

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Forums

The First Half of November 2012

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

- Al-Qaeda leader Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri calls on Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, the Somali people and Muslims everywhere to wage jihad against the Crusader campaign of Kenyan and African Union forces against Somalia.
- Ayman Al-Zawahiri issues "Aiding Islam", a manifesto instructing all Muslims of their obligation to cleave to monotheism, free occupied Muslim lands, and establish a caliphate.
- Abu Muhammad Al-Adnani, the official spokesman of the Islamic State of Iraq, stresses that the group will continue to fight in Iraq according to the plan of its late leader, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, to regain control of the areas it had left. Al-Adnani proudly lists the Islamic State's achievements and promises a new phase in the jihad against the Shiite government of Iraq.
- The Salafi-jihadist organizations that have taken over northern Mali prepare for war against the international force that is planning to push them out and give the north back to the Malian government.
- Prominent Jordanian Salafi-jihadist Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Tahawi asks the Muslim Nation to aid the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda's arm in Syria, and hasten the fall of Bashar Al-Assad.
- The fifth and sixth issues of the jihadist Turkish-language magazine *İslam Dünyası* are published.

New Publications

Ideology

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published a video clip titled, "The Crusader Invasion of Somalia" by Al-Qaeda leader Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri.¹ Appealing to the entire Muslim Nation, Al-Zawahiri insisted that the Kenyan and African Union invasion of Kismayo, Somalia, had US support and so should be seen as a Crusader incursion into Muslim lands. Consequently, all Muslims in the area were obligated to embark on jihad to evict the invaders. Al-Zawahiri then stressed the following:
 - Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Qaeda's Somali affiliate, must wage jihad against the invaders, using guerilla tactics and suicide attacks. The Crusaders will be defeated in Somalia just as they were in Iraq and Afghanistan.
 - All free men, respected elders, tribes, religious scholars and leaders of the mujahideen in Somalia must be faithful to Allah, not to the US and the Crusaders. They must realize that the Kenyan and African Union forces and their collaborators wish to conquer Somalia, disgrace it, spill its people's blood, plunder its resources and convert the Muslims [to Christianity].
 - The Muslim Nation must send its Somali brethren men, money and weapons, and use propaganda against the Crusader campaign. The Somalis must not be left to fight alone.
 - The Muslim Nation must issue fatwas [Islamic-legal rulings] mandating jihad against the infidel invaders. "Why do you who issued fatwas when the Communist Russians invaded Afghanistan remain silent as the Americans enter Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia and Yemen?" asked Al-Zawahiri.

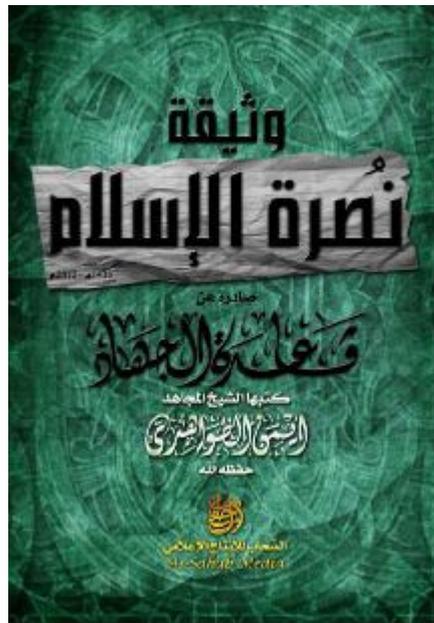
¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



Ayman Al-Zawahiri: "Religious scholars must lead the Muslim Nation against the Crusader invasion"

- The Al-Sahab media outlet published "Aiding Islam", by Al-Qaeda leader Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri. Written in Arabic and Urdu, "Aiding Islam" explains that the Muslim Nation must unite around the principle of monotheism in the face of the Crusader onslaught. Al-Zawahiri called on all Muslims and supporters of Islam to unite to free occupied Muslim lands; oppose any international agreement, contract or decision that grants infidels the right to take control of these lands; impose Islamic law [shari'a] and oppose any idea that contradicts it, such as democracy; cease the Western rape of Muslim resources; support the Arab revolutions against despotic rulers and teach people the necessity of implementing Islamic law and following Islam; help the oppressed; establish caliphates that are not nation-states and do not recognize the boundaries imposed by the infidels; attain Allah's goals.²

² <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).



A treatise by Ayman Al-Zawahiri

- A prominent contributor to the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam named Naser Al-Qaeda discussed what he called the hypocrisy of the West, reflected in its willful disregard of the Muslims' desire to implement Islamic law in the wake of the Arab Spring.³ According to Naser Al-Qaeda, the West wants to thwart this trend, nefariously and variously. Consequently, he recommends that the Muslims do the following:
 - Persist in da'wa [missionary work] cautiously and wisely, to win the hearts of the Muslim population.
 - Interact with the Muslims, help people with their problems to the extent possible, just as Ansar Al-Sharia does in Tunisia.
 - Let the group be guided by a trusted authority, and avoid deeds that will be exploited by the hypocrites and heretics to malign the group and hamper da'wa.
 - Follow the wise instructions of Ayman Al-Zawahiri, especially regarding contact with the new regimes. They are based on years of experience.
 - Teaching the young people to follow Islamic ethics and obey their leaders, as long as the latter do not incite to rebellion.

³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- Judge reality with a sober eye. Avoid being dragged into the inconsequential confrontations fomented by the forces of heresy and hypocrisy. Set a prudent agenda, and follow it.

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- The Islamic press agency Haq announced the launching of a professional journalism course, which will cover how to turn an audio, video or written announcement into a news item; how to report the Islamic State of Iraq's announcements; how to turn one audio or video clip into multiple news items; how to turn an item that denigrates the mujahideen into an item that praises them; how to defend the mujahideen in a news item; and how to use a news item to respond to lies.⁴



Haq announces the opening of a course in "journalism"

- The Web site Valiat Dagestan continues its periodic publication of instructions and explanations for present and future mujahideen. This month, the site published a lengthy guidebook on the weapons and means of transportation necessary to the mujahideen. The guidebook appears to have been compiled by the site's administrators, and includes complex descriptions and instructions that are not geared for "beginners". The guidebook covers the various situations in which the mujahideen find themselves, including ambushes, urban combat, and retreat, and discusses the relative advantages and disadvantages of various protective vests and combat webbing in each of these situations. The guidebook also recommends where to purchase gear at reasonable prices, and explains how to store and protect weapons and ammunition – for example in a tent, or in the mujahid's sleeping bag. It also recommends the best mattress, backpack and tent for the mujahid.⁵

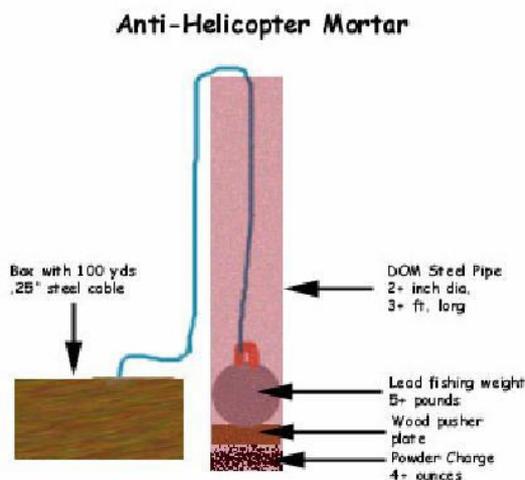
⁴ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵ <http://vdagestan.com/?p=7808> (Russian).



Recommended vests for carrying ammunition

- During the first half of November 2012, members of the jihadist Web forums Shumukh Al-Islam and Ansar Al-Mujahideen uploaded the following for mujahideen and supporters of jihad:
 - An instruction manual for making napalm bombs at home.⁶
 - A guide to constructing anti-aircraft missiles (to hit airplanes, helicopters and Hercules transport planes).⁷
 - A guide to building an anti-helicopter mine or mortar, designed to detonate when the helicopter hovers near the ground.⁸



A device geared to explode as a helicopter descends for landing

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

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

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

- A comprehensive guide to explosive devices, derived from materials published by the Islamic State of Iraq and Palestinian jihadist groups.⁹

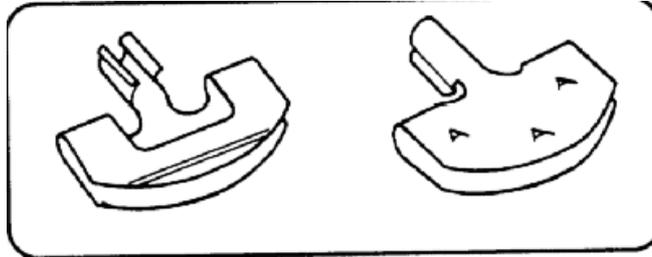


Figure 1-17. M8 blasting cap holder

From a jihadist publication

- An introductory guide to the Merkava tank used by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).¹⁰



An illustrated Arabic-language guide to Israel's Merkava tank

Promoting the Myth of Martyrdom

- A woman visitor to the global jihad Web forum reported the death in Syria of Sheikh Abu Bilal Ahmad Ibrahim, a native of Alexandria, Egypt. Ibrahim had spent 18 years in the prisons of the previous Egyptian regime. After the revolution in Egypt he was released and, despite his physical weakness, joined jihad in Syria. His photograph was not published.¹¹
- A visitor to the global jihad Web forum reported the death of Egyptian Sheikh Abu Maryam Al-Masri while fighting with the mujahideen in Syria. When Al-

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

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

¹¹ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

Masri first came to Syria, he met with several jihadist groups and was told they needed money more than they needed fighting men, and that he should have stayed in Egypt and helped them from there. Sheikh Al-Masri responded that if jihad did not need him, he needed jihad. He took part in the liberation of four Syrian regime checkpoints in Idlib, and was killed during fighting there.¹²



Abu Maryam Al-Masri

- A visitor to the global jihad Web forum reported the death of Imad Al-Nathur Abu Ehsan, who had come from Jordan to fight with the Al-Nusra Front in Syria. Abu Ehsan died driving a booby-trapped car into regime forces. Previously he had helped mujahideen in the Nahar Al-Bared Refugee Camp in Lebanon, where he was arrested. From there he fled to Jordan, where he was also arrested. However, these arrests did not prevent him from joining jihad in Syria.¹³



Imad Al-Nathur Abu Ehsan

¹² <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹³ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

- Between October 12th and 13th, 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:
 - The jihadist propaganda organ Masaami' Al-Khair lil-Inshaad published an audio statement eulogizing the martyred Sheikhs.¹⁴



A eulogy for the two Palestinian martyrs

- The Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center published a video clip in which Sheikh Abu Hajer Yusri bin 'Atiyya Al-Saleh, a Salafi-jihadist who has been in an Israeli prison since June 2003, eulogized Abu Al-Bara'a.¹⁵

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

¹⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



The widely-eulogized martyrs Abu Al-Bara'a and Abu Walid Al-Maqdisi

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published an index mapping all of the items published on the deaths of Sheiks Abu Walid Al-Maqdisi and Abu Al-Bara'a.¹⁶
- The Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center published a video clip which showed Abu Al-Bara'a testifying to the torture endured by mujahideen in Hamas's internal security service prisons. Abu Al-Bara'a claimed they were tortured to extract information about terrorist attacks against the Jews and Israel, with the intention of passing this information on to Israeli security forces. In other words, Abu Al-Bara'a accused Hamas of collaborating with Israel.¹⁷

The Arab Spring in Jihadist Discourse

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published a video clip titled, "Advice and Messages", the fifth and final installment in the series, "The Ummah of Sacrifice and Martyrdom Vs. Treason and Despotism: Advice and Support to Our Brothers Rebel [sic] against Injustice" by Adam Yahya Gadahn.¹⁸

¹⁶ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

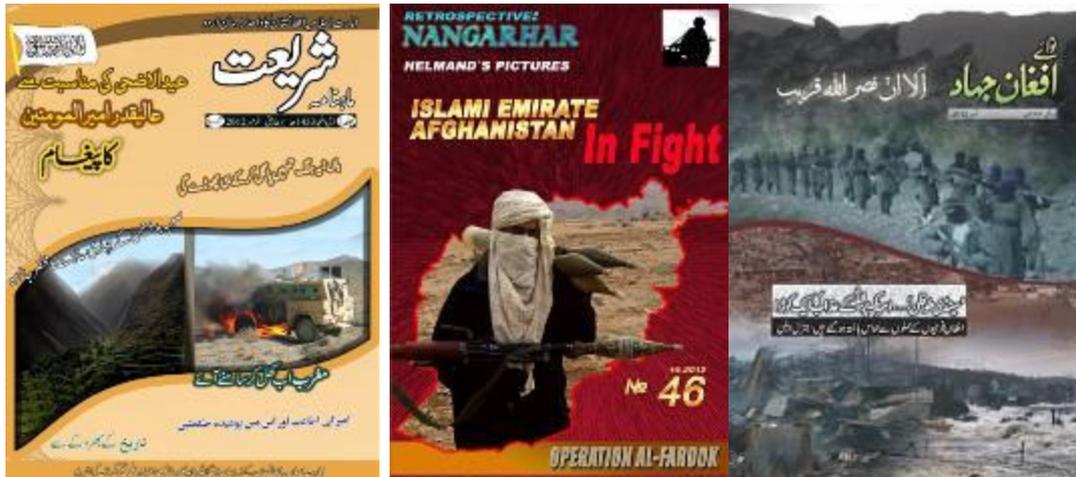
¹⁸ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



Advice and messages from Adam Yahya Gadahn

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published new issues of its jihadist magazines in English and Urdu dealing with jihad in Afghanistan: Issue No. 46 for October 2012 of the English-language magazine *In Fight*;¹⁹ Issue No. 47 for November 2012 of the magazine in Urdu, *Nawai Afghan Jihad* (71 pp);²⁰ and Issue No. 8 of the magazine in Urdu *Shariat* (56 pp.).²¹



Left to right, the latest issues of *Shariat*, *In Fight*, and *Nawai Afghan Jihad*

¹⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁰ <http://nawaiafghan.blogspot.co.il> (Urdu).

²¹ <http://theunjustmedia.com/> (English).

- Issues five²² and six²³ were issued of the Turkish-language jihadist magazine *İslam Dünyası* [The World of Islam].



Issues five (left) and six (right) of *İslam Dünyası*

Reports from the Field

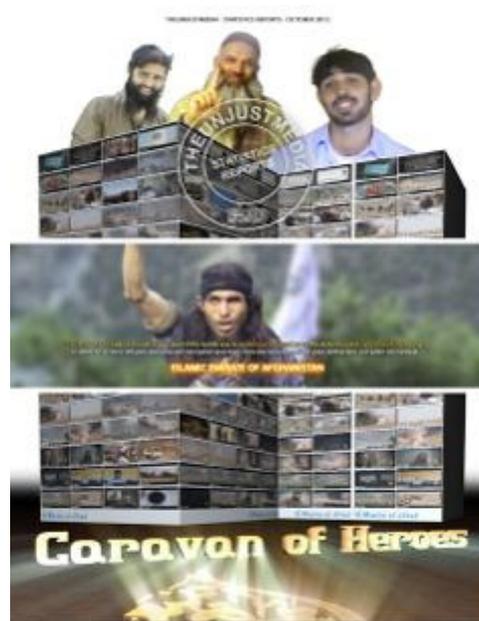
Afghanistan-Pakistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published a statistical abstract for October 2012 (19 pp.) of its activities, including the number of casualties and property losses among its members and among the enemy, and a mapping of the areas where the activities took place. It also published a four-page report of the alleged war crimes of the US, NATO and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.²⁴

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

²³ http://www.kureselkitap.com/urun/islam-dunyasi-6_-sayi/22 (Turkish).

²⁴ <http://theunjustmedia.com> (English).



The cover of the statistical abstract issued by the Islamic State of Afghanistan for October 2012

- In announcements issued on November 7, 2012, the Islamic State of Afghanistan responded to the re-election of Barak Hussein Obama to the US presidency:²⁵
 - Obama must take this opportunity to prevent the US from acting as the world's policeman. He should concentrate on solving his own people's problems, and prevent the US from being immolated in a blaze of worldwide hatred.
 - The Americans are fed up with war and military expenditure. Obama understands this. He should heed his people's demand and end the war, and not allow America to be further vilified because of its war crimes.
 - Obama must realize that the American people are suffering. They are tired of war casualties and economic crisis. He should withdraw the occupying forces from Afghanistan immediately.
 - The US should realize that the people it is defending in Afghanistan are the most despicable of the Afghans. Their defense by the US only adds to their problems, and their loss of life and property.

²⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- Obama appears to understand that he has lost the war in Afghanistan. Therefore, instead of adopting a policy of lies and deceit, he should think of his country and people leave Afghanistan immediately.

Iraq

- During the first half of November 2012, the Islamic State of Iraq published the following:
 - A report documenting 59 military actions in Anbar Province during the hijri month Shawal (August-September 2012), primarily against Iraqi security forces.²⁶
 - A report documenting 30 military actions in Baghdad Province during the hijri month Dhu'l Qa'adah (September-October 2012).²⁷
 - A video clip produced by Al-Furqan Media Center and distributed by Al-Fajr, in which the Islamic State of Iraq's official spokesman, Abu Muhammad Al-Adnani, reports that one of its leaders, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, has declared the beginning of a campaign to regain control of the areas from which the Islamic State of Iraq had withdrawn. Calling the campaign "breaking the walls", Al-Baghdadi ordered attacks on Shiite power centers. According to Al-Adnani, the Islamic State of Iraq's war ministry had carefully trained its soldiers, whose extensive attacks proved that the Iraqi government had failed to protect its institutions and citizens. In the attacks, the mujahideen stormed military bases, downed aircraft, and injured Shiite heretics. Al-Adnani was proud of the campaign's success, and promised a transition to the next stage – though he did not say what this would be. Al-Adnani detailed the actions of the Islamic State of Iraq, admitting the death of 17 mujahideen and the injury of eight. He added that a small number of Muslims had been killed by accident, although the mujahideen had tried to protect them. In fact, Al-Adnani reported, tens of attacks had been canceled so as to prevent harm to innocents. He also reported an incursion into a prison in Tikrit and the release of tens of prisoners. He promised continued attacks on the

²⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

Shiite government, and urged Sunni collaborators to recant and apologize for their deeds.²⁸

- The person responsible for virtual workshops on the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted an urgent call for participants in a virtual propaganda workshop on behalf of Iraqi and other Arab prisoners in the Nasiriyah Prison, several of whom had begun a hunger strike on November 3, 2012, in protest against their torture by prison authorities and ill-treatment by Shiite prisoners. As a consequence, their health had deteriorated.²⁹
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein updated forum visitors that two Shiite mosques had opened in the Sunni city of Tikrit. He hoped that the mujahideen would “deal with” them. Other visitors concurred, hoping that the Islamic State of Iraq would attack the mosques with car bombs, as they had other Shiite places of worship.³⁰
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein began a thread in which he praised the Afghani people for adopting and protecting the mujahideen, unlike the Iraqi people, whom he said had sold them out for false promises. His post aroused vibrant discussion. One contributor responded that the mujahideen had become unpopular because the Islamic State of Iraq had made mistakes. In contrast, he wrote, there was consensus regarding the Taliban, who had not made any catastrophic mistakes. Another forum visitor claimed that there was no difference between the Islamic State of Iraq and the Taliban: they used the same tactics and had been accused of the same deeds. He claimed that the difference lay between the Afghani and the Iraqi people: the US had not succeeded in tempting the Afghanis as it had the Iraqis, buying off respected Sunni leaders. Failure could therefore not be attributed to the Islamic State of Iraq. Moreover, the Taliban were fighting under far better conditions than was the Islamic State of Iraq. The geography of Afghanistan – its high mountains, thick forests, and rivers – facilitated guerilla tactics, such as ambushes. Moreover, the support of the tribes on the Pakistani border gave the Taliban strategic depth and a safe haven. The Islamic State of Iraq was fighting in exposed conditions; the countries neighboring Iraq were

²⁸ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

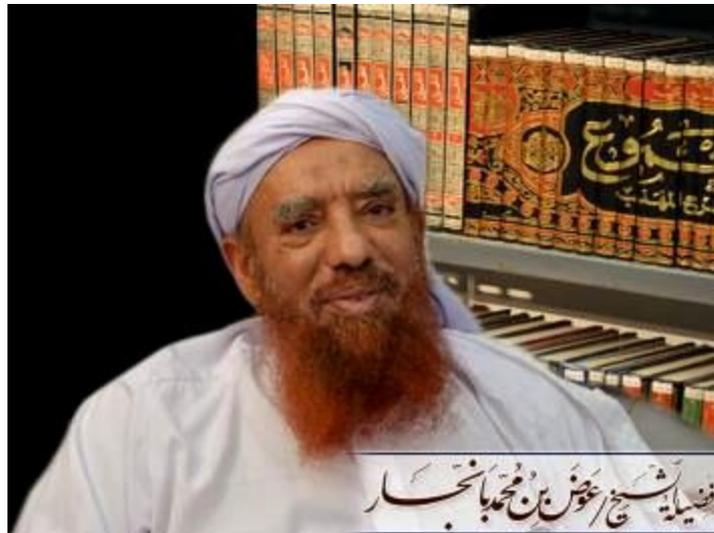
²⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁰ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

hostile, and collaborated with the US. The Afghani people were more staunchly religious than the Iraqi people, he added.³¹

The Arabian Peninsula

- Jihadist Web forums published a sermon by Sheikh Awad bin Muhammad Banjar, a Yemeni Salafi-jihadist, on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha. Banjar spoke of the benefit and reward of performing good deeds. He stressed the obligation of jihad, calling it an individual commandment incumbent on all Muslims, especially in Syria, Burma and Yemen.³²



Sheikh Awad bin Muhammad Banjar

Al-Sham [Greater Syria]

- During the first half of November 2012, the Al-Nusra Front published the following:
 - Announcement No. 132,³³ taking responsibility for a complex suicide attack against a concentration of Syrian regime forces near Hamat, in which 200 shabiha [regime-sponsored strong-arm militia men] were killed.

³¹ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

³² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

³³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



The “elimination” of more than 200 Syrian regime forces near Hamat

- Announcements No. 133³⁴ and 134,³⁵ taking responsibility for a number of attacks in the vicinity of Idlib.
- Announcement No. 135,³⁶ taking responsibility for the killing of more than 40 Syrian soldiers in an ambush near Eastern Al-Ghouta.
- Announcement No. 136,³⁷ taking responsibility for the elimination of several regime supporters in Damascus.
- Announcements Nos. 137,³⁸ 138,³⁹ 139,⁴⁰ and 141,⁴¹ taking responsibility for several military actions near Damascus.
- Announcement No. 140,⁴² taking responsibility for an attack against the Aswaq Al-Khai checkpoint in the Ain Tarma region near Damascus on November 9, 2012, where there was a large concentration of Syrian regime forces. A suicide attacker drove a booby-trapped car into the checkpoint, after which mujahideen stormed the checkpoint.
- Announcement No. 142,⁴³ taking responsibility, along with the Ahrar Al-Sham Brigades, for destroying a MiG plane and killing several

³⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁰ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Syrian Army soldiers during the storming of the Al-Ikarda checkpoint on November 1, 2012.

- Announcement No. 143,⁴⁴ taking responsibility for the storming of a checkpoint on the Saraqeb-Al-Nairab road on November 1, 2012.
- Announcement No. 144,⁴⁵ taking responsibility for a suicide attack against the Al-Samra checkpoint near Hamat on October 9, 2012.
- Announcement No. 145,⁴⁶ taking responsibility for the destruction of a BMB armored vehicle and an adjacent security vehicle near Hamat on October 19, 2012.
- Announcement No. 146,⁴⁷ taking responsibility for an attack on a security vehicle in Hamat on October 21, 2012.
- Announcement No. 147,⁴⁸ taking responsibility for an attack on a security patrol in Hamat on November 4, 2012.
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masada published an urgent call from Sheikh Muhammad Al-Tahawi, a prominent Jordanian Salafi-jihadist, to aid the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda's arm in Syria, and hasten the downfall of the Syrian regime. Al-Tahawi called jihad against the Syrian regime an obligation for every Muslim and for the Muslim Nation as a whole.⁴⁹
- The administration of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam asked its visitors to devote at least half an hour every day to promoting the Syrian revolution. Passive reading of forum content, wrote the administrators, does not help the war effort in Syria. It is therefore better to participate in propagandizing.⁵⁰



A banner calling for propaganda on behalf of the Syrian revolution

- On January 9, 2012, a member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen warned the mujahideen in Syria against a Tunisian woman named

⁴⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁴⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁵⁰ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Aida bint Omar, who claims to be a journalist. The contributor called Bint Omar a spy for the Syrian regime, who was trying to gather intelligence about the mujahideen.⁵¹ On November 24, 2012, Arab media reported that Bint Omar had been killed in Syria, apparently on suspicion of working for Saudi Arabian Intelligence.⁵²



تحذير للمجاهدين من جاسوسة تونسية بالتل الأبيض
بسوريا

Photos of Aida bint Omar, which a contributor uploaded to Ansar Al-Mujahideen

- A Turkish-language jihadist Web forum produced a propaganda video in Turkish calling on Muslims to support jihad against the Syrian regime, so as to protect the lives of Syrians from the regime's cruel oppression.⁵³



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

⁵² <http://www.almazdar.tn/management/article-13022> (Arabic).

⁵³ <http://jihadmin.com/tr/video/suriye-video/kalbi-olan-herkese-bir-cagri-suriye-sizleri-bekliyor.html> (Turkish).

From a Turkish Web forum urging support of the Syrian revolution

- A member of the Web forum Ana Al-Muslm, which is a platform for the dissemination of jihadist propaganda, posted a photograph of an Afghani mujahid who had come to Syria to fight the regime of Bashar Al-Assad.⁵⁴



An Afghani mujahid fighting in Syria

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen posted photographs from the Ma'askar Al-Sham training camp, where members of the Ahrar Al-Sham Brigades, a Syrian Islamist group with Salafi-jihadist leanings, are trained in military tactics such as firing a weapon and conducting a raid.⁵⁵



A training camp for the Ahrar Al-Sham Brigades

- Sources report that, throughout Syria, groups of mujahideen are fighting under the names of prominent Caucasian mujahideen. For example, a video

⁵⁴ <http://www.muslm.nrt/vb> (Arabic).

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

clip posted on YouTube showed mujahideen of the Dzhokhar Dudayev Brigade negotiating terms of surrender for regime soldiers (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdwB38ZOo_c). It was also reported that 150 volunteers from the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus were fighting in Syria in four groups, some of them part of larger units of Syrian fighters. The remainder were fighting independently, in coordination with the commander of the Free Syrian Army and units of mujahideen from other countries.⁵⁶

- Saudi Arabian Sheikh Salman Al-Ouda urged young Muslims to stop joining jihad in Syria. Visitors to the global jihad Web forum attacked him, calling him unworthy of being considered a religious scholar and accusing him of issuing fatwas [Islamic-legal rulings] that conform to the views of the Saudi royal family. Al-Ouda's comments help the Shiites and their allies, they wrote, and urged him to preach jihad instead of fomenting divisiveness. In contrast, another forum contributor praised Al-Ouda, calling him a wise man desirous of spreading Islam. Perhaps he wanted to send a covert message, they wrote – that is, to warn foreign mujahideen in Syria to minimize their public appearances, which serve the regime and damage the mujahideen. The forum supervisor and other visitors disagreed, and assaulted that contributor. The supervisor asked that visitors not support Islamic-legal rulings such as those issued by the likes of Al-Ouda, and warned that such comments would be stricken from the forum in the future. When the contributor persisted in his defense of Al-Ouda, the thread was closed.⁵⁷
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein asked forum visitors whether they foresaw a conflict between the Al-Nusra Front and the opposition forces after the fall of the Syrian regime. As of this writing, only 17 visitors to the forum responded to the question, about two-thirds of them in the affirmative. Some visitors questioned the timing of the survey, asking that attention first focus on overthrowing the regime. Others tried to understand who, exactly, constituted the opposition. Still others urged the mujahideen to unite and not raise contentious issues.⁵⁸
- Visitors to the global jihad Web forum wrote in to express their desire that the Syrian regime led by Bashar Al-Assad be replaced by an Islamic state like the one in Iraq. A lively discussion developed. One visitor expressed his belief

⁵⁶ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁷ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁸ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

that Muslims were not yet ready for such a development, as evidenced by the situation of the Islamic states in Iraq, Somalia and Afghanistan. First, he wrote, they needed to understand the meaning of an Islamic state. While everyone knows this means rule by the laws of Allah, most do not know how to implement these laws. This writer believed that it is impossible to implement Islamic law based on the rulings of religious scholars with an ossified perspective – and who disagree with one another. Another contributor wrote in from Iraq to remind readers that multiple groups had sprung up in Iraq, spreading an atmosphere of anger and vengeance and leading to a divergence from the principles and ethics of Islam. He claimed that Syria was heading in the same direction.⁵⁹

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

- During the first half of November 2012, the Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center published the following, issued by the Shura Council of the Mujahideen:
 - Announcement No. 21,⁶⁰ taking responsibility for the firing of nine missiles at Kissufim, Ashqelon and Sderot, Israel.
 - Announcement No. 22,⁶¹ taking responsibility for the firing of two missiles at Eshkolim, Israel on November 11, 2012.
 - Announcement No. 23,⁶² taking responsibility for the firing of six missiles at Sderot, Israel on November 11, 2012.
 - Announcement No. 24,⁶³ taking responsibility for the firing of a Grad missile at Netivot, Israel on November 11, 2012.
 - Announcement No. 25,⁶⁴ taking responsibility for the firing of eight missiles at Ashqelon and at a power station in Israel on November 12, 2012.
 - Announcement No. 26,⁶⁵ taking responsibility for the firing of four missiles at Kissufim and Ein Hashlosha, Israel on November 12, 2012.

⁵⁹ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁰ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

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

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

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

- Announcement No. 27,⁶⁶ taking responsibility for the firing of eight missiles at towns and villages in southern Israel, including Eshkol, Zikim and Sderot on November 12, 2012.
- A video clip showing members of the Shura Council of the Mujahideen firing missiles at southern Israel.⁶⁷



From the video clip of the Shura Council of the Mujahideen

- Ansar Beit Al-Maqdis, a Salafi-jihadist group active in the Sinai Peninsula, which perpetrated several terrorist attacks perpetrated inside Israel, published a video clip titled, "The Way of the Merciful and the Way of Satan".⁶⁸ The video focuses on one of its members, the martyr Ibrahim Oweidah Nasser Bereikat, whom it claims was assassinated in the Sinai Peninsula by the Mossad several months ago. The group also revealed additional information about a terrorist attack it perpetrated in Eilat on August 18, 2012, in which two Israelis were killed. It claimed that Barikat himself had participated in the attack and was subsequently assassinated because of information that spies had passed on to the Mossad. The group also claimed that the spies had since been executed.

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

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

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



An advertisement for a video clip by Ansar Bet Al-Maqdes

- On November 5, 2012, the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Sinai Peninsula published a statement on the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida complaining that the Egyptian police were using excessive force against the residents of the Sinai, causing four deaths in two separate incidents. This escalation had roused the local populace to the boiling point. Nevertheless, the Salafi-jihadists insisted that they have no intention of attacking the Egyptian police or military; rather, their weapons are trained against the Jews and the enemies of the Muslim Nation. They added that the residents of the Sinai Peninsula were suffering because their infrastructure was neglected and their basic needs – such as for water, cooking gas, and gasoline – were not being met.⁶⁹ In this context, a member of the forum posted a photograph of Khalil Mukhtar, a resident of the Sinai Peninsula who was accidentally killed by the Egyptian Army.⁷⁰

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

⁷⁰ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



الأخ الفاضل: خليل مختار خليل، قتله الجيش في حملته العشوائية على الإخوة الأبرياء بسببهم، نسألكم الدعاء له يا إخوتائي، حسبما الله ونعم الوكيل.

A hapless victim of the strife between jihadists and the Egyptian Army in the Sinai Peninsula

- The Monitoring Committee of the Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center announced that the Hamas government had attempted to abduct a Salafi-jihadist after Friday prayers on November 9, 2012 near the Al-Ouda Mosque in Dir Al-Balah, in the Gaza Strip.⁷¹
- The jihadist press agency Haq published an exclusive interview with the commander of a covert unit of the Izz Al-Din Al-Kassam Brigades, Hamas's military wing. The commander discussed Hamas's policy of persecuting Salafi-jihadists in the Gaza Strip; for example, it passed information about mujahideen from its Ministry of Internal Security to Israel, so that the latter could kill them. He added that several members of the Brigades had left to join jihad in Syria. One of them had traveled from the Gaza Strip to Egypt, from thence to Turkey, and then had infiltrated Syria where he joined the mujahideen. When the Syrian opposition of his rich experience in the Brigades, they appointed him to lead a group of mujahideen. He was later wounded in fighting against the Syrian regime and was transferred to Turkey for medical care. When he returned to the Gaza Strip he retired from the Izz Al-Din Al-Kassam Brigades.⁷²

The interview reveals that the Salafi-jihadist perspective is influencing the military wing of Hamas, as is reflected in this mujahid's having left the Izz Al-Din Al-Kassam Brigades to join jihad in Syria, and in the commander's empathy with members of the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Gaza Strip.

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

⁷² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

Africa

The Maghreb [North Africa]

- Al-Andalus, the media outlet of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published the fourth part in a series of video clips titled, "The Shadow of the Sabers". Part 4 covers AQIM's activities in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.⁷³



"The Shadow of the Sabers"

- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) arrested a French citizen named Abd Al-Jalil, who had joined its ranks several months previously, and placed him in custody in Timbuktu. The reason for his incarceration is unclear. Some claim he was arrested on suspicion of involvement in preventing aggression against women in Timbuktu, which displeased AQIM. Others claim he was arrested on suspicion of being a French spy.⁷⁴ It should be noted that in a video issued in October 2012 by the Mauritanian press agency Sahara Media, Al-Jalil is seen warning the US and France not to intervene in northern Mali.
- An Algerian guest on the global jihad Web forum reported that some Algerian religious scholars have denounced jihad and accused the Algerian people of abandoning Islam. He also expressed his own doubts regarding the mujahideen: Although he himself knows that Allah expects His believers to terrorize their enemies, he has heard some call the mujahideen "terrorists". Other forum visitors encouraged him to cleave to Islam, adding that jihad is waged in defense of defend Islam, not as an act of revenge. Islam leads to

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

⁷⁴ <http://www.aljournhouria.com/news> (Arabic).

guidance and mercy, not sin. Contributors also defended the noble Algerian people, citing their worthy achievements and vanquishing of a foreign conqueror. They urged readers not to heed despicable slander of the mujahideen, but instead to help them financially and practically.⁷⁵

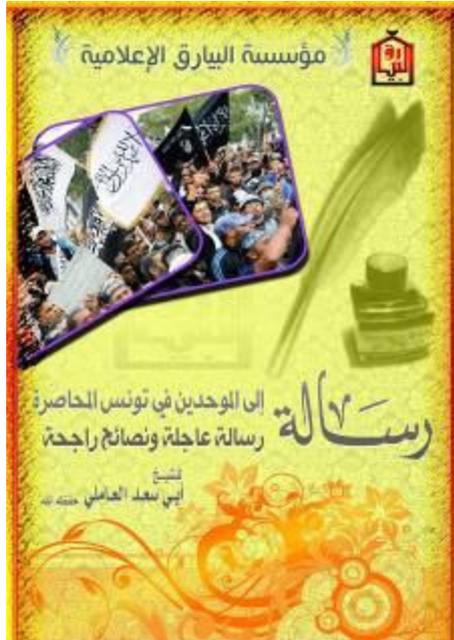
- A supervisor of the forum Hanein posted a report stating that the Jewish community of Tunis had asked the Tunisian government for protection against abduction. He added that this demand is reasonable, if the Jews stay where they are and not emigrate to Palestine to join the "Zionist endeavor". A visitor to the forum concurred with him, adding that the Jews in Tunisia have the same right to security as do the Copts in Egypt and Christians in other Arab countries.⁷⁶
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Bayraq, which represents Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia, published an article by Sheikh Abu Saad Al-Amili titled, "To the Monotheists in Tunisia: An Urgent Message and Select Advice".⁷⁷ Al-Amili instructed the Tunisian people to walk the true path. The Tunisians had completed the first stage of revolution, which put an end to injustice. How could they now acquiesce to continuing injustice against those who had sacrificed their life and money for the revolution? Al-Amili urged overthrow of the Tunisian government, or at least a boycott of it until it relinquishes the corrupt and heretical democracy and imposes Islamic law. It is capable of implementing Islamic law, with the people's consent, led by the supporters of monotheism. Al-Amili accused the Tunisian government, and Hamas, of committing crimes against the bastions of monotheism, lest the latter reveal its turpitude. Al-Amili expressed his opposition to anyone who favored close ties with this government, and asked the followers of monotheism in Tunisia to be patient and strong in the face of hostility. He urged them to help the people so as to win their trust and gain their support. He warned them not to emulate Egypt's Salafists, who spoke against tyranny and heresy but ultimately joined the political game and used democracy to gain power. He also warned them not to collaborate with the Tunisian government, despite its enticements. They must prepare for what is to come, using "the sword and

⁷⁵ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁶ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

the pen, reality and the dream, patience and courage, sacrifice and pride".
Only in this way would they gain victory.⁷⁸



The cover of a treatise by Sheikh Abu Saad Al-Amili

- A Libyan visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein described the atmosphere in Libya since the revolution. He refuted reports published on the forum that Libya was as unstable as Afghanistan. He described the stability in Misrata, where there are no explosions, assassinations, or gangs. Members of the previous regime are in prison; none of them have escaped. Al-Qaeda has no presence in the city, whose residents include Salafists, members of the Muslim Brotherhood, Sufis, and adherents of the Ash'ari School. These factions are not in armed conflict, although squabbles sometimes do arise, which are easily resolved by agreement. Ansar Al-Sharia – and not Al-Qaeda – has a massive presence in the city; Al-Qaeda's supporters are located elsewhere in Libya, primarily in Derna, which they have taken over and where they have assassinated members of the previous regime, even those who had recanted. In so doing, they aroused ire and hatred against Al-Qaeda. The contributor added that he had once been a follower of Al-Qaeda, and had defended it on jihadist Web forums, until he saw reality with his own eyes and began to have doubts. Ansar Al-Sharia united a large number of fighting

⁷⁸ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

brigades, he reported, each of operates independently but all of which fight under the banner of Islam and promote the implementation of Islamic law. They defend public property, for example by guarding hospitals, and do not discriminate among Muslims, Christians or Hindus. He claimed that most the residents of Libya see Al-Qaeda as a radical group whose members think anyone who is not for them is against them. In contrast, Ansar Al-Sharia represents the true, moderate Islam, which calls for Libya to represent everyone.⁷⁹

- According to the jihadist press agency Haq, the Tunisian interior ministry's security forces, which take orders from Al-Nahdha (the Muslim Brotherhood in Tunisia), arrested Tunisian Salafist Sheikh Bilal Al-Shawashi after he engaged in a heated debate with the deputy head of the Al-Nahdha Party, Abdul Fattah Moro, on Tn-Médias television. Al-Shawashi had promoted imposing shari'a [Islamic law] and strictly following the Qur'an and the Sunnah. He was arrested at the conclusion of the debate.⁸⁰



The live televised debate between Bilal Al-Shawashi and Abdul Fattah Moro

Mali

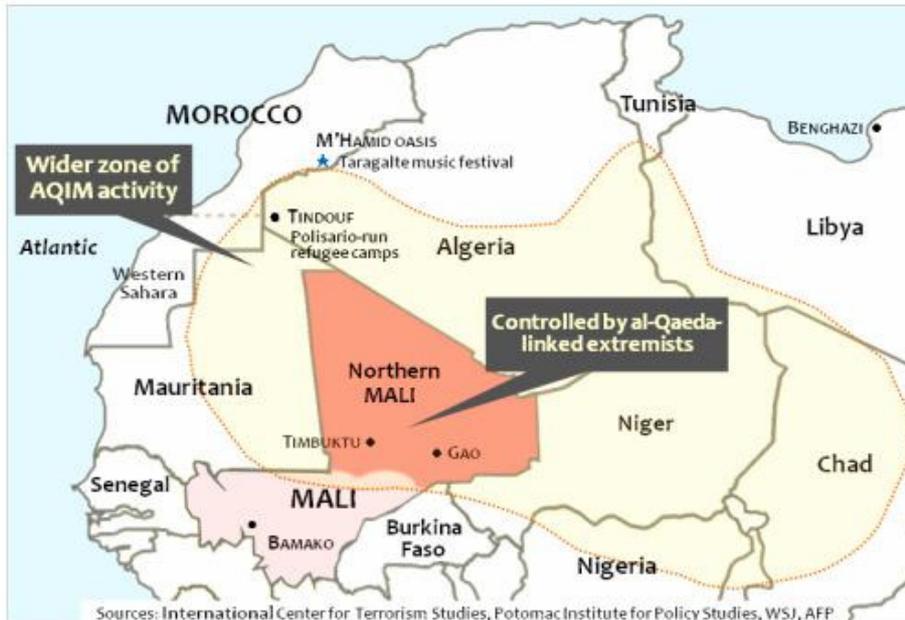
- At a summit held in early November 2012 in Abuja, Nigeria, West African leaders decided to send an international military force 3,300 strong into Mali for one year, to retake control of the north of the country and evict the armed Al-Qaeda affiliates that had taken control there in March-April 2012 and established an Islamic emirate. This initiative earned the support of Mali and

⁷⁹ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁰ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

France. Against this background, and in light of previous attempts to send an African coalition into northern Mali, the Islamist groups there have begun preparing for conflict. In addition, the leaders of jihadist groups in North Africa have issued the following warnings:

- Oumar Ould Hamaha, head of security for the Movement for Tawhid and Jihad in West Africa, told the British daily *The Guardian* that the group had succeeded in recruiting 1,000 new soldiers. He warned against international military intervention in Mali, which global jihad would perceive as a provocation that would only strengthen their resolve to persist in jihad. In fact, any attempt to invade northern Mali would be met by the jihadist's to capture of Bamako within 24 hours. He added that Al-Tawhid would defeat all military forces that entered [northern Mali].⁸¹ Subsequently, the Al-Arabiya Network reported that Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad in West Africa had established an Islamic emirate in the areas under its control.⁸²



- Mahfouz Ould Al-Walid, former head of the Sharia Council of Al-Qaeda who was recently released from prison in Mauritania, urged a peaceful solution to the crisis in northern Mali. According to the Algerian press, he expressed willingness to help prevent the terrible events that were liable to be visited upon northern Mali, as well as concern regarding

⁸¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸² <http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/11/10/248725.html> (Arabic).

their implications, such as the proliferation of Al-Qaeda affiliates. Before the outbreak of war in Afghanistan in 2001, Al-Qaeda had not had one single branch outside of Afghanistan. Al-Walid warned that the intervening nations were liable to become embroiled in a volatile situation, as had happened when Pakistan joined the war on terrorism and became embroiled in the civil war in Afghanistan.⁸³

- According to security sources in Mali, tens of Muslims living in Europe are joining the mujahideen in northern Mali in preparation for the coming battle with coalition forces over control of that area. The sources claim that mujahideen are also attempting to infiltrate northern Mali from Niger – attempts that Malian security forces occasionally manage to scuttle.⁸⁴

The US, France and other Western countries are trying to enlist the support of Algeria, Mauritania, and other countries adjacent to Mali for their military campaign against Ansar Al-Din, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and its offshoot Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad in West Africa, and the other armed jihadist groups that have held control of northern Mali since March 2012.

- Mauritania's Sahara Media conducted the first interview with Ansar Al-Din leader Iyad Agh Ghali since the group's takeover of northern Mali in April 2012. Addressing the intention of several African countries to send troops to northern Mali, Agh Ghali insisted he had done his best to prevent war in the area. He placed full blame for the situation's deterioration on the president of Mali. A solution to the crisis was possible, but would be found in dictates and unilateral steps, he said. Instead, a solution must be sought that would be acceptable to all parties. If he had failed to prevent war, he added, he and his men would have no choice but to greet the invaders with force.⁸⁵ The interview was highlighted on jihadist web forums.⁸⁶

⁸³ <http://www.echoroukonline.com/ara/articles/146312.html> (Arabic).

⁸⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁵ http://www.saharamedias.net/%D8%B2%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%85-%D8%A3%D9%86%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%84%D8%B5%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%B4%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%84-%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%84-%D9%83%D9%84_a16949.html (Arabic).

⁸⁶ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



A banner advertising an interview with the leader of Ansar Al-Din

- A supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Hanein stressed the need to prepare to defend northern Mali against the attempt of Christian African nations, France, and Arab countries to overthrow Ansar Al-Din, which had brought stability to the area. The supervisor urged discussion of the matter in the markets, the mosques, and on the street. Visitors to the forum concurred, uploaded media reports on the Western plot against northern Mali, and called for everyone to join jihad.⁸⁷

Egypt

- The Fursan Al-Balagh media outlet published the full interview conducted by the Algerian daily *Echourouk* with Muhammad Al-Zawahiri, a prominent Egyptian Salafi-jihadist and the brother of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri. The interview covered the growing initiative to arrange a ceasefire between the US and Islamist groups; the future of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Egypt, given the rise to power of the Muslim Brotherhood; Salafi-jihadist prisoners; fighting the near versus the far enemy; events in the Sinai Peninsula; and the idea of jihad as a tool for changing reality. Similarly, in an interview conducted by the Egyptian daily *Al-Masry Al-Yaum*, Muhammad Al-Zawahiri addressed⁸⁸ recent incidents in the Sinai Peninsula; the arrest of Salafist party members in Cairo; relations with President Morsi; attitudes toward the proposed constitution and democracy; and recent violence in Cairo, the Sinai Peninsula, and among Muslims in general. Al-

⁸⁷ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁸ <http://www.almasryalyoum.com/node/1234056> (Arabic).

Zawahiri also commented on his relationship to Al-Qaeda and its leader, his brother Ayman. Following is a review of Muhammad Al-Zawahiri's comments:

- **Salafism and politics:** Salafists, particularly Jama'a Islamiya, were persecuted during the Mubarak era. They are enjoying more freedom of speech and expression since the fall of the *ancien regime*. However, and although Salafist parties participated in the general elections, their stance on critical issues has not changed, and they still "reject democracy and the constitution". They do not see President Morsi as an enemy who must be violently opposed. The Salafists' involvement in politics is justified by their desire to "call for a return to Islam".
- **Salafism and Al-Qaeda:** Ayman Al-Zawahiri is the "best role model"; Al-Qaeda and the Salafists share the same principles and tenets, which are wholly rooted in Islam. Attempts to label the Salafists as unqualified to lead Muslims are nothing more than an attack on Islam itself. Intellectual jihad will continue.



An interview with prominent Egyptian Salafist Muhammad Al-Zawahiri

- **Salafism and the West:** Many of the questions on this topic remain unanswered. However, an overview is given of traditional features of Salafist thought, which dates back 60 years. These include anti-Zionism (the isolation of the Sinai Peninsula is part of the Israeli

agenda); anti-colonialism (the USA is the mastermind of distorted jihadist videos; it is behind the violence in Cairo); and denigration of jahiliya, a new "age of ignorance" when Muslims engage in non-Islamic activities such as politics, senseless debate, and the attribution of power to people rather than to Allah.

Muhammad Al-Zawahiri did not answer these direct questions: What is terrorism in Salafist eyes? Why do you respect Ayman Al-Zawahiri but refuse to promote Al-Qaeda in Egypt? Why do you reject the terrorist acts of Al-Qaeda?

- Jihadist Web forums highlighted the Salafi-jihadist call to attend the "million-man march" in Tahrir Square, which Ahmad Ashush and Muhammad Al-Zawahiri were planning to attend.⁸⁹



A call to attend a mass rally in Cairo supported by Salafi-jihadists

- Prominent Egyptian Salafi-jihadist Sheikh Ahmad Ashush told the Al-Arabiya Network that he disapproved of liberal and secular elements in Egypt that disregard Islamic law.⁹⁰
- During the first half of November 2012, Al-Bayyan, the media outlet of Al-Talia Al-Salafiyya Al-Mujahida – Ansar Al-Shariah [The Salafi Jihad-Fighting Vanguard – Ansar Al-Sharia], published the following:

⁸⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁰ http://ansarsharia.blogspot.co.il/2012/11/blog-post_911.html (Arabic).

- The full version of an interview that prominent Salafi-jihadist Ahmad Ashush granted to the Egyptian daily *Al-Shuruk*.⁹¹ Ashush discussed the orientation of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Egypt; the circumstances of the establishment of Al-Talia Al-Salafiyya, which he heads; the manifest of this group, and its attitude toward other Muslim groups, the Coptic minority in Egypt, President Morsi, and the constitution. In one of his answers, Ashush praised Al-Qaeda, calling it a lodestone of the Muslim Nation and a vanguard of struggle against the worst of Islam's enemies. According to Ashush, were it not for Al-Qaeda, the Islamic lands would break up into small countries where Jews and Westerners would deepen their hold.
- A video clip titled, "The Shari'a [Islamic law] System: The Revolution of Ashush and the Jihadists in Tahrir Square".⁹²



A banner advertising a video clip about Ahmad Ashush and the Salafists

- An article by Abu Abd Al-Rahman Al-Fateh titled, "A Series of Warnings to the Muslims against Deceptive Teaching Methods: Part II".⁹³ Al-Fateh draws his readers' attention to content inappropriate to Islam, which can be found in textbooks used in Egyptian schools. For example, a book being used in secondary schools quotes from the Old and New Testaments. He demands that such content be removed immediately.

⁹¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹² <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹³ <http://ansarsharia.blogspot.co.il/2012/11/byan-2.html> (Arabic).

- An article by Abu Abd Al-Rahman Al-Fateh titled, "An Apology to the Mujahideen... Loyalty to Dr. Morsi Is Preferable". According to Al-Fateh, there are three camps in Egypt. One calls for implementation of Islamic law, but not via democracy; the second accepts democracy, with or without implementation of Islamic law; and the third – comprising Christians, secularists and liberals – rejects the implementation of Islamic law. Al-Fateh discusses the first two groups only, outlining the differences between them, which have become more pronounced since President Morsi's rise to power. Al-Fateh urges those in second camp to return to the straight path, and disavow democracy under all circumstances.⁹⁴
- Sheikh Hazem Al-Masri, an Egyptian Salafi-jihadist and the editor of the blog, The Mujahideen in Egypt,⁹⁵ granted an interview to another blog, House of Dialogue: Defender of Civil Society. In it, he stated that the Salafi-jihadist movement in Egypt was focusing on da'wa [missionary work] within Egypt, and had no intention of taking up arms – except against Israel. Al-Masri also discussed the popular rebellion in Syria, noting that many Egyptians had gone to join jihad there. He also gave his opinion on the Egyptian constitution and the Muslim Brotherhood.⁹⁶
- According to the Al-Moheet Network, Egyptian Salafi-jihadist Sheikh Murgan Salem al-Gohary (aka Abd Al-Hakim Hassan) denied reports in the American press that he participated in the murder of the US ambassador to Libya in Benghazi on September 11, 2012.⁹⁷ In an interview with Dream TV, an Egyptian satellite station, al-Gohary insisted that the Sphinx, the pyramids and other Egyptian statues must be destroyed, because they are idols. According to al-Gohary, Muslims are commanded by Islamic law to destroy all statues, sculptures and graven images, as did the Muslims in Afghanistan.

⁹⁴ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁵ <http://ansarsharia.blogspot.co.il> (Arabic).

⁹⁶ <http://www.beitelhiwar.com/arabic/writers/689-%D8%AD%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AD%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%B9-%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%B2%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A.htm> (Arabic).

⁹⁷ <http://www.moheet.com/2012/11/11/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AA%D9%87%D9%85-%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85-%D9%84%D9%80%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%8A%D8%B7-%D9%84%D9%85-%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83/> (Arabic).

The journalist Nabil Sharaf Al-Din, who also appeared in the interview, responded to al-Gohary, explaining that Amr ibn Al-'As [a companion of the Prophet Muhammad who conquered Egypt] "...entered Egypt and did not destroy even one sculpture, since doing so would have been tantamount to worshipping the sculpture – and no one worships such things today. Such statues are part of human heritage and belong to all Egyptians. We absolutely will not let anyone near them. We'll be watching you."⁹⁸



Sheikh Al-Gohary would destroy the Sphinx for being an "idol"

- The family of Sheikh Omar Abd Al-Rahman, who is incarcerated in the US, asked the Egyptian people to join a protest in front of the Egyptian Supreme Court on November 3, 2012 demanding his release. The family suggested the Egyptian government use the four Americans it was holding on suspicion of illegal foreign funding of civil institutions to pressure the US into releasing the Sheikh.⁹⁹

Sheikh Omar Abd Al-Rahman was imprisoned for his part in the attack on the World Trade Center in 1993. In the past he served as the spiritual leader of the Egyptian jihadist groups Al-Jama'a Al-Islamiyya and Islamic Jihad. Al-Qaeda and its leader, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, have called a number of times for his immediate release from prison.

- A visitor to the global jihad Web forum asked whether Al-Azhar could serve as a religious authority regarding the constitution. One visitor to the forum responded that the only source of authority on the constitution is the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet, no matter how much an individual practices and claims to be a believing Muslim. If Al-Azhar were to be completely liberated from the hold of the "slaves of Satan" who serve the Crusaders and

⁹⁸ <http://islam.ahram.org.eg/NewsQ/2144.aspx> (Arabic).

⁹⁹ <http://ansarsharia.blogspot.co.il/2012/11/blog-post.html> (Arabic).

Zionists, and their place taken by religious scholars who would train the next generation according to a jihadist ideology, only then could the Muslims ask Al-Azhar to rule on any and all matters, as an authority for Muslims everywhere and as the body to appoint or remove the leader of Egypt. This contributor criticized the religious scholars of Al-Azhar so pointedly that some other forum visitors protested, decrying the use of such language, which would not win people's hearts. Religious leaders are worthy of respect, they added, as is stated in Islamic law. The contributor did not relent, however, and instead accused those who disagreed with him of aiding the infidels. He urged them to learn true Islam, and not write empty words on the pretext that they are anchored in Islamic sources.¹⁰⁰

- A woman visitor to the global jihad Web forum posted information about Abdul Aziz Al-Nahas, head of the security department in Sohag Province, whom she claimed was responsible for killing Muslim prisoners while serving in another senior security position. She wondered whether President Morsi would keep his promise to cleanse the security forces of criminals and murderers, adding that many men who have civilians' blood on their hands are still serving in the country's intelligence and security services.¹⁰¹



Abdul Aziz Al-Nahas

- An unnamed Egyptian Salafist sheikh posted an audio file on jihadist Web forums – exclusively, he claimed. The file contained the recording of a conversation he had had with an Egyptian Salafist named Abd Al-Raouf Suleiman shortly before the latter was executed on November 12, 2012 by the Iraqi regime, after having spent time in an Iraqi prison. The sheikh drew the attention of President Morsi, Foreign Minister Muhammad Omar, and the Egyptian Ambassador to Iraq to this fact, accusing the Iraq's of spilling an

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.aljihad.com.vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰¹ <http://www.aljihad.com.vb> (Arabic).

Egyptian citizen's blood. The Egyptian leadership must secure the release of all Egyptian citizens from Iraqi prisons, he said, to save them from the hangman's noose. The sheikh also made an impassioned plea to Egypt's ulama' [religious scholars] to assist in the matter.¹⁰²

- The Egyptian daily *Al-Ahram* reported that an American-Egyptian security envoy visited Sharm Al-Sheikh to discuss the threat of terrorism. In response, visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein criticized the Egyptian President, Mohammad Morsi for following in the footsteps of his predecessor, Hosni Mubarak. They feel that Morsi does not realize the importance of the country he heads, or else that he is a puppet of the US.¹⁰³

Somalia

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen published a number of reports documenting some of its military actions during the latter half of September 2012, including the assassination of members of the Somali, Ethiopian and Kenyan armed forces.¹⁰⁴
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Kitaab, which functions under the auspices of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published a recording of a sermon delivered on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha by Sheikh Muhammad Abu Abdallah, the governor of Lower Shabelle Province.¹⁰⁵
- Mukhtar Abu Zubayr, emir of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, delivered a sermon on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha. After blessing the Muslim Nation and praising its superiority over its enemies, Al-Zubeyr discussed the situation in Somalia. The goal of the infidels was to prevent the implementation of Islamic law in Somalia; to this end, they were fighting the mujahideen – without undue success, despite the assistance of the Somali government. Abu Zubeyr encouraged Somali tribes to stand behind the mujahideen.¹⁰⁶



¹⁰² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰³ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

The Caucasus

- Sheikh Abu Assad Al-Sharkasi, apparently a member of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus, sent a message to Syrians of Circassian descent. He first expressed their the during the and The he said, foreign periods, then chased into Anatolia, the Balkans, and Syria, where they finally found peace. Now, with the outbreak of revolution, the Circassians in Syria were again facing death and persecution. Circassians who see themselves as an integral part of Syria, he said, should support the revolution and stand beside the Syrian people during the tribulation brought on by the aggression of the Syrian regime.¹⁰⁷



The logo of the Arabic-language blog, Sada Al-Kawkaz

- The jihadist media outlet of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus, Sada Al-Kawkaz [Echo of the Caucasus], gave pride of place to a protest by Muslims in Kazan, Tatarstan, against Russian efforts to prevent them from celebrating Eid Al-Adha. According to Sada Al-Kawkaz, Russia has for years tried to sever the ties between the Muslims in Tatarstan and Islam – to no avail. In 2007, several Muslims swore loyalty to Doku Omarov, the emir of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus; in 2012, they renewed their vow of loyalty with the

¹⁰⁷ http://echokavkaz.blogspot.co.il/2012/11/blog-post_1.html (Arabic).

aim of reviving the armed struggle against the Russians and their collaborators. The sanctions imposed by Russia against Muslims in Tatarstan who wanted to celebrate Eid Al-Adha thus led them to rally under the banner of monotheism.¹⁰⁸



A convoy of cars participating in a rally against Russia under the banner of monotheism

- On October 23, 2012, Sada Al-Kawkaz, the media center of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus, asked the Libyan people to work for the release of Libyan Suleiman Osman Azzwei, aka Abu Khaled Al-Libi, from Russian captivity. Abu Khaled, who was formerly a qadi [judge] for province of Nokhchicho (aka Chechnya/Ichkeria), has been held by the Russians since 2011. In fact, a civilian demonstration in Al-Kafra, Libya, on November 13, 2012, called for his release.¹⁰⁹



Left: Demonstrators in Al-Kafra Right: Abu Khaled's brother is interviewed by Sada Al-Kawkaz

¹⁰⁸ http://echokavkaz.blogspot.co.il/2012/11/blog-post_6.html (Arabic).

¹⁰⁹ http://echokavkaz.blogspot.co.il/2012/11/blog-post_18.html (Arabic).

- The Web site Valiat Dagestan published a video featuring the emir of Rabanikalin Province, who expressed violent anger at Muslims who conspire against their people by aiding the war against jihad. According to the emir, these people have no right to call themselves "Muslims", since in fact they are heretics. If they choose to obey infidel leaders and fight alongside infidel soldiers, they deserve the same fate as the infidels. Allah commands us to surround ourselves with people we love; if the heretics love the infidels, they must share their fate. He calls these Muslims "fools", explaining that the Russian authorities are using them as cannon fodder. They risk their lives for a despicable cause, he said, adding that he really only wants to kill infidel soldiers, and so is warning these Muslims not to stand in his way. Rather, they should return to their homes, their wives and children. With the release of this video, the emir declared war on the apostate Muslims. Soon he will fulfill his promise regarding their future.¹¹⁰
- The Web site Valiat Dagestan posted a half-hour-long video clip in which Dokku Abu Usman, the emir of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus, and the qadi [judge] Ali Abu-Muhammad, bless Muslims in the Caucasus and everywhere on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha. They also discuss the importance of the commandment to give to the needy. This money can also be used to fight the infidel.¹¹¹
- The Web site Umma News published updates on and interpretations of Operation Pillar of Defense in the Gaza Strip. The site's administrators noted that swift, direct action was required of the Egyptian government to cease the killing of Arab civilians.¹¹²

The Indian Subcontinent

- Jundallah, the jihadist media outlet of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, published a video clip in which the Movement's mufti, Sheikh Abu Dhar Al-Burmi, urges Muslims to fulfill the commandment to fight jihad by going to oppose the regime in Burma, which persecuting the country's Muslims.¹¹³

¹¹⁰ <http://vdagestan.com/?p=8001> (Russian).

¹¹¹ <http://vdagestan.com/?p=7926> (Russian).

¹¹² <http://ummanews.com/news/last-news/9272-----100----.html> (Russian).

¹¹³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



Sheikh Abu Dhar Al-Burmi

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam who is participating in its online course in jihadist propaganda asked other forum members to participate in a propaganda campaign on behalf of the Muslims in Burma, who are being persecuted by the authorities there.¹¹⁴



From a propaganda campaign for Burma's Muslims

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein wrote of the suffering of Muslims in Burma. Beyond the denunciations of countries that favor democracy and human rights, no one is helping them. Some Muslims and Islamists are demanding that Al-Qaeda enter Burma and come to the Muslims' aid. In an effort to explain why mujahideen have yet to enter Burma, he wrote of the difficulty of getting there, and of the refusal of neighboring countries to open their borders to the oppressed. It takes men, weapons and equipment to embark on jihad, he wrote, yet Arab and foreign governments are doing whatever they can to prevent this. Mujahideen are spread thin among other arenas, while Syria and Azawad, for example, also still need mujahideen. Moreover, Arab mujahideen would find it hard to conceal themselves in

¹¹⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Burma, because of the unique physical traits of the East Asians. They would also have to adjust to the geography of the region, and this could cost them their lives. Perhaps Al-Qaeda has other reasons for not sending mujahideen to Burma, he wrote. It is therefore forbidden to assail Al-Qaeda, which even now may be considering launching jihad in Burma.¹¹⁵

China

- Sawt Al-Islam, the jihadist media outlet of the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), published a video clip titled, "Tourism of the Believers (Part 5)".¹¹⁶



From the video clip, "Tourism of the Believers (Part 5)"

Iran

- A jihadist movement calling itself Ansar Iran published a video clip in English titled, "Iran – The Horn of Shi'ism". In it, the group's spokesman claims that Iran's Shiites pose a serious danger to the Muslim Nation. Shiite Iran systematically persecutes, massacres and tortures Sunnis. This barbarism is not confined to Iran, but has also spread to Syria, for example. "Khamenai and the Shiites in Iran have a hand in the tragedy unfolding in Syria. Bashar and his henchmen are but propagandists in the hands of that Great Satan". Given this state of affairs, and the continuing silence of the Sunni world,

¹¹⁵ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

Ansar Iran promises to fight Iran's Shiite regime and defend Islam and Sunni honor. It asks Sunni Muslims to join jihad against Iran.¹¹⁷



From the video clip, "Iran – The Horn of Shi'ism"

- Abu Hafs of Mauritania, who is responsible for the Shura Council of Al-Qaeda and who returned to Mauritania from Iran in April 2012, averred that he and several other activists had spent many years in Iran. Subsequently, a visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein started a thread concerning the Islamic legality of Al-Qaeda operatives finding shelter in a Shiite country like Iran. Another visitor to the forum did not see any problem with this, and noted that there are Al-Qaeda activists in the US and Europe, as well. Other visitors assaulted the first poster for even asking the question. Yet another visitor came to his defense, wondering how it was possible to accuse the Shiites of heresy if they were sheltering Al-Qaeda activists. Still other forum visitors recalled that previous leaders of Al-Qaeda had warned against fleeing to Iran, where the group's members had been tortured. However, other forum contributors noted that both Osama bin Laden and Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi had found shelter in Iran at various times.¹¹⁸

Miscellaneous

- The jihadist media outlet Haq noted that tens of thousands of Muslims worldwide, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, Pakistan and Palestine had been pleased to see the damage that Hurricane Sandy caused the eastern seaboard of the US. They believed that God had sent this hurricane to protect believing Muslims from murderous American drones and

¹¹⁷ <http://ansariran.blog.com/2012/11/07/iran-the-horn-of-shiism-english-production-by-harakat-ansar-iran/> (English).

¹¹⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

from secret American prisons. To them, the storm represented God's anger at American crimes against the Muslims, indeed – against all of humanity.¹¹⁹

Hurricane Sandy hit the east coast of the US in late October 2012, causing severe damage to life and property. At least 33 people died in the storm, most of them crushed under falling trees. Over eight million people were without power for over a week. The storm is estimated to have cost tens of billions of dollars in damage, much of it sustained by the New York subway system, which had not been affected by a storm of this magnitude in its 108 year history. Tunnels between Brooklyn and Manhattan were also flooded.

- The jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam established a new section devoted to study and rote recitation of the Qur'an.¹²⁰
- A supervisor on the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen posted a banner praising the forum's more active members for their success in uploading jihadist video clips to YouTube. According to the supervisor's data, these video clips had garnered more than one million views.¹²¹



In praise of promulgators of jihad on YouTube

- The jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published a compendium of banners on jihad, designed during Ramadan by several of its members.¹²²

¹¹⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹²⁰ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹²¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹²² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



From a collection of banners promoting jihad

Twitter

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein reported the launching of a Twitter feed for the Muslim Nation: <https://twitter.com/maqds>. The feed originates in the Gaza Strip, and reports the activities of mujahideen worldwide.¹²³



A new Twitter feed disseminating news of the mujahideen

- Anjem Choudary, a Salafi-jihadist sheikh active in London, used his Twitter feed to berate former and current British Prime Ministers Blair and Cameron, respectively, for persecuting Muslims living in Britain. He demanded the immediate and unconditional release of Sheikh Abu Qatada Al-Filastini.¹²⁴ The

¹²³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹²⁴ <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary> (English).

latter, considered the spiritual leader of Al-Qaeda in Europe, has been in a British prison since 2008. In January 2012, a British court ruled that he must be released and extradited to Jordan, where an indictment is pending against him for involvement in terrorism in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.



anjem choudary @anjemchoudary
 The real criminals who should be tried by a shariah court are Blair Brown & Cameron who have the blood of thousands of people on their hands.
Expand

7h



anjem choudary @anjemchoudary
 Abu Qatada is an innocent man & must be free without restriction to carry on life in the UK if he pleases, his only 'crime' is to be Muslim!
Expand

7h

From Anjem Choudary's Twitter feed