

## Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Forums

### The Second Half of October 2012

This report summarizes notable events discussed on jihadist Web forums during the second half of October 2012. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri calls for concluding the revolutions in Egypt and Syria with the institution of Islamic law [shari'a]. The liberation of Jerusalem and Palestine, he adds, begins in Egypt and Syria.
- Sheikh Yahya Abu Al-Hamam, the new emir of the Sahara for Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), announces that the mujahideen in northern Mali are ready to defend against invasion, and will execute the French citizens they are holding hostage if France invades northern Mali.
- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen threatens to attack Britain in retaliation for its extradition of Sheikh Abu Hamza Al-Masri to the US.
- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) exhorts the Al-Nahdha Party-led Tunisian government to come to its senses, shake off Western influence, and cease pandering to the US by arresting Islamists.
- For yet a third time, the Saudi Arabian Deputy Consul in Aden, a captive of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), appeals to his government to secure his release by freeing Al-Qaeda prisoners.
- Jihadists report the death of Abu Moez Al-Tunisi, emir of the Salafi-jihadist group Jund Al-Khilafah, which is active in Afghanistan and Kazakhstan. Abu Moez, who trained the terrorist from Toulouse, was apparently killed during an operation in North Waziristan.
- Palestinian Salafi-jihadists promise to avenge the IDF's murder of two of their leaders in the Gaza Strip, Abu Al-Bara'a and Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi.
- The Islamic State of Iraq, an Al-Qaeda affiliate, launches a new media outlet named Batar.
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen draws readers' attention to a Web site that follows the flight paths of airborne planes. He recommends using it to spy on or shoot down enemy planes, or the VIPs flying on them.

**New Publications***Ideology*

- On October 25, 2012, Al-Sahab Media published a video clip featuring Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri, titled, "Cairo and Damascus Are the Gateway to Jerusalem". The video is the eleventh in a series titled, "A Message of Hope and Tidings to Our People in Egypt", which was first published over one year ago.<sup>1</sup>

Al-Zawahiri begins by explaining that he will focus on Cairo and Damascus as the two gateways to the recapture of Jerusalem and its return to the Muslim Nation. However, he first expresses sorrow at the death of Sheikh Rifai Surur, an Egyptian Salafi-jihadist with whom he was closely allied during the 1960s.

Al-Zawahiri then discusses the following:

- Palestine: Palestine was lost to the Muslims with the collapse of the Islamic caliphate in 1923. The Islamic caliphate fought this aggression, despite its weakness. Once the caliphate had been overthrown, the Islamic lands were divided into nation-states, with the British occupying Palestine and giving it to the Jews. Hostility toward Palestine is maintained not only by the Jews, but also by the West, which wishes to keep the Muslim world divided. Palestine will be liberated via Egypt and Syria.
- The revolution in Egypt: The revolution in Egypt must be brought to a close. Although it began one and a half years ago, Egypt's citizens are still subject to the remnants of the previous wicked regime, a corrupt judicial system, and a worthless constitution. Salafi-jihadists and the Muslim Brotherhood must form an Islamist front, which will work to impose shari'a [Islamic law]. History cannot overlook the crimes of the Nasserites, including the arrest of Muslim Brotherhood members during the 1960s.
- The Egyptian constitution: The enemies of shari'a are helping to write Egypt's new constitution, thereby perpetuating a liberal secular regime and the rule of the people. But shari'a is the sole source of jurisprudence, for Allah, not man, is the only sovereign. This is what both the Salafists and the Muslim Brotherhood preach. Politics can only function under the rule of Islam and the authority of shari'a. Egypt's

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/>

constitutional court and judicial system, which are fundamentally secular and do not adhere to shari'a, are corrupt; since all of their functionaries were appointed either by former President Mubarak or by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) – under the watchful eye of the security services – they are a remnant of the previous regime. Many of the judges can barely speak Arabic, and had poor grades in law school.

- Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi: It is outrageous that Morsi has failed to implement shari'a. How does Morsi conceive Islamic rule? Does he believe the country should function according to the will of the people, or according to shari'a? What is his stand on the constitution, and on laws – governing alcohol, licentiousness, the dishonest media – that contravene shari'a? What is his policy regarding the entry of Israeli tourists into Israel? Regarding interest-bearing loans? Is he in favor of passing a law that will require charitable tithing? How does Morsi propose to treat the mujahideen who are fighting to liberate Palestine? Does he consider them righteous, or think them outlaws? What about Egypt's peace agreement with Israel, which was ratified by a counterfeit parliament, via popular referendum? Where does Morsi stand regarding Egypt's participation in the war on terrorism? Will he persist in this? What is Morsi's stand on Mubarak's crimes, including the torture, starvation, illness and killing of more than 1,000 people in Egypt's prisons – among them prominent Muslim Brotherhood leader Kamal Al-Sananiri. What is Morsi's position regarding the blockade of the Gaza Strip? Regarding the presence of American troops on Egyptian soil, and in the airports of western Cairo and the Sinai Peninsula? Morsi must have courage to address these questions. He should abandon political games with the West and forces hostile to Islam. Morsi is to be thanked for returning Dr. Omar Abd Al-Rahman (aka "the blind sheikh"), the leader of Al-Jama'a Al-Islamiyya, to Egypt.
- The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt: The Muslim Brotherhood should participate in the war for the Qur'an declared by Muslim Brotherhood founder Hasssan Al-Banna. This is Al-Banna's legacy, and it has yet to be fulfilled.

- The revolution in Syria: Al-Zawahiri accepts the invitation of the commendable Sheikh Hafez Salameh, a Salafi-jihadist from Suez,<sup>2</sup> to help the Syrian people in their struggle against the regime of Bashar Al-Assad. The nations of the world do not support the Syrian rebels because they are hoping for a new Syrian regime that will be amenable to them. The Syrian people have the right to defend themselves against oppression, murder and aggression in any way possible. Al-Zawahiri supports the "Lions of Al-Sham [Greater Syria]", which have joined the battle for Islam against the forces of secularism, debauchery and oppression; he lauds their achievements in Damascus, Homs, Hamat and at border crossings, and urges the rebels to continue their struggle. The rebels should trust in Allah, and not in the US, Turkey, the Gulf states or the Arab League, which have left them prey to Assad's regime, to ensure that the new regime will collaborate with them. Muslims should join the jihad against the Assad regime.
- Sunni Muslim prisoners: Muslim prisoners everywhere must be liberated – by kidnapping the citizens of countries that are warring against the Muslims. Every effort must be made to free Sheikh Omar Abd Al-Rahman, the mastermind of the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center, who is now serving time in an American prison. For example, US citizen Warren Weinstein was abducted by Al-Qaeda in Pakistan last year, to pressure the West to release Sunni prisoners.

This video also contains footage of other Egyptian Salafi-jihadists, among them Sheikh Ahmad Ashush, in support of Al-Zawahiri's platform of implementing shari'a in Egypt and opposing democracy in the Middle East.

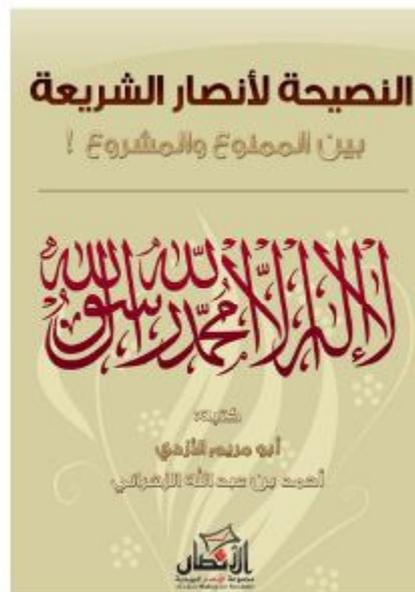
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<sup>2</sup> Salameh, the deputy dean of Al-Azhar University until his retirement in 1978, played several key roles in the Suez region during the Egyptian revolution against Mubarak's regime.



Ayman Al-Zawahiri discusses Egypt at length

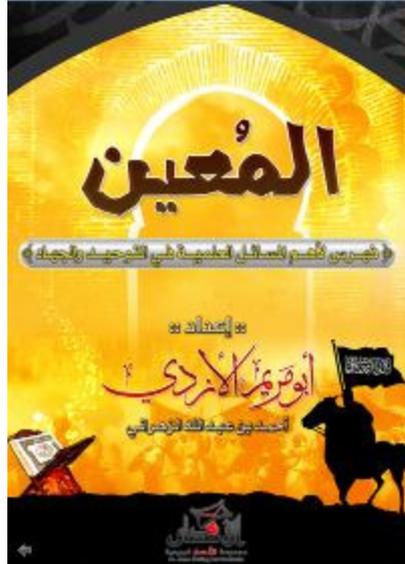
- During the latter half of October 2012, the jihadist propaganda organ Ansar Al-Baridiyya issued two publications by Sheikh Abu Maryam Al-Azadi:
  - An article titled, "Advice to Supporters of Shari'a: Between the Permissible and the Forbidden!" (11 pp.).<sup>3</sup>



An article by Abu Maryam Al-Azadi

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- An index of jihadist publications on monotheism [tawhid], jihad, the proper attitude toward democracy, Islamic-legal rulings on working for an infidel government, the gradual implementation of shari'a, and the stipulations for declaring someone an infidel [takfir].<sup>4</sup>



An index of jihadist publications

- The Al-Maqrizi Center for Historical Research, which is located in London, published a fatwa [Islamic-legal ruling] declaring it an individual obligation of all Muslims to kill Alawites. The fatwa was issued by Abu Al-Mundhir Al-Shanqiti, a member of the Shura Council of the Jordanian Salafi-jihadist Web portal Minbar Al-Tawhid, on October 24, 2012.<sup>5</sup>

#### Strategy

- Abu-Muhammad Al-Filastini 007, a new contributor to the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam whose administrators call him "a writer and policy analyst", posted a thread on the strategy for establishing a jihadist group in a new area. Al-Filastini 007 claimed that first, a mujahid with comprehensive capabilities should be sent to establish infrastructure and recruit and train a group of skilled, capable young men. This group will then train another group before spending several weeks learning "the lay of the land", literally and

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

figuratively. The region's emir and his deputies will then identify potential recruits, and invest in training them. The group will then gradually formulate a strategy for shattering – or at least weakening – the enemy forces. In fighting the enemy, Al-Filastini 007 wrote, it is better to conquer a city by digging tunnels underneath it, which the mujahideen can use for transportation and cover for firing on the enemy. Al-Filastini 007 believed it necessary to stick to a strategy that would minimize the number of mujahiden wounded. To this end, he proposed fighting from behind a fence, camouflaging the source of gunfire, and using silencers, ambushes, and remotely-detonated explosive devices.<sup>6</sup>

- The Luaa Al-Sham Center for Propaganda, Research and Documentation published a study titled, "Striking the Army Chief of Staff: Invading and Destroying Army Chief of Staff Headquarters" (15 pp.).<sup>7</sup> The study analyzes the planning and implementation of an attack by the Al-Nusra Front, a Syrian Salafi-jihadist group, on Syrian Army Chief of Staff headquarters on September 26, 2012.



**An analysis of the Al-Nusra Front's attack on Syrian Army headquarters**

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

*Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets*

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen posted a link to a video clip showing how to make binoculars for use in undercover preparations for suicide terrorist missions.<sup>8</sup>
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen posted a number of manuals, which can be downloaded to one's personal computer. The manuals, which the contributor called "James Bond's encyclopedia for making weapons, explosives, poisons, etc.",<sup>9</sup> was written by Kurt Saxon, author of *The Poor Man's James Bond*, a series of books on improvised weapons and munitions.
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted links to [www.globalsecurity.org](http://www.globalsecurity.org), containing explanations of hand-to-hand combat and small-group warfare from military fortifications.<sup>10</sup>



**From a manual of instruction for fighting from behind a barricade**

- The supervisor of the technical section of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published a detailed explanation of obtaining a work visa to the US.<sup>11</sup>
- The Web site Valiat Dagestan published a document titled, "Instructions for the Survival of the Jihadist in Forests and Extreme Conditions", which was written especially for the site by the sniper Abu Ad-Darda. The document presents exhaustive instructions and recommendations – on foraging for food, encountering wild animals and insects, creating shelter, and finding water – to enable the neophyte soldier to survive in the forest.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>12</sup> <http://vdagestan.com> (Russian).

- The jihadist media institution Al-Yakin published the transcript of an audio statement titled, "Goals of the Muslim Propagandist", the eighth in a series on the tools for promoting the mujahideen and jihad.<sup>13</sup>



**For the Muslim engaged in propaganda**

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen drew readers' attention to the Web site [www.flihtradar24.com](http://www.flihtradar24.com), which provides real-time information on the flight paths of airborne planes. This site allegedly facilitates monitoring VIPs who are traveling by plane, ambushing delegations as they leave an airport, and deploying heat-guided anti-aircraft missiles – armed with nothing but a laptop.<sup>14</sup>



**A Web site that tracks flights in progress**

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen penned ten recommendations for protecting oneself against drones. For example, he recommended that mujahideen avoid meeting in person or carrying a walkie-talkie, and instead communicate in some other way.<sup>15</sup>
- The jihadist media outlet Sada Al-Kawkaz [Echo of the Caucasus] published a story, from 2004, about a unit of Muslim fighters in the mountainous region of Ingushetia. The story was meant to teach mujahideen how to fight in forested terrain.<sup>16</sup>



**How to fight in a forest**

#### *Cyber-jihad*

- GaZa-HaCKeR hacked into the Web site of Saudi Arabian Sheikh Abd Al-Muhsen bin Nasser Al-Obikan, and sent him a message that he is not the religious scholar he purports to be.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>16</sup> [http://rchokavkaz.blogspot.co.il/2012/blog-post\\_29.html](http://rchokavkaz.blogspot.co.il/2012/blog-post_29.html) (Arabic).

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



The Web site of Sheikh Al-Obikan after it was breached by GaZa-HaCKER

*Promoting the Myth of Martyrdom*

- The jihadist media outlet Ahfad Uqbah eulogized Sheikh Abu Moez Al-Tunisi, emir of Jund Al-Khilafah, a Salafi-jihadist group active in Afghanistan and Kazakhstan that took responsibility for the March 2012 terrorist attack in Toulouse, France.<sup>18</sup> Abu Moez, a Swiss citizen of Tunisian origin, was considered a senior Al-Qaeda leader in North Waziristan, where he had been since late 2007. Abu Moez was also known as Maezeddine Garasallaoui and, on jihadist Web forums, as Qayrawani. It was he who trained Mohamed Merah, the French citizen who perpetrated the terrorist attack in Toulouse that cost the lives of seven people. The wife of Abu Moez, Malika Al-Aroud, is known to be active on jihadist Web forums and to have close ties to Al-Qaeda.<sup>19</sup> Neither the date nor manner of Abu Moez's death were reported.



A banner produced by Ahfad Uqbah eulogizing Abu Moez Al-Tunisi

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/AhfadUkbaa>.

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The supervisor of the "Muslim Lion's Den of Caucasus Supporters" section of Ansar al-Mujahideen forum reported that the emir of Tatarstan, Muhammad, died of a serious illness on October 9 2012.<sup>20</sup> He was succeeded by a new emir, Abu Musa.<sup>21</sup> During the past summer, YouTube carried video clips showing mujahideen from Tatarstan swearing loyalty to Dokku Abu Usman, emir of the Caucasus Emirate.



The late Emir of Tatarstan, Muhammad

- Sawt Al-Islam, the media outlet of the Turkestan Islamic Party (TIP), published a video clip in Uighur titled, "Lovers of Paradise - 7".<sup>22</sup> A propaganda piece, the video praises martyrs for the cause of Islam, whose reward, it says, is an afterlife in heaven.



The banner for the video clip, "Lovers of Paradise - 7"

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>21</sup> <http://kavkazcenter.com/arab/content/2012/10/25/8782.shtml> (Arabic).

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Promoting the Myth of the Martyrdom of Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi and Abu Al-Bara'a Al-Maqdisi

- Between October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, the Israeli Air Force assassinated two men who had launched a Grad rocket at Israel, while they were riding a motorcycle through the Jabaliya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The two were Hisham 'Ali 'Abd al-Karim a-Sa'idani, aka Abu Walid Al-Maqdisi, the Salafi-jihadist leader of Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad in the Gaza Strip; and Ashraf Sabah, aka Abu Al-Bara'a, who had with Al-Maqdisi established the Shura Council of the Mujahideen in the Environs of Jerusalem, a Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group identified with global jihad and active in the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip. The incident was discussed, and the two men eulogized, on multiple jihadist online sites and forums:
  - After lauding the two deceased martyrs, the Shura Council of the Mujahideen in the Environs of Jerusalem accused the Hamas government of partial responsibility for their deaths, because of its persecution of Salafi-jihadists in the Gaza Strip.<sup>23</sup> Hamas was also criticized by the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group Lions' Den of the Mujahideen [Masadat Al-Mujahideen], who accused it of being responsible for the martyrs' deaths, and promised to take revenge on the Jews.<sup>24</sup> Ansar Bet Al-Maqdes, a Salafi-jihadist group in the Sinai Peninsula, also promised to avenge the martyrs' deaths by attacking the Jews.<sup>25</sup> Similar sentiments were posted on jihadist Web forums by the Army of Islam, another Salafi-jihadist group active in the Gaza Strip;<sup>26</sup> the Islamic State of Iraq;<sup>27</sup> the Iraqi Salafi-jihadist group Ansar Al-Islam;<sup>28</sup> Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP);<sup>29</sup> and contributors to prominent jihadist Web forums such as Shumukh Al-Islam.<sup>30</sup>
  - The engineer Abu Al-Muhtasib Al-Maqdisi 'Abdallah Al-Ashkar, a prominent Salafi-jihadist sheikh in the Gaza Strip, appeared in a video clip disseminated by the Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center. Al-Ashkar

<sup>23</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>24</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>25</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.sabqnews.ps/arabic?action=detailed&id=12286> (Arabic).

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

eulogized the two martyrs and praised their path of jihad. Their deaths would be an incentive to unity among the ranks, inspiring them with the spirit of jihad, he said. He exhorted the Palestinian people to follow in the footsteps of the two martyrs, citing Hamas' years of persecution. He urged Hamas to return to the straight path and adhere to Islamic law. In conclusion, he noted that he himself had been on a Hamas "wanted" list for three years.<sup>31</sup>



**Abu Al-Muhtasib Al-Maqdisi 'Abdallah Al-Ashkar praises the martyrs**

- Sheikh Abu Saad Al-Amili published an article titled, "On the Deaths of Abu Walid Al-Maqdisi and Abu Al-Bara'a Al-Maqdisi: Blessings and Counsel". He commended the two martyrs, and appealed to followers of jihad and tawhid [monotheism] in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Palestine and the Sinai Peninsula to follow in their footsteps and remain united. He urged that replacements be found for the two martyrs, but warned that their names should be kept secret, to prevent the enemy from harming them. He cited the secrecy of the Islamic State of Iraq as an example. He also urged greater cooperation between the mujahideen in the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula, and counseled them not to oppose Hamas or fall into the trap laid by its constant provocations. He counseled continued da'wa [missionary efforts] and attacks against Israel, which would increase their prestige in the eyes of the Palestinians. In conclusion, he urged the followers of tawhid and jihad to redouble their efforts to expose spies and traitors, by establishing units dedicated to this task. However, he

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

recommended that they avoid using electronic devices that would make them easily detectable – after all, the Gaza Strip is very small.<sup>32</sup>

- A video clip of the martyrs' funerals was disseminated by the jihadist Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center.<sup>33</sup>



**Abu Al-Bara'a (left) and Abu Walid Al-Maqdisi (right)**

#### *The Arab Spring in Jihadist Discourse*

- Al-Sahab, a jihadist media outlet, published a video clip titled "Questions and Tidings". It is the fourth part in a series by Abu Yahya Gadahn titled, "The Nation of Sacrifice and Martyrdom Vs. Treason and Despotism: Advice and Support to Our Brothers Rebel [sic] Against Injustice".<sup>34</sup>



**From the video clip featuring Abu Yahya Al-Gadahn**

#### *Magazines*

- Issue No. 78 for November 2012 of the Arabic-language magazine *Al-Somood* (56 pp.) was published by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.<sup>35</sup> This issue

<sup>32</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>34</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>35</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

contains a sermon by Mullah Omar, the leader of the Afghanistan Taliban, on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha; an interview with Abd Al-Samad, who heads the guidance and missionary [da'wa] unit of the Afghanistan Taliban, in which he discusses the nature of this unit; a survey of the war against US forces in Afghanistan; a biography of the martyr Mawlawi Mahmoud (1972-2007), a field commander of the Afghanistan Taliban; and an article on jihad as a Muslim legal concept.



The latest issue of *Al-Somood*, which focuses on jihad in Afghanistan

## Reports from the Field

### *Afghanistan-Pakistan*

- On October 17, 2012, the cultural committee of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and its affiliated media institution, Studio Manba' Al-Jihad, published a video clip as part of the series, "Convoy of Jihadist Heroes". The video documents acts of jihad and suicide attacks targeting American soldiers and Afghan security forces.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>36</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



The banner for the video clip, "Convoy of Jihadist Heroes"

- On the occasion of Eid Al-Adha, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published an announcement by its emir, Mullah Omar, who blessed the Muslim Nation and declared that jihad was gaining momentum and public support daily, and that it was becoming ever more technically sophisticated. Mullah Omar claimed that the enemy had begun withdrawing from its bases in Afghanistan, and that multitudes were joining the ranks of the Islamic Emirate. He urged continued jihad, and sincere effort to attain its goals. One must have faith in Allah and obey the emir, he said. The senior leadership of the Emirate should unite and work for the good of the people, who suffer the injustices of the regime. The mujahideen must continue to infiltrate the enemy's ranks and be exacting in their operations, for an optimal outcome. They must teach the laws of jihad, and be mindful of its moral, ideological and military components. He urged the Afghan people to cooperate with the mujahideen and strike at the enemy. He added that it is not the mujahideen's goal to take control once the occupation has been driven out; rather, they aim to thwart foreign intervention, and ensure the Islamic and ethnic character of Afghanistan. He explained what the new government must do for the Afghani people after the occupation has been routed, and promised that that government would maintain good relations with anyone who respects Afghanistan as an independent Islamic country. He stressed the importance of continuing political and military struggle until their goals had been reached. He added that the political department of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

was working with foreign entities, in accordance with its Islamic, jihadist interests. He condemned the denigration of the Prophet Muhammad, and promised that the West would rue its persistence. In conclusion, he promised that jihad would continue until the occupiers had been utterly routed, saying that the mujahideen had the skills, men and determination to do this.<sup>37</sup>

- In a new video clip, Ustaz Ahmad Farooq, the head of the media and da'wa [propaganda] department of Al-Qaeda in Pakistan, addressed the response of the Pakistani public and media to the shooting by a member of the Pakistan Taliban of 14-year-old Malala Yousafzai on October 9, 2012 in the Swat Valley, as she was leaving school. Farooq justifies the shooting, telling the Pakistani people: "The girl was part of the agenda of the (British Broadcasting Corporation), to wage an organized campaign against jihad, Islamic Shariah and purdha (veil)". According to Farooq the Pakistani Army and government were using this incident to deflect attention from their recent failures. He denied that Yousafzai had been shot for supporting the education of Muslim girls, and accused her of being a spy: "We did not attack her for raising voice [sic] for education. We targeted her for opposing mujahideen and their war. Shariah (Islamic law) says that even a child can be killed if he is propagating against Islam".<sup>38</sup> Thanks to the medical care she received in Britain, Yousafzai's life is no longer in danger.



**Malala Yousafzai**

- Mansoor Studio, a media outlet of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, published a video clip titled, "Jerusalem Convoy (No. 9)", which documents military actions and terrorist attacks perpetrated by the Taliban.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>37</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>38</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>39</sup> [http://www.toorabora.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9110:2012-10-30-11-16-10&catid=3:newsflash&Itemid=101](http://www.toorabora.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9110:2012-10-30-11-16-10&catid=3:newsflash&Itemid=101) (Pashto).



The banner for the video clip, "Jerusalem Convoy (No. 9)"

#### *Iraq*

- During the latter half of October 2012, the Islamic State of Iraq published the following:
  - A report documenting 154 military actions in several areas of Ninevah Province during the hijri month of Shawal (September-October 2012), including terrorist attacks, assassinations, and attacks on Iraqi Army personnel.<sup>40</sup>
  - An announcement taking responsibility for terrorist attacks on security and military targets of "the Shiite Iraqi government and Iranian elements" in Baghdad and elsewhere during Eid Al-Adha. The attacks were explained as retaliation for the practice of jailing Sunni Muslim women to pressure their relatives, who are wanted by the regime, to turn themselves in. The Islamic State of Iraq promised that this practice would continue to elicit harsh reprisals, including the death of members of the Iraqi government.<sup>41</sup> Press agencies reported that the series of terrorist attacks took the lives of 27 people.
- The jihadist Web forum Hanein featured a report on the actions of the Islamic State of Iraq against people who pose as its representatives. The poseurs, who allegedly extort money in its name, are arrested and punished by the Islamic State of Iraq according to the laws of Allah. Contributors to the forum praised the Islamic State of Iraq for responding to its detractors in this way. One forum contributor explained that the mujahideen in Iraq and elsewhere

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

were being misrepresented, since their propaganda is not as widely disseminated as that of the infidels. Another contributor recommended documenting the poseurs' confessions – and disseminating them on CDs and the Internet – and executing them publicly, as Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen had executed spies.<sup>42</sup>

- Reports continued to circulate that Izzat Ibrahim Ad-Douri, the former vice president of Iraq, was promulgating the legacy of the Baath Party. Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein attacked the Baath Party and maligned its four decades of injustices. Others felt that the Baath Party had realized its ideology would never again hold sway; it was therefore was using moderate Islamists to attract young people, and was avoiding challenging the Salafists. He warned Salafists about this tactic, and the dangers of the Baath Party. Yet other forum contributors hoped to see the Baath Party renew its role in Iraq, and contribute to eliminating the Shiites, Americans and Zionists and liberating Iraq from its occupiers.<sup>43</sup>
- Jihadist Web forums carried an announcement that a new jihadist media outlet named Al-Batar was being launched. Al-Batar's publications will defend the mujahideen in general, and the Islamic State of Iraq in particular. Al-Batar will also spread monotheism, and disseminate jihadist visual materials and photographs of the actions of the Islamic State of Iraq. It will not detract from the work of its sister media institution, Al-Furqan, but rather will help expose the true face of the Shiites; provide updates on prisoners' activities; and publicize events in other arenas of jihad. Al-Batar is not now part of the propaganda ministry of the Islamic State of Iraq, but aspires to be. Al-Batar will only publish on Web forums, not on social networks.<sup>44</sup>



**The banner of Al-Batar, a new jihadist media institution**

<sup>42</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>43</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

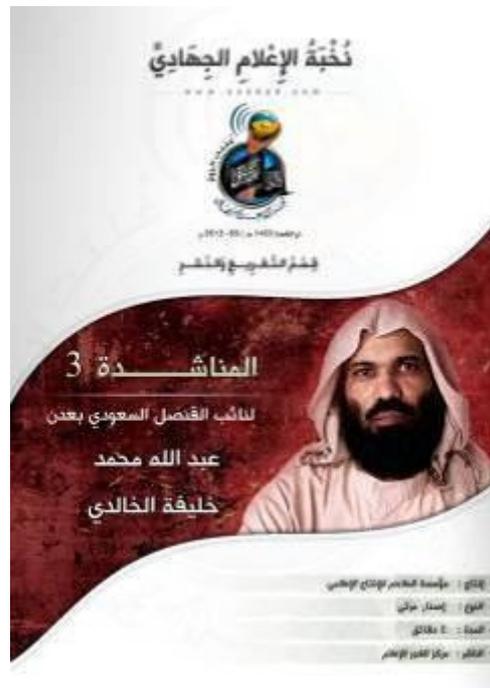
<sup>44</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

*The Arabian Peninsula*

- During the latter half of October 2012, the jihadist media outlet of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, published the following:
  - A video clip containing a third appeal to the Saudi authorities to release Al-Qaeda prisoners by Abdullah Muhammad Khalifa Al-Khalidi, deputy consul of Saudi Arabia in Aden. Al-Khalidi was abducted by AQAP in March 2012 and has been in captivity since. He said Saudi authorities had acted wisely by releasing several women, and exhorted them to release the remaining prisoners and meet AQAP's demands. By way of comparison, he cited the release of over 1,000 Palestinian prisoners who had committed acts of jihad against Israel in exchange for one Israeli soldier (Gilad Shalit) who had served the State. Al-Khalidi insisted he had served the Saudi regime in several roles and locations, and had served the Saudi people even beforehand, and asked whether he was not worthy of being exchanged for several women and older men (prisoners). He asked that he not be forsaken, and that people pressure the Saudi government to meet AQAP's demands. He hoped not to meet the same end as the deputy consul of Algeria, who was executed by his abductors when the Algerian government refused to meet their demands. He pleaded with his clan to appeal to the Saudi government on his behalf, adding that AQAP's demands were just. He hoped that a deal to secure his release would be sealed before Eid Al-Adha.<sup>45</sup>

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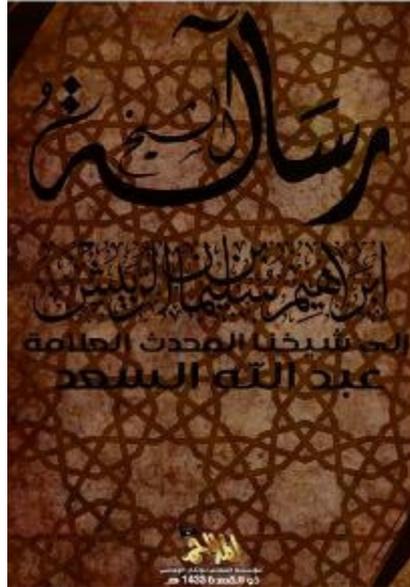
<sup>45</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).



**The deputy consul of Saudi Arabia appeals for his release from AQAP**

- A message from Sheikh Ibrahim Suleiman Al-Rubaish, the mufti of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), to Saudi Arabian Sheikh Abdullah Al-Saad. Al-Rubaish, writing from Abyan, Yemen, reported that the Yemeni government had opposed Islamic law in favor of secularism and democracy. Moreover, the Yemeni government is part of an international coalition against terrorism, and jails and tortures mujahideen. Al-Rubaish wrote of the mujahideen's war against the Yemeni regime, in general, and against the authorities in Abyan, in particular, and their efforts to impose shari'a [Islamic law] to bring order and stability to a place that has heretofore known only corruption and plunder. At the same time, the US persists in fighting the mujahideen with the help of Yemeni forces. Al-Rubaish regretted the failure of religious scholars to support the mujahideen, and claimed that in this they dishonor Islamic law, and allow for the deaths of Muslims whose murder Islamic law does not sanction. He asked Al-Saad not to believe lies about the mujahideen, but rather to preach to them. He also asked Al-Saad to reconsider his fatwa [religious-legal ruling] against the mujahideen, in light of information he had been given. Al-Rubaish had originally sent this message to Al-Saad's Web

site, but when the latter did not respond, he made another attempt to reach him.<sup>46</sup>



#### Sheikh Al-Rubaish appeals to Sheikh Al-Saad

- An audio statement by Sheikh Abu Sufyan Al-Shihri, deputy head of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), titled, "Events and Lessons".<sup>47</sup> In the statement, Al-Shihri addresses AQAP's struggle against the Yemeni regime, which is allegedly backed by the US. Al-Shihri notes that AQAP's withdrawal from Abyan, Shabwa and Azan Governorates was necessary to avoid harming the local population. He criticizes the ulama' [religious scholars] in Saudi Arabia who follow the dictates of the Saudi regime, without showing any particular zeal for defending Islam against enemies like Iranian President Ahmadinejad. Al-Shihri further claims that Saudi Arabia does not really help the Sunnis in Syria as it purports to. He accuses Saudi Arabia of making extensive arrests of Sunni Muslims, and urges Saudi citizens to demand their release, adding that freed Sunni prisoners have an obligation to help liberate their fellow prisoners. Al-Shihri again criticizes the ulama' [religious scholars], this time for their wan response to the popular protests against the anti-Muslim film deriding the Prophet: "Innocence of Muslims". He lambastes their religious-

<sup>46</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

legal rulings [fatwas] condemning attacks on Western embassies in Muslim countries. Al-Shihri also points a finger at Islamic media, claiming they collaborate with the West instead of defending Islam, and defame the mujahideen while glossing over the crimes of Muslim regimes.



"Events and Lessons" by Sheikh Abu Sufyan Al-Shihri

### Al-Sham [Greater Syria]

- During the latter half of October 2012, the Al-Nusra Front published the following:
  - Announcement No. 101,<sup>48</sup> taking responsibility for an ambush of Syrian security forces in the eastern theater on September 29, 2012, in which 22 soldiers – four of them senior officers – were killed, and various weapons and armaments were plundered, including two rocket-propelled grenades, 17 Kalashnikov rifles, and a DShK machine gun.

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



**The bodies of Syrian soldiers killed in an Al-Nusra Front ambush**

- Announcement No. 102,<sup>49</sup> taking responsibility for a suicide attack perpetrated by Abu Saad Al-Muhajir against the Criminal Court and the Security Headquarters in Qamishi, a city with a large Kurdish population, on September 30, 2012. Thirty people were killed and 80 were wounded in the attack.
- Announcement No. 103,<sup>50</sup> taking responsibility for a suicide attack against state security headquarters in Dayr Al-Zawr on October 3, 2012, killing 50 people and wounding 60 more.
- Announcement No. 104,<sup>51</sup> taking responsibility for an ambush of a convoy of military forces in Dayr Al-Zawr on October 3, 2012, killing one officer and four soldiers and setting fire to three vehicles.
- Announcement No. 105,<sup>52</sup> taking responsibility for an ambush of Syrian Army tanks near Dawar Al-Halabiya on October 12, 2012.
- Announcement No. 106,<sup>53</sup> taking responsibility for a suicide attack against the Al Hajana and Al-Rahba Headquarters in Dayr Al-Zawr on October 12, 2012.
- Announcement No. 107,<sup>54</sup> taking responsibility for several military actions in the eastern theater, such as anti-aircraft fire at Syrian Air Force planes.

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Announcements Nos. 108<sup>55</sup> and 109<sup>56</sup>, taking responsibility for several military actions in Idlib and environs, such as the detonation of improvised roadside explosive devices (IEDs) during Syrian security patrols.
- Announcement No. 110,<sup>57</sup> taking responsibility for a suicide attack against the Al-Louis Factory, which is owned by the Syrian regime.
- Announcement No. 111,<sup>58</sup> taking responsibility for an attack on a broadcast center and the destruction of an oil processing plant in Saraqeb.
- Announcement No. 112,<sup>59</sup> taking responsibility a battle against Syrian security forces in the town of Jericho. Thirteen Syrian soldiers were killed and a Syrian tank was destroyed in the fighting.
- Announcement No. 113,<sup>60</sup> taking responsibility for the ambush of a convoy carrying Syrian security forces near Idlib. All of the passengers in the convoy were killed.
- Announcement No. 114,<sup>61</sup> taking responsibility for an attack on the Idlib-Jericho checkpoint.
- Announcement No. 115,<sup>62</sup> taking responsibility for the destruction of four Syrian tanks.
- Announcements Nos. 116, 117 and 118,<sup>63</sup> taking responsibility for a number of attacks, including the assassination of several members of the Syrian regime in Damascus.
- Announcement No. 119,<sup>64</sup> taking responsibility for several terrorist attacks in Aleppo.
- Announcement No. 120,<sup>65</sup> taking responsibility for an attack on an L39 fighter plane in Aleppo, on October 7, 2012.

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<sup>55</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>57</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>60</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>64</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>65</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- Announcement No. 121,<sup>66</sup> taking responsibility for a second infiltration of the Hanano Military Barracks on October 7, 2012, in which 10 Syrian soldiers were killed.
- Announcement No. 122,<sup>67</sup> taking responsibility for the capture of the base of Syrian Missile Company 606 near Aleppo on October 12-13, 2012. The announcement described the plan of attack, which came to be known as the "Abu Khaled Raid". The Islamic Al-Fajr group, headed by Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi, participated in the action, which was led by a group of fighters from Chechnya. Al-Jazeera gave the action extensive coverage.



**A photograph of an attack on Syrian Army radar stations**

- Announcement No. 123,<sup>68</sup> taking responsibility for the conquest of the Salouk Outpost in Al-Raqqah, in which 32 Syrian soldiers were killed and their guns plundered.
- Announcements Nos. 124<sup>69</sup> and 125,<sup>70</sup> taking responsibility for several military actions in the area of Hamat, including gunfire at cars being driven by members of the Syrian regime.
- Announcement No. 126,<sup>71</sup> taking responsibility for an attack on a Syrian Army checkpoint in Salqin, near Idlib, on October 1, 2012, in which some 50-60 civilians and 84 military personnel were killed.

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>70</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>71</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- Announcement No. 127,<sup>72</sup> taking responsibility for several military actions in Idlib, including an attack on a roadside checkpoint.
- Announcement No. 128,<sup>73</sup> taking responsibility for a number of military actions near Maarat El-Noman, including an incursion into a cultural center that had served as a post for State Security and Army forces.
- Announcement No. 129,<sup>74</sup> taking responsibility for breaking the barrier to an oil-processing plant in Saraqeb on October 11-12, 2012.
- Announcement No. 130,<sup>75</sup> taking responsibility for a number of military actions in Damascus and environs.
- Announcement No. 131,<sup>76</sup> taking responsibility for the detonation on October 23, 2012 of a booby-trapped car in the Al-Tadhamum neighborhood in Damascus, where security forces and shabiha [Syrian regime strongmen] had congregated. Some 20 people were killed in the explosion.
- Press Release No. 2,<sup>77</sup> denying any involvement in the detonation of a booby-trapped car in the Al-Zuhur neighborhood during Eid Al-Adha (October 27, 2012), which resulted in the deaths of women and children. The Al-Nusra Front purports to take special care not to harm innocent Muslims; it accused the Syrian regime of responsibility for the deaths of the women and children.
- A policy essay (no. 2) titled, "The Al-Nusra Front's Policy Toward the Eid Al-Adha Ceasefire".<sup>78</sup> In it, the Al-Nusra Front rejected the suggestion of Al-Akhdar Al-Ibrahimi, the Algerian diplomat who was appointed in early September to mediate the Syrian crisis, to institute a ceasefire during Eid Al-Adha. According to the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Ibrahimi's proposal was untenable, because the Syrian regime was incapable of honoring any obligation or agreement; moreover, the regime was likely to exploit the ceasefire to regain its strength.

<sup>72</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>75</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>77</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

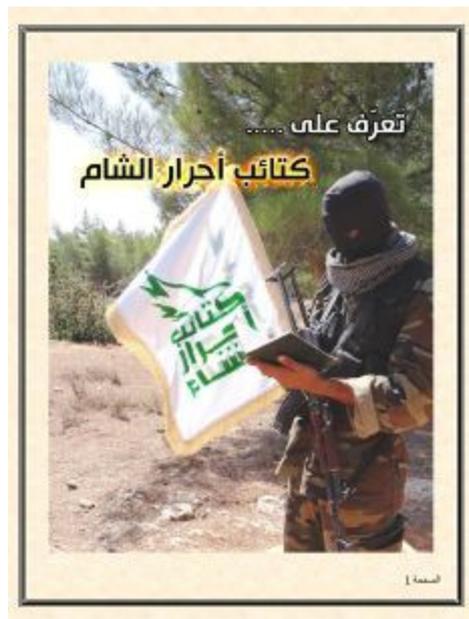
<sup>78</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published exclusive photographs of the training of members of the Al-Nusra Front at the Al-Fateh Training Camp.<sup>79</sup>



**A photograph of the Al-Fateh Training Camp, which appeared on the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam**

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published a booklet containing a profile of Ahrar Al-Sham Brigades, a jihadist group fighting the Syrian regime.<sup>80</sup>



**The cover of a booklet about the Ahrar Al-Sham Brigades**

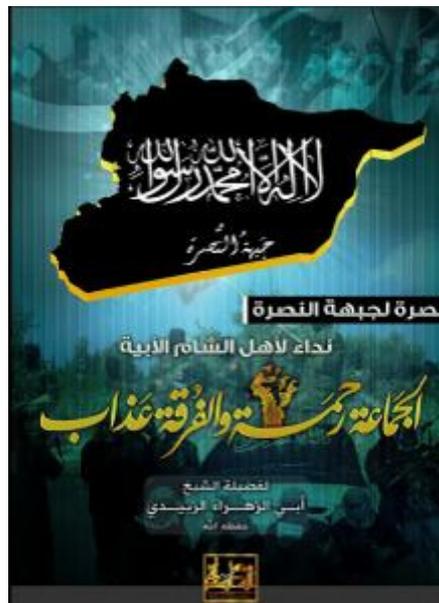
<sup>79</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>80</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The jihadist media institution Al-Masada published an article titled, "A Call to the Residents of Al-Sham [Greater Syria]", by Lebanese Sheikh Abu Al-Zahra' Al-Zubaydi, a senior member of Fath Al-Islam. Al-Zubaydi expressed support for the Al-Nusra Front and praised its jihad against the secular Syrian regime. Young people had joined the Al-Nusra Front and hoisted the banner of Islamic law to eliminate the injustices visited upon the Muslims, he said. He lauded the Front's refusal to take assistance from the West, adding that the Front had learned from experience not to oppose [other] rebels, but rather to call them to the true path: monotheism [tawhid] and jihad. By so doing, the Al-Nusra Front had garnered significant public support. Al-Zubaydi urged all jihadist factions in Syria to unite, consult, and meet; to oppose the Crusader-Zionist plot; and to coordinate their plans for the day after the regime's fall – for both internal affairs and policy toward Israel and the West. Al-Zubaydi also asked the Syrian people to unite, and fight alongside the Al-Nusra Front. He recommended training in weapons and explosives, since the coming days would require might in all spheres – Islamic, military, state, and propaganda – to vanquish the Crusader-Zionist ideal. He rejected the idea of a secular civil state, which would not be ruled according to the laws of Allah, and demanded that Islamic law be imposed in all spheres of life. The time had come to establish caliphates, and sacrifices would have to be made. He asked religious scholars to take a stand in support of the Al-Nusra Front, and demanded that those who had criticized it prove an Islamic-legal justification for their criticism. In conclusion, he again called for unification of the ranks and the leadership, so as to overthrow the regime and impose the rule of Allah.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).



The cover of a lengthy essay by Abu Al-Zahra' Al-Zubaydi

- A member of the global jihadist Web forum posted photographs of a demonstration by Syrians in support of the Al-Nusra Front. The demonstrators are shown waving black banners bearing the logo of the Front.<sup>82</sup>



Syrian civilians demonstrate in support of the Al-Nusra Front

- Abu Muhammad Al-Tahawi, a prominent Jordanian Salafi-jihadist, spoke at a memorial for his son-in-law Mahmud Abd Al-'Al, who was killed in Deraa in southern Syria during clashes with Syrian regime forces. Al-Tahawi derided those who were not fulfilling the commandment of jihad, and declared that Salafi-jihadists were determined to carry out a suicide attack inside Israel. He

<sup>82</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

noted that they were even now preparing the ground to enter Palestine through Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, and cited Salafi-jihadists who had already fought Israel, such as Abu Walid Al-Maqdisi, founder of the Shura Council of the Mujahideen in the Environs of Jerusalem, who was killed on September 12-13, 2012 by the Israel Defense Forces. Al-Tahawi criticized leftist and communist parties in Jordan for standing with Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad: "We know you are supporting Bashar Al-Assad...because you know the alternative is Islam", he said.<sup>83</sup>

- Jihadist Web forums announced that Sheikh Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, the father of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan, had begun a hunger strike in Um Al-Lulu Prison, and was suffering pain in his back and knees.<sup>84</sup>
- On October 21, 2012, the media in Jordan announced that Jordanian Intelligence had intercepted a large terrorist attack and arrested 11 Al-Qaeda activists. The terrorists had planned to perpetrate a series of attacks at shopping centers and essential sites, and against foreign diplomats in the capital, Amman, to sow panic and destabilize Jordan. In response to these reports, visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein condemned the Kingdom of Jordan and called for a prisoner release. Some believed the reports were meant to divert attention from Sheikh Muhammad Al-Maqdisi's hunger strike and obviate popular resistance to the regime. Others believed the reports were facetious. One wrote that the Al-Qaeda activists who were arrested had been planning to join the mujahideen in Syria, but the Jordanian king had concealed this from his people, so as not to arouse their ire and show his traitorousness.<sup>85</sup>

#### The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

- The Monitoring Committee of the Ibn Taymiyya Media Center announced that Hamas' internal security services had arrested a large number of Salafi-jihadists several days after Israel's assassination of two prominent Salafi-jihadists in the Gaza Strip: Hisham Ali Abdallah Saidi (aka Abu Walid Al-

<sup>83</sup> <http://samanews.com/index.php?act=Show&id=140824> (Arabic).

<sup>84</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb;> <http://www.assabeel.net/important-topics/111747-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%82%D8%AF%D8%B3%D9%8A-%D9%8A%D8%B6%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%B3%D8%AC%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D9%88%D9%84%D9%88.html> (both in Arabic).

<sup>85</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

Maqdisi) and Ashraf Sabah (aka Abu Al-Bara'a). On October 17, 2012, the mujahid's brother Abdallah Al-Ashkar, aka Abu Muhtasib Al-Maqdisi, was abducted by Hamas' internal security services. This was part of a wave of persecution of Salafi-jihadists, which included abductions and home invasions.<sup>86</sup>

- Through the jihadist Ibn Taymiyya Media Center, the Shura Council of the Mujahideen, a Salafi-jihadist group active in the Sinai Peninsula identified with global jihad, issued a propaganda video titled, "We Will Continue to Pound Their Strongholds: Documentation of the Response of the Lions to the Aggression of the Jews".<sup>87</sup> The video stresses the importance of jihad against the Jews, derides the ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, and exhorts the Palestinian people to arise and free their occupied lands. It also presents members of the Shura Council of the Mujahideen as resourceful in trying to redress the situation, and as carrying the banner of jihad against Israel. Abu Usama Al-Muhajir, one of the group's leaders, stressed the importance of firing rockets at Israeli towns and villages to sow "death, destruction and fear in every Jewish home, school, street, and city". He claimed that Israel was practicing an aggressive policy against the Gaza Strip, including firing at farmers along the border. The video also showed group members firing missiles at Israeli towns and villages. According to the video, they had fired 36 missiles at Israel in two weeks.

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<sup>86</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>87</sup> <http://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



**The banner for the movie, "We Will Continue to Pound Their Strongholds..."**

- A woman contributor to the global jihad Web forum reminded the forum's readers that Muslims had condemned Israel's 1969 action against the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and had convened a conference to discuss how to respond. Yet today, Israel persists in daily aggression, and continues digging under the foundations of the mosque. She called on Muslims of the world to unite and defend the Muslim Nation. Another forum contributor explained that the main reason for [the lack of a unified response to Israel] is that the mujahideen are fighting in multiple arenas at once, such that their efforts are not focused on one goal, and the cause of Palestine no longer tops their agenda as it once did. Each jihadist group has its own goal. Some fight for the liberation of Afghanistan and some for Iraq. Other visitors to the forum felt that imperialism had sundered the mujahideen and distracted them from the exalted goal of [saving] Al-Aqsa. Imperialism has led Muslims to kill other Muslims. Multiple arenas and contradictory approaches have weakened Muslim unity, as has distance from the Prophet's path. The protracted rule of tyrants has kept victory at bay. Visitors to the forum expressed concern at the divisiveness in the Muslim world and its exploitation by the enemy, and called for unity.<sup>88</sup>

<sup>88</sup> <http://www.aljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

- A visitor to the Web forum Hanein posted a map of targets in Israel, including an Air Force base, an anti-aircraft facility, and an armaments manufacturer. He titled the map, "An Arsenal of Targets of Jihad for All to See, to Hasten Preparations to March on Jerusalem!!".<sup>89</sup>



**Maps of targets inside Israel, posted by a contributor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein**

- The Emir of Qatar visited the Gaza Strip on October 23, 2012. Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein wondered why he had visited at this juncture, and what Hamas had promised him in exchange for Qatari funds. Some thought the emir had come to persuade Hamas to swap its allegiance to Iran for allegiance to Qatar, while others opined that the opposition of the previous Egyptian regime had prevented such a visit from occurring previously. A few contributors praised the visit and Qatar's aid to Gaza. Many contributors assailed Hamas.<sup>90</sup>

### *Africa*

#### The Maghreb [North Africa]

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Andalus, which functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published an announcement directed at "wise members of the Islamic movement in Tunisia".<sup>91</sup> In it, AQIM criticized the new government of Tunisia under the leadership of the Al-Nahdha Party, which it claimed continues the errant path of Bin Ali's regime. Instead of implementing Islamic law, preserving the liberty of the Tunisian people, and caring for their welfare, the government is arresting tens of Tunisians, putting them on trial, and exiling them under the "American terrorism law". The announcement also accused the Tunisian government of

<sup>89</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>90</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>91</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

failing to join the protests of the Tunisian people against the anti-Muslim film "Innocence of Muslims", which ridicules the Prophet Muhammad. Instead, all it has done is register a formal complaint with the US Ambassador to Tunisia. AQIM therefore asks those wise people within the Islamic movement in Tunisia in general, and in the Al-Nahdha Party, in particular, to mend the government's ways before those who oppose the [Islamic] awakening in and outside Tunisia gain the upper hand. To this end, AQIM recommends taking the following steps:

- Under the guidance of religious scholars [ulama'], establish an Islamic-legal framework for the resolution of internal disputes, divorced from the dictates of the West and the oppression and terror suffered by the Tunisian people during the reign of Bin Ali.
- Members of the Al-Nahdha Party are advised to distance themselves from Bin Ali's ways, including his treatment of Muslim youth.
- Muslims should be tried according to Islamic law, and not according to American laws such as that governing terrorism in Tunisia – which should be immediately repealed.
- All Muslim factions in Tunisia should engage in charitable works and a civilized, constructively critical discourse, referring any conflicts or disagreements to the Islamic-legal framework described above.
- Everyone in Tunisia must focus on da'wa [missionary work], to make Tunisians aware of what is permissible under Islamic law.
- Young participants in the [Islamic] revival in Tunisia should not trouble themselves with questions of takfir – that is, of classifying other Muslims as infidels. Takfir should be determined by trustworthy religious scholars. The youth should instead call people to [convert to] Islam, pleasingly and without exerting violence.
- All Muslims must work against foreign intervention – first and foremost French and American interference in Tunisia's internal affairs. Tunisia is currently in a catastrophic state as a direct result of such interference.
- Caution should be exercised in reinstating members of the previous regime, principally former Army officers, security personnel, and members of the media, all of whom would make a deal with the devil to thwart Islamic programs.

In conclusion, AQIM noted that these recommendations were not a call to oppose the Al-Nahdha Party. On the contrary, they were meant to resolve disagreements peaceably based on the Qur'an and Sunnah, and avoid the devious traps laid by the enemy.

- The North African press reported the ouster of Mokhtar Belmokhtar, the head of the Mulatham Brigade, by Abu Musab Abdul Wadud, emir of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Allegedly, Belmokhtar had failed to strictly follow AQIM policy and had ignored Wadud's orders. A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein wondered at the timing of Belmokhtar's removal, just when so many countries were rallying to strike at the mujahideen, and called for unity. Some Web surfers doubted the reports, while others believed it rare for anyone to disobey AQIM's injunctions and make independent decisions. One visitor to the site commented that in Islam's earliest days, military field commanders often made military decisions without the caliph's approval, based on conditions in the field, as the caliph often did not come to the battlefield.<sup>92</sup>
- Ansar Al-Sharia in Libya declared its intention to lay down its arms and take up da'wa [missionary work] instead, to preserve the revolution's achievements and work toward the implementation of Islamic law [shari'a] in Libya. To this end, it had established a civilian propaganda organ called Al-Tajamu Al-Islami for the Implementation of Shari'a.<sup>93</sup>
- The Al-Raya media outlet, which functions under the auspices of Ansar Al-Sharia in Libya, announced an Eid Al-Adha campaign during which it would distribute sacrificial lambs [necessary for observing the holiday] to more than 120 families.<sup>94</sup>

<sup>92</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>93</sup> <http://snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>94</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



**Ansar Al-Sharia distributes sheep to families in Libya**

- Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia embarked on a campaign to disseminate Islamic leaflets and booklets in coffee houses in northern Al-Dahiya.<sup>95</sup>



**Tunisia's Ansar Al-Sharia engages in da'wa among coffee house denizens**

- Tunisian Salafists accused Rashid Al-Ghannoushi, the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood's Al-Nahdha Party and, now, of Tunisia, of imprisoning 800 Salafists. This highlights the rising tension between Salafists and the Muslim Brotherhood in Tunisia, in part due to the arrest of hundreds of Salafists after violent mass demonstrations against the anti-Muslim American film, "Innocence of Muslims".<sup>96</sup>

<sup>95</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>96</sup> <http://dawaalhaq.wordpress.com/2012/10/28/%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%88->

- The supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Hanein quoted an article about a Tunisian government "operation" against Salafists. Visitors to the forum wondered whether this operation would solve problems, and determined that, since the revolution, the Muslim Brotherhood had decided to oppose true Islam, while hoisting an alternative "American banner of Islam". One contributor, who claimed to be from the capital, Tunis, refuted that there had been any such operation against Salafists.<sup>97</sup>

#### Mali

- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) said it was prepared to meet the military intervention in northern Mali that France and the African nations were assiduously planning. In the first interview ever granted by Sheikh Yahya Abu Al-Hammam, AQIM's new emir of the Sahara, to the Mauritanian Nouakchott Press Agency, Al-Hammam stated that "banging on the war drums did not begin now. The new variable is France's attempt to involve several [African] regimes over which it has dominion in this war...". Al-Hammam also threatened to execute the French citizens being held captive by AQIM if France declared war.<sup>98</sup>



**Yahya Abu Al-Hammam, AQIM's new emir for the Sahara**

[%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%84%D9%81%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D9%8A%D9%82%D9%88%D9%84%D9%88%D9%86-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%BA%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B4%D9%8A-800-%D8%A3%D8%AE/](#) (Arabic).

<sup>97</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>98</sup> <http://www.ani.mr/?menuLink=37693cfc748049e45d87b8c7d8b9aacd&idInterview=119> (Arabic).

### Egypt

- The Al-Bayan jihadist media outlet, which represents the Salafi-jihadist movement in Egypt, published a booklet titled, "A Warning to Muslims about Errant Means of Instruction" by Sheikh Jalal Abu Al-Fatuh.<sup>99</sup>



**"A Warning to Muslims..."**

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida posted a link to a video clip showing a "rare interview" with Muhammad Jamal Al-Kashef (aka Abu Muhammad), whom US and Western Intelligence Services have accused of being the leader of Al-Qaeda in Egypt and Libya, of having received the blessing of Ayman Al-Zawahiri, and of planning and leading the attack against the US diplomatic mission in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. According to intelligence reports, Abu Muhammad (age 45) had asked the Al-Qaeda leader for permission to establish a branch of the organization in Libya; in effect, he had established a military camp using money from Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). It was further reported that Abu Muhammad, who was born and now resides in Cairo, had traveled to Afghanistan in the late 1980s, where he learned to make explosives. When he returned to Egypt in the 1990s, he became the head of the military wing of Egyptian Islamic Jihad. Several members of the forum asked its administrators to remove this thread and the Sheikh's photograph, to ensure his safety.<sup>100</sup>

<sup>99</sup> [http://ansarsharia.blogspot.co.il/2012/10/blog-post\\_2950.html](http://ansarsharia.blogspot.co.il/2012/10/blog-post_2950.html) (Arabic).

<sup>100</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



**Muhammad Jamal Al-Kashef**

- On October 28, 2012, the Egyptian daily *Al-Tahrir* published an interview with prominent Egyptian Salafi-jihadist Sheikh Marham Muhammad Al-Jawhari. Sheikh Al-Jawhari shared vignettes about his life, including how he had escaped from an Egyptian prison during the 1980s, joined jihad in Afghanistan, and been caught by Syrian Intelligence when he arrived in Syria for medical treatment, and then extradited to Egypt. Al-Jawhari also expressed his opinion of the Taliban on Afghanistan, and of the interaction between Egypt's Salafi-jihadists and its populace.<sup>101</sup>

#### Somalia

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen condemned Britain's intention to extradite Sheikh Abu Hamza Al-Masri to the US. It claimed that the extradition was a stark example of the West's enmity toward Muslims and Islam. Al-Shabab's leadership sees itself as obligated to use every measure at its disposal to free Muslim ulama' [religious scholars], chiefly Sheikh Omar Abd Al-Rahman. Al-Shabab called on Muslims living in the West to secure the immediate release of Muslim men and women from infidel prisons. It is unthinkable that they sit idly by while their brethren are languishing in prison. The time had come for

<sup>101</sup>

<http://tahrirnews.com/%D8%AA%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AA/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%89-%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%88%D9%87%D8%B1%D9%89-%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86> (Arabic).

Muslims in the US and Britain to play their role. Al-Shabab threatened Britain that it would bear the consequences of its actions.<sup>102</sup>

Al-Qaeda and Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen have ties with the Somali community in several Western countries. Moreover, evidence exists that British and American Somalis emigrate to Somalia to join Al-Shabab, and people who fought with Al-Shabab in Somalia have subsequently been tied to attempts to perpetrate terrorist attacks in Britain. For example, during the Olympic Games in London, the British police arrested an Islamist who had fought in Somalia.

The extradited Sheikh Abu Hamza Al-Masri, an Islamic fundamentalist, was formerly the imam of the Finsbury Park Mosque in London, and is an inspirational role model for jihadists. He later moved to North London, where he established Ansar Al-Sharia, which apparently propagandizes for the Armed Islamic Group Algeria (GIA). According to Western intelligence agencies, Abu Hamza is suspected of maintaining ties to Al-Qaeda, of which he is known to be an ardent supporter. In 2004 he was arrested in Britain on suspicion of inciting to terrorism, and incarcerated. At the conclusion of his trial, which began in 2006, he was sentenced to seven years in prison. In February 2008, Britain began proceedings to extradite him to the US for his involvement in a terrorist training camp in Oregon.

Sheikh Abd Al-Rahman, who was also cited in the announcement made by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, is currently serving time in a US prison for participating in a terrorist attack against the World Trade Center in 1993. Abd Al-Rahman had previously served as the spiritual advisor to the Egyptian jihadist groups Al-Gama'a Al-Islamiyya and Islamic Jihad. Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri has called several times for his immediate release.

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<sup>102</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



**A banner condemning the pending extradition of Abu Hamza Al-Masri from Britain to the US**

- In honor of Eid Al-Adha, Al-Kataib, the jihadist media outlet of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published a video clip in Arabic titled, "The Martyred Lion Cubs 2". In addition, Al-Kitaab thanked the "Institution of Martyrs for the Benefit of the Lion Cubs for its assistance in making this movie". The Institution of Martyrs was founded in April 2011 to care for the children of martyrs (ages 6-16).<sup>103</sup>



**The banner for the video clip released by Al-Kitaab**

<sup>103</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

### Kenya

- Markaz Al-Shabab Al-Muslim, a Kenyan organization affiliated with Somalia's Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, clarified that it had received multiple inquiries into the fate of Ahmad Iman Ali, who heads the East Africa branch of Al-Shabab; it did not deny or confirm any report. It asked that caution be exercised regarding reports meant to serve the infidels and weaken jihad. Some wished to know whether Iman Ali had been killed during the withdrawal of the mujahideen from Kismayo or captured by Kenyan forces. It referred readers to Iman Ali's comments that the mujahideen would continue to fight the infidel.<sup>104</sup>

At the end of September 2012, Kenyan Army forces landed in the Somali port of Kismayo in an effort to destroy Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen's power base. In response, Al-Shabab ordered its members to make a tactical withdrawal from Kismayo. It is against this background that rumors spread of Iman Ali's death.

### *The Caucasus*

- KavkazCenter, a jihadist Web site, published the names of units fighting in Syria, which referred to Caucasian jihadist leaders, and clarified that these units were serving the Syrians only, not any Caucasian or Chechen cause. It added that some 150 volunteers from Dagestan and Chechnya, as well as representatives of other peoples from the Northern Caucasus, were now fighting in Syria.<sup>105</sup>
- Sada Al-Kawkaz, a jihadist media center, noted that Suleiman Osman Azzwei, aka Abu Khaled Al-Libi (born 1969 in Libya), a former Judge in the Caucasus Emirate Province of Nokhchicho (aka Chechnya/Ichkeria), had been in Russian captivity since his arrest in 2011 on the Chechnya-Ingushetia border. According to Sada Al-Kawkaz, Suleiman Osman Azzwei had participated in jihad from a very early age (as early as 1988), first against the Soviets in Afghanistan. He then fought jihad in Chechnya, beginning in 1995 and until the Russians withdrew in 1996. During that period he also ran several institutions for the study of the Qur'an and Islamic law. He then again joined

<sup>104</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>105</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

the fighting in Chechnya, and was later appointed as the qadi of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus.

According to Sada Al-Kawkaz, since being taken captive by the Russians, Azzwei had been subject to torture and very harsh conditions, raising serious concern for his sanity. Sada Al-Kawkaz asked the Libyans to come to Azzwei's aid and secure his release from Russian prison, since he "...is one of your own, an Arab leader in Chechnya, a Muslim religious scholar and judge... we ask you to help him, on Allah's life do not abandon him to the Russians...".<sup>106</sup>



Suleiman Osman Azzwei

- The jihadist Web site Valiat Dagestan reviewed a shooting attack on a bus full of civilians during the third week of October. It claimed that this had not been an act of jihad, but rather a crime committed by infidels. According to the site, the bus had been carrying people en route to the annual "Peoples of Dagestan" conference, which was held in Moscow on October 26-27, 2012. The driver of the bus reportedly received a mobile telephone call asking him to turn back to the town he had just left; when he refused, gunfire erupted from a number of vehicles whose license plates had been rubbed out. Although the shooting took place within hearing range of the local police station, the police did not give chase. Moreover, it took some time for help to arrive. According to Valiat Dagestan, this type of incident was liable to elicit harsh reprisals.<sup>107</sup>

<sup>106</sup> [http://echokavkaz.blogspot.co.il/2012/10/blog-post\\_3598.html](http://echokavkaz.blogspot.co.il/2012/10/blog-post_3598.html) (Arabic).

<sup>107</sup> <http://vdagestan.com/?p-7636> (Russian).

- The Web site Valiat Dagestan commended an article by the Muscovite sociologist Janna Amalyana, in which she explains that, statistically, every third citizen of the Caucasus would like to become a jihadist. According to Valiat Dagestan, Amalyana's article, titled, "Time Is Not on Our Side", describes the growing might of extremist forces in the Caucasus, and local young people's demand for "justice". These factors have strengthened Caucasus jihadists, and perpetuated violent conflict.<sup>108</sup>
- The Web site Valiat Dagestan summarized the month's activities of mujahideen in the Caucasus. A total of 37 acts of jihad were perpetrated in this arena, killing 49 and injuring 67 of Allah's enemies, and martyring ten men. Also this month, 11 supply convoys were halted in their tracks, and five buildings were destroyed. Valiat Dagestan ascribed importance to the number of Muslim casualties from "infidel activities": 35 men, two women, and one child. An additional 34 men, 10 women and one child were abducted.<sup>109</sup>

#### *China and East Turkestan*

- During the latter half of October 2012, the jihadist media outlet Sawt Al-Islam, which functions under the auspices of the Turkestan Islamic Party (TIP), published the following:
  - A video clip in Uighur and Turkish titled, "Advice for Our Muslim Brothers in East Turkestan".<sup>110</sup> The video shows a member of the TIP warning Muslims in East Turkestan and Xinjiang to beware of China's efforts to sever them from Islam.



**The TIP warns Muslims in East Turkestan to be wary of China's motives**

<sup>108</sup> <http://vdagestan.com/?p-7588> (Russian).

<sup>109</sup> <http://vdagestan.com/?p-7566> (Russian).

<sup>110</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- A video clip in Turkish titled, "Advice to Our Muslim Brethren in Turkey".<sup>111</sup> In it, a member of the TIP urges Turkey's Muslims to contribute money to jihad.
- A video clip in Turkish titled, "Tourism of the Believers – Parts Four and Five".<sup>112</sup> The video focuses on the TIP's indoctrination of its members and other members of society, including children.



**"Tourism of the Believers – Parts Four and Five"**

#### *Iran*

- A jihadist organization calling itself Ansar Iran took responsibility for the first suicide attack perpetrated by one of its members, Hamza Saravani, on October 19, 2012, against Revolutionary Guards in Chabhar. Twenty Revolutionary Guard officers were killed in the attack. According to Ansar Iran, the attack was the first in a series targeting the Revolutionary Guards in retaliation for their crimes against Iran's Sunni population.<sup>113</sup> The emir of the group, Abu Yasir Muskootani, praised Hamza Saravani for his act, and thanked the people of Baluchistan where Saravani was born. Muskootani encouraged the people of Baluchistan, and Sunni Muslims elsewhere, to join jihad against the Iranian regime, whose persecution of the Sunnis he denounced.<sup>114</sup>

<sup>111</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>112</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>; <http://www.shamkih1.info/vb> (both in Arabic).

<sup>113</sup> <http://ansariran.blog.com/2012/10/21/operation-raad-1/> (English).

<sup>114</sup> <http://ansariran.blog.com/2012/10/21/speech-by-our-emir-abu-yasir-muskootani-on-the-eve-of-our-first-successful-operation-translation/> (English).



The logo of Ansar Iran (left), and suicide attacker Hamza Savarani, right

#### Women and Jihad

- The jihadist media outlet Sawt Al-Islam, an affiliate of the Turkestan Islamic Party (TIP), published a video clip in Russian titled, "Sisters on Allah's Path".<sup>115</sup> The video shows the importance of women's contribution to jihad.



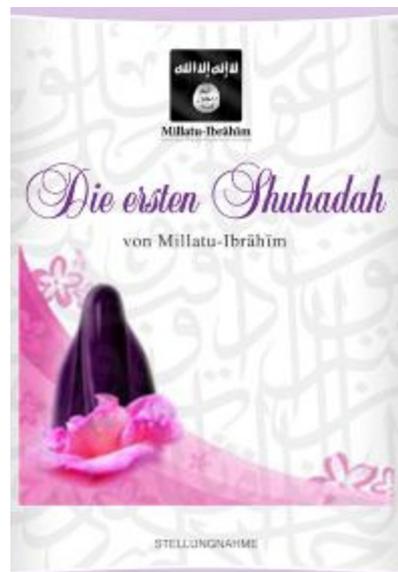
From the video: A Muslim woman demonstrates how to use a rifle

- On October 29, 2012, Millatu Ibrahim, a Salafi-jihadist group active in Germany, announced the "martyr's death" of two of its Muslim women members during Eid Al-Adha, in a car accident. The two women – Umm Dawoud, the wife of the mujahid Abu Dawoud Al-Almani, and Umm Du'a, the wife of Abu Du'a Al-Almani – had emigrated to arenas of jihad. Because they refused to live among the Crusaders in Germany, they preferred to leave their comfortable lives and their property to fight for the Muslim Nation. Millatu Ibrahim stated that Umm Dawoud and Umm Du'a were its first women martyrs, and prayed that Allah gave them entry to Paradise. It warned that it

<sup>115</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

was a grave sin to abandon jihad; these two Muslim women were role models.<sup>116</sup>

In June 2012, the German authorities declared Millatu Ibrahim illegal, and forbid its existence. The head of the group, Muhammad Mahmud, is an Austrian Muslim who moved to Germany in 2011, and then to Egypt in 2012. He served four years in an Austrian prison after being convicted in 2007 of establishing a terrorist organization. He decided to leave Germany of his own free will after a German court sanctioned his extradition.



**“The First Women Martyrs”: on Millatu Ibrahim’s Umm Dawoud and Umm Du’a**

*Miscellaneous*

- A visitor to the Web forum Hanein revealed that he is a member of a YouTube group called Al-Falaq, whose aim is to close down YouTube contributors and channels that denigrate the Prophet or post insulting videos, such as InnocenceofMuslimsUS, absolute777666, and ForteX24. He asked for support, because there are so many channels and videos on YouTube.<sup>117</sup>
- A visitor to the global jihad Web forum commented on the assassination of the US Ambassador to Libya. He began by stating that the worldwide media revolution had advantages and disadvantages. On one hand, everyone learns immediately about any event that happens anywhere in the world. On the other hand, the Muslim Nation has become the target of ridicule because of

<sup>116</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>117</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

the mistake of one person. He elaborated, stating that if in the past jihadist groups made mistakes, the person behind them would be attacked for this; but today, it is not the perpetrator who is blamed for his act, but rather all of jihad and Islam bear the brunt of his error, because the media revolution allows for his deed to be published abroad. As an example, he cited the actions of a Sunni jihadist group that had performed irresponsible and poorly-calculated actions that were more harmful than beneficial, for example in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and, in recent months, in the Sinai Peninsula. These actions were unwittingly ascribed to Al-Qaeda, even though it disavowed them. This cost Al-Qaeda sympathy and supporters. The contributor therefore asked mujahideen to feel the full weight of the responsibility they bore; even though each mujahid is an individual, he must consider the advantages and disadvantages of his acts. The contributor quoted a hadith [story about the Prophet] in which the Prophet Muhammad says, after the elimination of one of his chief opponents: "Do not arouse them against me". The contributor interpreted this to mean that although the elimination of the opponent had been justified and was sanctioned by Islamic law, it was a mistake at the time, as the balance of power did not then tend toward the Muslims.<sup>118</sup>

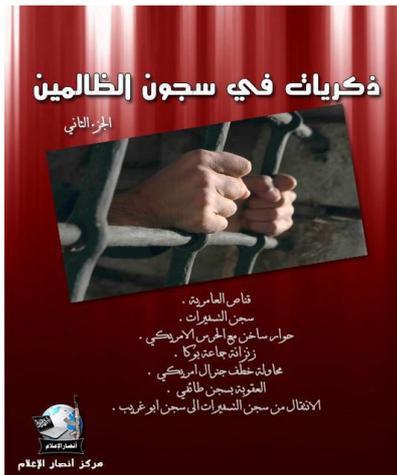
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein noticed that various jihadist groups did not issue advertisements on this Eid Al-Adha. Another visitor to the forum also noted that the Al-Furqan Media Center of the Islamic State of Iraq had not published anything for some months, and hoped to see it do so soon. Other Web surfers seconded this hope.<sup>119</sup>
- The Mauritanian Abu Hafs, who had been an advisor to Osama bin Laden, was reportedly released in October 2012 from a Mauritanian prison after having been extradited from Iran to Mauritania in April 2102. Abu Hafs renounced his ties to Al-Qaeda and the attacks of September 11, 2001. Visitors to the global jihad Web forum noted that Sheikh Abu Hafs had long ago left Al-Qaeda. Other contributors stated that Abu Hafs was nevertheless a strong supporter of jihad, with sound faith and experience; they saw his release as a victory for the mujahideen and hoped that he would now play an active role in mending rifts in the Muslim world. They also asked that no one disparage Abu Hafs, since some claimed he had had a disagreement with Bin Laden, pursuant to

<sup>118</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>119</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

his counseling (in vain) against the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> when he was in charge of Islamic law for Al-Qaeda [its mufti]. It was this disagreement that had caused him to leave Al-Qaeda. A woman contributor to the Web forum asked whose opinion was decisive in interpreting Islamic law: the emir's, or the mufti's? She also asked who was responsible for Islamic law [for Al-Qaeda] after the departure of Sheikh Abu Hafs Al-Mauritani. Another Web surfer aroused the ire of the forum supervisor when he stated that the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> had not squared with Islamic law, as many scholars had ruled, and did not serve the Muslims.<sup>120</sup>

- The Ansar Al-'Ilam media outlet, which functions under the auspices of the Web forum Al-Minbar, published a booklet titled, "Memoirs from the Prison of the Oppressor – Part Two". The booklet contains the stories of Muslim prisoners throughout the Middle East, including in Iraq, Syria and Egypt.<sup>121</sup>



Stories of Muslim prisoners

#### Facebook

- The jihadist Web forum Shabakat Ushaq Al-Hur launched a Facebook page on October 17, 2012.<sup>122</sup>

<sup>120</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>121</sup> <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>122</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/I7ur5> (Arabic).



The banner of Shabakat Ushaq Al-Hur, as it appears on Facebook

- On October 26, 2012, Minbar Al-Ansar, a Salafi-jihadist group active on the chat site PalTalk, launched a Facebook page.<sup>123</sup>



From the new Facebook page of Minbar Al-Ansar

### Twitter

- On October 18, 2012, Anjem Choudary, a Salafi-jihadist sheikh active in London, announced on his Twitter page that a new Islamic group – Sharia4Norway – would soon be launched in Norway, where it would work to implement Islamic law [shari'a]. The group will join a bevy of similar Islamist groups that call for the implementation of Islamic law in Europe, such as Sharia4Belgium.



From Anjem Choudary's Twitter feed

<sup>123</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/ghorfatalansar> (Arabic).