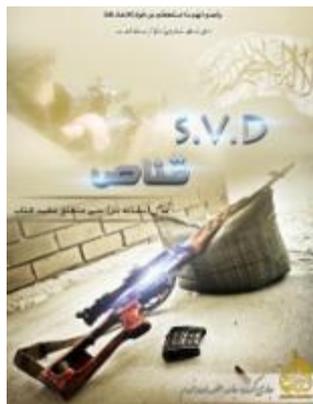
⁵ <https://twitter.com/warshashamikh> (Arabic), (not an active link).

⁶ <https://twitter.com/fursanalbalaagh> (Arabic).



The title page of the translated pocket guide

- The JHUF jihadist Web forum published a guidebook, in Urdu, titled “S.V.D. Sniper”, on how to become a sniper (55 pp.).⁷



The title page of the guidebook

- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic Party of Turkistan, Sawt Al-Islam, published an instructional video (no. 9) on preparing sulfur-based explosive material. The video was published as part of the series titled, “Express Mail from the Mujahideen in Turkistan”.⁸

⁷ <http://www.jhuf.net/> (Urdu).

⁸ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The Kavkaz Center Web portal of the Islamist Caucasus Emirate published a biography of the martyr, Osama al-Obeidi, also known as Abu Abdullah al-Libi, who was accidentally killed by Free Syrian Army fighters on September 22, 2013. Al-Libi served as emir of Al-Dana, Idlib Province, on behalf of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, and was killed in Idlib Province, Syria. He fought against the United States in Iraq but was arrested by the Americans and extradited by Muammar Gaddafi's regime in Libya. After three years of imprisonment, he was released from prison and became an active leader in the Libyan revolution on February 17. When the revolution broke out in Syria, he traveled there and joined the fight against Bashar al-Assad's regime. As previously mentioned, he went on to become a senior leader in the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham in Syria.⁹



Abu Abdullah al-Libi

- The Suqour Al-Izz Brigade, a Salafi-jihadist group fighting in Syria, eulogized Fahad al-Zerik Abu Sakher al-Tamimi, a field commander of the group. Al-Tamimi, of Saudi origin, had traveled to Syria in order to join the fight against Bashar al-Assad's regime. On October 7, 2013 he was shot and killed by the Syrian army in Latakia, western Syria.¹⁰

⁹ <http://kavkazcenter.com/arab/content/2013/10/12/9120.shtml> (Arabic).

¹⁰ https://twitter.com/Sqoor_Al3z/status/387262978254331906/photo/1 (Arabic).



The banner in memory of al-Tamimi

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published new issues of its jihadist magazines in Arabic and English: Issue No. 89 for September-October 2013 of the Arabic-language magazine *Al-Sumud* (44 pp.);¹¹ Issue No. 57 for September 2013 of the English-language magazine *In Fight* (177 pp.);¹² both of which cover jihad in Afghanistan.



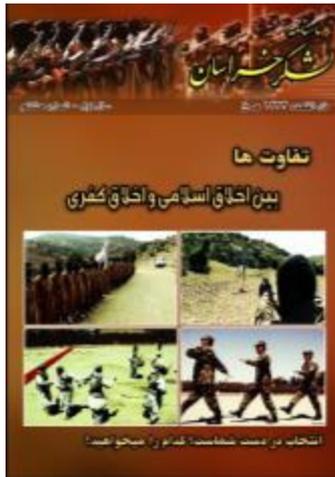
The covers of, from left to right, *In Fight* and *Al-Sumud*

- The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan published the eighth edition of its journal, *Lashkari Khurasan* (62 pp.).¹³

¹¹ <http://alsomod-iea.info> (Arabic).

¹² <http://www.ansar1.info/> (English).

¹³ <http://www.khurasan.biz/>



Title page of the eighth edition of *Lashkari Khurasan*

- The jihadist periodical, *Al-Waqi'*, published Issue No. 50.¹⁴

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

On October 5, 2013, NATO forces launched an aerial attack in the city of Jalalabas in Afghanistan, killing five people, including three children. Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan, criticized the attack and claimed that NATO was operating unjustly and causing a great deal of suffering. The day after the air attack, five NATO soldiers were killed in two shooting incidents during a military operation by the Taliban in southern Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, visited Afghanistan in an attempt to build momentum ahead of the signing of the security agreement regarding the presence of American forces in the country. A short time after the visit, on October 13, 2013, a man dressed in Afghani military uniform shot an American soldier to death in eastern Afghanistan. Two days later, the governor of Logar Province in Afghanistan was killed in a suicide attack at a mosque.

¹⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

On October 3, 2013, at least 12 people were killed in a suicide attack at an army base in northwestern Pakistan. In the attack, shots were fired at the building and then a car bomb exploded. On October 7, 2013, six people were killed in an attack in the city of Peshawar in northwestern Pakistan. The attack was directed against activists who were calling on the public to get vaccinated against polio. At the same time, the U.S. Army managed to capture Latif Mahsud, a senior member of the Taliban in Pakistan.

- Mulla Omar, leader of the Taliban in Pakistan, sent blessings to the Muslim Nation in honor of Eid Al-Adha. He also emphasized that the Afghani government's cooperation with Western occupying forces, and the colonial agreements between them, constitute a justification and a catalyst for continued fighting in Afghanistan. He added that the elections due to take place in Afghanistan in the shadow of the occupation are unacceptable since the candidates are motivated by personal interests and the interests of the invaders, rather than by national and Islamic interests. Therefore, the votes of the people in that election will be of no value. He emphasized that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan rejects these elections and calls on the public not to take part in them. He added that the Emirate aspires to establish an Islamic state in Afghanistan based on shari'a and promised to treat everyone justly. In addition, Omar called on the mujahideen and on Muslims to remain firm in their struggle against the enemy, including U.S. and NATO forces, and he praised the mujahideen for their steadfastness.¹⁵
- The Taliban in Afghanistan published a position paper in which it marked 12 years of American occupation on its soil. It described former President George Bush (the son) as an occupier of "pure Afghan land" and as "the greatest enemy of Islam and humanity who knows nothing but brutality and aggression".

The Taliban sharply criticized the international community, especially U.S. and NATO forces. It emphasized that, despite their many crimes in Afghanistan, they have not received condemnation by human rights organizations around the world. It also claimed that, after 12 years of occupation, the mujahideen have bravely faced their enemies and overcome all of the war tactics used by the United States, NATO and Afghani collaborators.

¹⁵ <http://shahamat-arabic.com/index.php> (Arabic).

The Taliban emphasized that it views the start of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan (on October 7, 2001) as a “black day” and expressed its hope that Allah would embrace the martyrs among the mujahideen, protect the Afghani nation from further abuse and tragedy, and establish Islamic rule.¹⁶

- The administrator of the Al-Jihad Al-Alami jihadist Web forum published an announcement by Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, in which he declared that U.S. forces and their allies have recently been carrying out the organized and widespread murder and torture of scores of innocent people. He declared that these crimes are unacceptable and violate the human rights of the Afghani nation; the media is obligated to publicize the horrors so that the world will know exactly what is happening in Afghanistan and the criminals will get what is coming to them.¹⁷
- During the first half of October 2013, the jihadist media institution of the Taliban in Pakistan, Umar, published the following:
 - A video titled, “The Invasion of India” in Pashto.¹⁸
 - A video titled, “Muhammad’s Lions – Part 7” in Urdu.¹⁹
- The jihadist media institution of the Islamist Movement of Uzbekistan, Jundallah, published a video titled, “Blaming the Oppressed” in Farsi.²⁰

The Arabian Peninsula

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) continues to attack security targets throughout Yemen and is even trying to focus its efforts on attacking foreign diplomats.

¹⁶ <http://iragsham.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁷ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁸ <http://www.ansar1.info/showthread.php?t=47047>

¹⁹ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁰ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

In the beginning of October 2013, Yemeni special counter-terrorism forces successfully freed a military base that had fallen into the hands of Al-Qaeda activists in the city of Al-Mukalla, Hadramout Province, and released the captives that were being held there.²¹ In the beginning of October, the German Ambassador to Yemen, Carola Mueller-Holtkemper, was also saved from a kidnapping attempt in the capital of Sana'a after she left a shopping mall in the city. One of her security guards was killed in the skirmish. According to various reports, it seems that Al-Qaeda was responsible for the kidnapping attempt.

- During the first half of October 2013, AQAP published the following:
 - Announcement No. 69; a denial of involvement in the explosions that took place on Al-Rabat Street in Sana'a on September 26, 2013. According to the organization the responsibility for these criminal explosions belonged to the Americans, who were asked to carry them out in an effort to taint the mujahideen's image, as was done in Iraq and Pakistan.²²
 - Announcement No. 70; a claim of responsibility for an attack on a secret army base near the coastal city of Al-Mukalla, Hadramawt Province, by two groups of mujahideen on September 30, 2013. The announcement also stated that the base had been used by the United States and Yemen in their joint fight against "terrorism", which included gathering intelligence information and dispatching drones.

The announcement described the terrorist attack in detail. It noted, among other things, that the mujahideen successfully overtook an important structure on the base while posing as soldiers and wearing army uniforms. It explained that the government of Yemen was concealing the outcome of the operation, including the number of casualties, their military ranking and the specific target of the operation, due to its defeat and "absolute helplessness" in protecting this important military base.

²¹ <http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/2013/10/03/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%B7%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%85%D8%A8%D9%86%D9%89-%D8%B9%D8%B3%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D8%B9%D8%AF-%D8%AA%D8%B7%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%B1%D9%87-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%8A%D9%86.html> (Arabic).

²² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

According to the announcement, bases such as the one that was attacked serve as operational targets for the organization no matter where they are located. Lastly, the organization addressed Yemeni military and security commanders, and asked them to consider that the current President of Yemen, Abd Rabbuh Mansur, is leading the country into a war for which it – and not the Americans – will pay a heavy price. The organization also promise all Muslims that it will continue its war of jihad until Islam, based on shari’a, is properly implemented.²³

- On October 6, 2013, the jihadist Forums for Assistance to the Al-Nusra Front published an online anthology for download to a PC of all publications by Abu Suleiman Ibrahim al-Rubaish, member of AQAP’s Shari’a Council, including audio and video clips.²⁴



The anthology banner

Iraq

*Iraq executed 42 prisoners, including one woman, over the course of two days for their involvement in terrorist activity. The Iraqi Ministry of Justice released a statement asserting that the prisoners were Iraqis who had been convicted of “terrorist crimes [and] the murder of thousands of innocent people in addition to other crimes [that were] designed to undermine the country, create chaos and spread fear”.*²⁵

²³ <http://iraqsham.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁴ <http://jalnosra.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/iraq-executes-42-convicts-terror-charges-20131010152434377755.html> (English).

Against the backdrop of these events, the death count arising from the ethnic conflict between Sunnis and Shi'ites in Iraq continues to climb. In a suicide attack that took place next to a police station and elementary school in Mosul, at least 15 people were killed, the majority of which were children.²⁶ In another terrorist attack directed against religious Shi'ites in Baghdad, 20 people were killed as they marked the 9th anniversary of the death of Shi'ite imam Mohammed al-Jawad. A journalist and photographer working for the Al-Sharqiya television channel were also shot to death while working in northern Mosul. A 45-year-old teacher who witnessed a car bomb in Samaraa, which claimed the lives of at least 17 people, said: "I parked my car in order to buy sweets for my children...I felt the explosion on my face and the bodies of two women were thrown on to the street, covered in blood, one of them – without legs."²⁷

According to media reports, more than 310 people were killed in terrorist attacks in Iraq during the month of October, and over 5,000 since the start of the year.²⁸

- The media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham published an announcement regarding one of its military operations in Iraq. The announcement stated that, despite the organization's repeated warnings to the Iraqi government to stop arresting and killing members of the country's Sunni population, the government has continued its unacceptable actions, especially in Baghdad. In response, fighters from the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham attacked a series of carefully selected targets, including military headquarters and patrol zones, managing to severely damage the government. The organization explained that the Sunni people will not sit idly by when crimes are being committed against them and that the mujahideen have a long reach.²⁹

²⁶ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/children-among-dead-iraq-blasts-20131069109197796.html> (English).

²⁷ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/deadly-car-bomb-explodes-iraq-2013101217121863474.html> (English).

²⁸ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/deadly-bombing-hits-mosque-northern-iraq-2013101565749708751.html> (English).

²⁹ <http://shabakataljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham published a public statement in which it stressed that any publications or announcements attributed to the organization that do not come from the official Twitter account of its jihadist media institution, Al-'Itisam, or from the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam do not really represent the organization. It explained that activists within the organization must take it upon themselves to warn Muslims not to believe statements made by people who pose as members of the organization and tarnish the reputation of the mujahideen from their platform on commercial television channels.

In response, a visitor to the Hanein forum claimed that the public statement was made as a result of an interview that was conducted on the Syrian Al-Ghad channel's television program, "Revolution Studio". The interview was conducted with Dr. Muaz Safuk, who was presented as an "expert" on the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham. During the interview, Safuk tried to explain to viewers what the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham stands for and he said, among other things, that "the war against terrorism is a war against Islam because their religion [referring to members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham] is the religion of all Muslims...and their goal [the establishment of an Islamic caliphate] is the goal of every Muslim".³⁰

- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, Al-'Itisam, published a video (No. 14) as part of the series titled, "Window to the Land of Wars", which documented Abu Talha al-Libi, a member of the organization, a short time before he carried out a suicide attack against an Iraqi military convoy in Nineveh Province. Before embarking on the mission, al-Libi praised the organization and the fulfillment of the commandment to wage jihad.³¹



Abu Talha al-Libi before embarking on a suicide attack

³⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; (in Arabic).

³¹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

- During the first half of September 2013, the Al-Ansar jihadist media institution of Ansar Al-Islam, a Kurdish Salafi-jihadist organization operating in Iraq, published the following:
 - A video titled, “The Noble [Town of] Huwajjah”, which documented retaliatory acts and terrorist attacks carried out by members of the organization against security forces in Iraq. The video opened with a terrorist attack that took place in Huwajjah during the second half of April 2013, during which tens of Sunni protestors were shot and killed by Iraqi security forces while protesting what they claimed were the government’s “discriminatory policies” against them.³²



The video banner

- An announcement (No. 437) in honor of Eid Al-Adha. The organization’s leadership sought to empower imprisoned Kurdish Muslims and praise the Kurdish people for providing valuable manpower for the purpose of jihad.³³

³² <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <http://www.akhbarelyom.com/news/newdetails/160269/1/0.html>; <http://almothaqaf.com/index.php/news/73818.html> (all in Arabic).

³³ <http://althabaat.com/> (Arabic).

Al-Sham [The Levant]

*The United Nations was instructed to recruit 100 additional experts to oversee the dismantling of Syria's cache of chemical weapons. Due to the civil war raging in Syria, the experts' headquarters will be set up in Cyprus, where they will concentrate their activity and coordinate their trips to Syria. According to the UN outline, the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons is expected to be completed by mid-2014.*³⁴

*Meanwhile, the civil war continues to claim victims. A car bombing in the city of Darkoush, an area under rebel control in Idlib Province, killed approximately 40 people and injured dozens more.*³⁵ *According to a group of activists, during the first day of Eid Al-Adha, Syrian warplanes bombed the suburbs of Damascus. There were also reports of explosions at a mosque in the Al-Tadamon neighborhood.*³⁶ *Over 115,000 people have been killed since the outbreak of the civil war in Syria.*

- During the first half of October 2013, the media institution of the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Manarah Al-Bayda, published the following:
 - Announcements (Nos. 405-408) claiming responsibility for various terrorist attacks carried out against Syrian security forces.³⁷
 - A video titled, "Conquering the Transport Battalion in Dara'a", documenting joint military operations between the Al-Nusra Front and other Salafi-jihadist movements, including the Islamic Movement of the Free Men of the Levant and the Islamic Al-Qadisiyah Brigade in Dara'a Province. At the end of the battle, the fighters documented the large and diverse weapons cache that they had seized.³⁸
 - A video titled, "Destruction of the Tu'ma Checkpoint – The First in a Series of 'Eye for an Eye' Attacks in Damascus".³⁹

³⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/un-boost-syria-chemical-weapons-team-2013101282117970475.html>; <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/un-experts-begin-destroying-syria-stockpile-201310610241978136.html> (both in English).

³⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/dozens-killed-northern-syria-car-bombing-2013101483816247914.html> (English).

³⁶ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/explosion-reported-damascus-mosque-2013101581550372827.html> (English).

³⁷ <http://jalnosra.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁹ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

- During the first half of October 2013, the jihadist news agency Al-Himam, which tracks developments in Syria in general and the actions of Al-Nusra Front members in particular, published the following:
 - A video (No. 28) documenting the distribution of clothing by members of the Al-Nusra Front to residents of eastern Al-Ghuta-Damascus.⁴⁰
 - A video (No. 29) documenting a visit by members of the Al-Nusra Front to the Shari'a Institute and the distribution of certificates to outstanding students in Idlib Province.⁴¹
 - A video (No. 30) documenting the distribution of food by members of the Al-Nusra Front to needy residents of western Dara'a Province.⁴²
 - A video (No. 31) documenting members of the Al-Nusra Front at the front line in Jabhat al-Sa'n-Homs.⁴³
 - A video (No. 32) documenting part of the Al-Nusra Front's publicity campaign in Deir al-Zour.⁴⁴
- On October 10, 2013 the jihadist Forums for Assistance to the Al-Nusra Front, published the first part of an online collection of all Al-Nusra Front publications, downloadable to a PC, including announcements, videos and audio clips.⁴⁵



The banner of the online collection

⁴⁰ <http://jalnosra.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴¹ <http://jalnosra.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴² <http://jalnosra.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴³ <http://justpaste.it/dc9c> (Arabic).

⁴⁴ <http://justpaste.it/dcww> (Arabic).

⁴⁵ <http://jalnosra.com/vb> (Arabic).

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum announced the establishment of a new fighter movement in Syria called the Army of Islam. The visitor said that the movement is composed of 43 various fighter groups that swore allegiance to the general leader of the Army of Islam, Muhammad Zahran Alloush. Alloush also serves as General Secretary of the Islamist umbrella organization, the Syrian Islamic Liberation Front, which was formed over a year ago. Among the known groups belonging to the Army of Islam are the Islam Brigade and the Conquest of Al-Sham Brigade.⁴⁶
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted photos of an event that was held by members of the Suqour Al-Izz Brigade, a Salafi-jihadist group fighting in Syria, for children of martyrs in Syria in honor of Eid Al-Adha. During the event, gifts and clothing were distributed to the children.⁴⁷



A photo of the children of martyrs in Syria posing with their gifts

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted a video of demonstrators in Aleppo holding signs with the names of prominent combat squadrons in Syria’s civil war and calling for them to unite “around the Qur’an, the Sunnah, and jihad”. Another visitor responded by criticizing the demonstrators, saying that they must fight as well and asking how they could even call for unity – concluding that “they must be spies...”⁴⁸

⁴⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://syrftr.com/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1/%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%88%D9%84-%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%B4-%D8%A7%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A-%D8%AA%D8%B6%D9%85-43-%D8%AA%D8%B4%D9%83%D9%8A%D9%84-%D8%B9%D8%B3%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%8A-%D9%84/>

⁴⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); https://twitter.com/Sqoor_Al3z (Arabic).

⁴⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



A photo of demonstrators in Aleppo

- A visitor to the Snam Al-Islam jihadist Web forum posted an article by Muhammad As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, Director of the Research Center for Islamic Truth, titled “Advice and Warning for the Mujahideen in Syria”. In the article, the author explained that internal struggles and conflicts among the rebels pose the greatest danger to the revolution, and that the regime’s forces are trying to turn the revolution into a battle among the rebels themselves in an effort to subdue them. Recently, a video was published by the Liwa Al-Sham organization, in which a person claiming to be the mufti of the organization, Abu Abd Al-Rahman Kaka, insults the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham and the Al-Nusra Front; this behavior by Liwa Al-Sham only harms jihad and plays into the hands of the heretical Syrian regime. Liwa Al-Sham must say whether [the speaker in the video] really is the mufti of the organization or if the video was a fake, and must acknowledge the damage that it has caused to the mujahideen. The mujahideen in Syria are advised to set aside their differences and focus on fighting their common enemy – Bashar al-Assad’s regime – by establishing a joint jihadist leadership.⁴⁹

The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham: Operations in Syria

- During the first half of October 2013, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, Al-Furqan, published two videos (Nos. 9-10) regarding the arena of jihad in Syria:

⁴⁹ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Video No. 9 in a video series titled, “Messages from the Land of Wars”, documenting members of the organization being hosted by a tribal coalition located in eastern Aleppo, Syria. In the video, members and tribal elders are seen offering the fighters a fancy meal and swearing allegiance to the organization – under the leadership of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Later, it documents the organization’s fighters carrying out operations against Bashar al-Assad’s army and its allies near Ya’arabiyah, on the Syria-Iraq border. Approximately 100 Alawite and Shi’ite soldiers were said to have been killed by the organization’s fighters in the attack.⁵⁰



The video banner

- Video No. 10 in a video series titled, “Messages from the Land of Wars”, documenting the hospitality of a family of immigrants from Kazakhstan that was claimed to have invested much of its money in bringing 150 family members to the arena of jihad in Syria. In the video, the children of the family sat in groups, divided by gender, and recited verses of the Qur’an. The girls were wearing head coverings despite their young age and some of them were almost completely covered.

⁵⁰ <http://iraqsham.com/vb> (Arabic).

In the video, several of the men praised the commandment of jihad. One of them, Abd al-Rahman al-Kazakhi, said that he had immigrated to Syria in order to take part in jihad, and that Allah claims the souls of martyrs in different ways and grants them a status in Paradise in accordance with their deeds. He noted that the highest level in Paradise is Upper Paradise and said that he hopes “with all his heart” to reach it quickly and to see the face of Allah.⁵¹



The video banner

- During the first half of October 2013, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, Al-'Itisam, published the following:
 - A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 13)”, documenting the propaganda campaign led by members of the organization in the streets of Al-Raqqah Province in northern Syria.⁵²
 - A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 15)”, focusing on a mujahid from Kosovo named Abu Abdullah al-Kosovi calling on Muslims around the world “not to remain in their homes for another minute, and to go to Syria in order to take part in jihad”. He also noted that he and his comrades in battle had witnessed many miracles on Syrian soil, and that many mujahideen had even seen the Prophet Muhammad in a dream. He informed them that things will work out with the advent of the Messiah.⁵³

⁵¹ <http://iraqsham.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵² <http://iraqsham.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



Abu Abdullah al Kosovi

- The FiSyria Web site conducted a detailed interview with emir Omar al-Shishani, leader of a group of foreign fighters in Syria, regarding the battle in Syria in general, and the shooting incident involving Kurdish forces in Atme, in particular. Al-Shishani explained that Kurdish forces had occupied a strategic position next to the city and opened fire on his fighters in the area. Al-Shishani's forces pushed back the Kurdish soldiers from their position and the battle continued for three more days. According to al-Shishani, when the Kurdish captives were questioned about the incident, they said that it had been a preemptive strike to prevent an attack on their population centers in eastern Syria. According to them, information about an expected attack had been received from a reliable and senior source among the Sunni fighters. The interviewer asked al-Shishani which factions had participated in the attack against the Kurdish forces and al-Shishani replied that, in addition to his own forces, fighters from Ahrar Al-Sham, the Al-Nusra Front and Liwa Daud also took part in the attack. Al-Shishani noted that 15 martyrs were killed in total, nine of them from his own forces. He also noted that it was not the first time that a battle had taken place between Sunnis and the Kurds and that, in his opinion, it would not be the last.⁵⁴



Omar al-Shishani

⁵⁴ <http://fisyria.com/?p=1244> (Russian).

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted photos of Toshifumi Fujimoto, a Japanese photographer who had become a jihad fighter and joined the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham in Syria after he converted to Islam. In response to the announcement, visitors praised the Japanese man.⁵⁵



Photos of the Japanese fighter, Toshifumi Fujimoto

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted photos of books and pamphlets that members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham distributed to residents of Idlib Province in Syria. The books dealt with religious issues and assassinations, and the pamphlets addressed why the Alawite community should be considered heretical.⁵⁶



A photo of a pamphlet criticizing the Alawites, which was distributed by the Syrian rebels

⁵⁵ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted several photos of what he claimed was a demonstration held in Raqqa, Syria, by the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham calling for the release of Hailah al-Qusair, an Al-Qaeda activist, from a Saudi prison. Al-Qusair was arrested in 2010 for playing a key role in recruiting women to Al-Qaeda and raising money for the terrorist organization.⁵⁷
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted several photos of members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham distributing slaughtered sheep among Sunni people in Idlib Province, Syria, in honor of Eid Al-Adha.⁵⁸

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

After dozens of protesters were killed in Cairo during demonstrations to mark 40 years since the October War (Yom Kippur War), terrorist organization in the Sinai Peninsula were quick to respond. On October 7, 2013, at least 10 people were killed in three terrorist attacks against security forces throughout Egypt. In one of the attacks, a car bomb exploded at the security headquarters in the southern Sinai Peninsula, killing and injuring many soldiers. Terrorist attacks in the Sinai Peninsula have become routine in recent months but attacks in the southern Sinai Peninsula are relatively rare.

On October 10, 2013, four Egyptian soldiers were killed and five more were injured in another car bomb explosion, this time west of Al-Arish in the Sinai Peninsula. On October 13, 2013, a more moderate operation was carried out in which Egyptian police officers were injured when the bus they were riding in was attacked in Sheikh Zuwayid in the Sinai Peninsula.

- The jihadist media institution Ibn Taymiyya, responsible for publications regarding the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip, published a video documenting alleged “crimes by the Egyptian army in the Sinai Peninsula”. The video documented military activities during a large-scale operation by the Egyptian army in its war on terrorism in the Sinai Peninsula. It included photos showing the demolition of buildings and other mass destruction.⁵⁹

⁵⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.alriyadh.com/2010/06/04/article531976.html>

⁵⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁹ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The Salafi-jihadist movement in the Sinai Peninsula published a statement in which it declared that it considers Egyptian army operations in the Sinai Peninsula to be acts of war against all residents of the Sinai Peninsula, and that there is no truth to the claim that the operations are only meant to harm the mujahideen in the area. In light of this, the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Sinai Peninsula declared an all-out war against the Egyptian army and anyone who provides it with assistance, including tribal chiefs.⁶⁰
- During the first half of October 2013, the Al-Raya jihadist media institution of the Army of the Nation, a Salafi-jihadist organization in Jerusalem, published the following:
 - A video titled, “The Good has Arrived – Part 2”, documenting members of the organization visiting injured and sick people at hospitals in the Gaza Strip.⁶¹
 - A video titled, “The Good has Arrived – Part 3”, documenting members of the organization visiting the families of prisoners and martyrs in the Gaza Strip in honor of Eid Al-Adha, during which they handed out gifts and candies.⁶²
- The Al-Naser Salah Al-Din – Liwa Al-Tawhid Brigade, the military wing of the Palestinian Popular Resistance Committees, published a video titled, “This is Our Way...This is the Way of the Lions...[This is the Way] in which Commander Emad Walked”.⁶³

⁶⁰ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶¹ <http://as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶³ <http://www.alweya.com/ar/index.php?act=play&id=29>; <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

The Maghreb [North Africa]

Several weeks have passed since the media began reporting about the increasing security cooperation between various countries in the Maghreb.⁶⁴ During the first half of October 2013, [reports focused on] Tunisia and Libya. Ali Zidan, the Prime Minister of Libya who was freed on October 11, 2013, after being kidnapped by armed militants,⁶⁵ referred to the cooperation initiative and called it “a message to the world that the relationship between Libya and Tunisia is like [a relationship] between brothers, based on trust and cooperation, especially in the security realm”.⁶⁶

However, the situation in Libya in particular, and in the Maghreb in general, is still far from being stable. The militias operating in Libya continue to instill fear in the hearts of citizens, and officials in the justice and security systems who are targeted for assassinations by the militias are in great fear for their lives.⁶⁷ Even though it seems that security forces in the Maghreb are investing a significant effort to apprehend terrorists operating in their land,⁶⁸ they do not necessarily crown their struggle as a sign of success because there is often insufficient cause to bring a person with a criminal profile to arrest and trial, despite a wealth of reasonable suspicion linking him to illegal activity.⁶⁹

According to one security analyst, the double bombing attack by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) of an army base in Timbuktu at the end of September 2013 demonstrated a new terrorist tactic, in which the organization maintains a low profile for a while as it builds up strength, and then launches a surprise attack. In his opinion, the attacks in Timbuktu indicate a renewed awakening of dormant terrorist cells and demonstrate that the threat is still valid, concluding that the countries of the Maghreb must be aware of it and act accordingly.⁷⁰

⁶⁴ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/08/feature-01;
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/13/feature-03;
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/16/feature-04;
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/30/feature-02 (all in English).

⁶⁵ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/10/feature-01 (English).

⁶⁶ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/11/feature-01 (English).

⁶⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/03/feature-02;
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/08/feature-03 (both in English).

⁶⁸ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/01/feature-03 (English).

⁶⁹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/04/feature-05;

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/09/feature-01;

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/14/feature-02 (all in English).

⁷⁰ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/02/feature-02 (English).

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Al-Andalus, published an interview (Part I) on its “Africa is Muslim” Twitter account. The interview was conducted with Sheikh Muhammad al-Nukawi, former emir of the mujahideen movement in Morocco, who is currently being held in a prison in Tangier. In the interview, al-Nukawi explained the historical background behind the circumstances in which the movement now finds itself. This included information about its founder, Sheikh Abd al-Aziz al-Numani, who was killed in 1984, and about the movement’s role in the war in Lebanon during the early 1980s.⁷¹



The photo of Sheikh Muhammad al-Nukawi that appears on the interview banner page

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted photos of members of the Salafi-jihadist organization, Ansar Al-Shari’a, in Libya, who found a creative way to mark their identification with, and support for, Abu Anas al-Libi, an Al-Qaeda activist who was arrested during the first half of October 2013 in Tripoli by U.S. Army Special Forces. Al-Libi had been wanted in connection to the 1998 terrorist attacks on the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. A five million dollar reward had been offered for his capture after he was convicted in absentia in the Federal Court of the Southern District of New York.

In honor of Ein Al-Adha, members of Ansar Al-Shari’a collected money that they used to finance the delivery of slaughtered sheep to needy families in Benghazi. The entire operation was dedicated to al-Libi’s imprisonment.⁷²

⁷¹ <https://twitter.com/Africamuslima/status/385870005633433600> (Arabic).

⁷² [http://hanein.info/vb/](http://hanein.info/vb;);

http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2013/10/131006_libya_abuanasalibi_usa.shtml (both in Arabic).



“The Abu Anas al-Libi delegation for the distribution of sacrificial offerings”

Somalia

On October 4, 2013, a unit of the elite U.S. Navy SEALs raided an Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen stronghold in Somalia. British forces were also said to have taken part in the attack. The results of the attack are unclear and there are conflicting sources about the incident. According to some claims, forces managed to injure Abu-Diad, a senior activist in the organization, but not kill him, and captured another activist who was involved in the terrorist attack on the Westgate mall in Kenya; the spokesman for Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen admitted that one person had been killed in the operation, most likely Abu-Diad’s bodyguard. The organization claims that the U.S. forces left behind weapons and equipment and did not successfully complete their mission, which was apparently to capture Mokhtar Abu Zubeyr, leader of the organization. United States Secretary of State, John Kerry, acknowledged that the operation had failed operationally but he warned the terrorists that they have no place to hide.⁷³

On October 15, 2013, two Somali terrorists were killed in Kenya on their way to carry out a suicide attack at a soccer game between Ethiopia and Nigeria in Addis Ababa. According to the Ethiopian government they blew themselves up five kilometers from the game when they realized that the many police officers at the site would not allow them to get close to the fans. No organization claimed responsibility for the incident but Ethiopia suspects that it was an attempt by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen to carry out a terrorist attack in response to Ethiopia’s involvement in Somalia.⁷⁴

⁷³ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2683156>; <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2683147>; <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2683517> (all in Hebrew).

⁷⁴ <http://sports.walla.co.il/?w=//2685930> (Hebrew).

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum advised his colleagues to follow Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen’s new Twitter account as it would keep them abreast of developments surrounding the organization’s activities, especially against the backdrop of the terrorist attack at the Westgate mall in Nairobi, Kenya, which began on September 21, 2013. The visitor quoted several recent tweets from the Twitter account. In one tweet, the organization maintained that, as opposed to the false reports being published by the international and local media (in Kenya), its Twitter account would be providing reliable information regarding the Westgate attack. In response, one visitor criticized Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen for attacking a commercial center, which catered to defenseless people, rather than attacking “an armed military camp”.⁷⁵

The Caucasus

- The jihadist Web portal of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus, Kavkaz Center, reported that Russia’s military court had sentenced Ali Musaevich Taziev, also known as Akhmed Yevloev Amir Magas, to life imprisonment on October 15, 2013. Taziev, a senior commander in the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus and considered to be the right-hand man to [its spokesman,] Doku Umarov, was convicted of involvement in the planning of terrorist attacks that killed hundreds of people.⁷⁶ He was arrested in 2010 by the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (FSB).

Iran

- An administrator of the Al-Jihad Al-Alami jihadist Web forum published a letter from prisoners in the Rajaishahar prison in Karaj, Tehran Province, in Iran. The letter was written by 130 Sunni prisoners from Kurdistan Province who claimed that they were not accorded any protections because of the media blackout surrounding their cases. The prisoners claimed that they were trying to follow the way of Allah but that the regime was preventing them from doing so and slaughtering them. The prisoners asked for help from any Muslim who can help spread awareness of the situation as widely as possible.⁷⁷

⁷⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <https://twitter.com/Hsmpressoffice> (English).

⁷⁶ <http://kavkazcenter.com/arab/content/2013/10/15/9122.shtml> (Arabic).

⁷⁷ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

The West

- Anjem Choudary, An extremist preacher in England, used his Twitter account to raise awareness of the campaign to ban alcoholic drinks in general, and in England in particular, in the spirit of shari'a.⁷⁸

Choudary founded the al-Muhajiroun extremist group with the militant leader Sheikh Omar Bakri Muhammad. That group was banned in 2004, but has re-emerged under different names and in various guises. He also established the radical Islamist group Islam4Uk which was banned in 2010.



**The banner that Anjem Choudary posted to his Twitter account
condemning the consumption of alcohol**

Miscellaneous

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted a news report in which the words, “For the first time in Tel Aviv – An Inscription [Calling] for Death to the Jews! Death to Israel!” was written at a public bus station at the “Hatayasim junction”. It noted that, even though the inscription was written in Hebrew, it seemed to have been inspired by slogans commonly used against Jews – in Arabic. In response, another visitor expressed hope that Allah would hasten the “destruction of Zionism”.⁷⁹

⁷⁸ <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary> (English).

⁷⁹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

Facebook and Twitter

- On October 15, 2013, a new Twitter account was opened under the name “Al-Badiyya News”. The account covers the activities of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham in Al-Badiyya Province, Syria.⁸⁰



The logo of the Al-Badiyya Twitter account for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted an announcement by the Islamic News Agency – Haq, stating that Facebook administrators had omitted several items from the group’s official Facebook page and threatened to shut it down. According to the announcement, among the omitted items was a photo of Muslim protesters in Denmark carrying black-and-white Islamic flags to show their support for the establishment of an Islamic state in Al-Sham. In response, members of the forum thanked and encouraged the Islamic News Agency – Haq for its assistance to the Muslim Nation.⁸¹
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum uploaded several cards promoting Islamic content that members of the forum were asked to post on various social media Web sites.⁸²

⁸⁰ https://twitter.com/dw_badia (Arabic).

⁸¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸² <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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The Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group (JWMG) is a specialized research and analysis team at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT). Composed of researchers fluent in Arabic, the JWMG monitors websites that support and serve the Global Jihad organizations. The unique characteristic of JWMG publications is the team's integration of diverse materials from a wide variety of Arabic sources. JWMG connects each source to larger trends, providing a complete understanding of events on both a local and a global scale.

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