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Periodical Review

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadist Web Forums

The Second Half of December 2011

This report summarizes notable events discussed on jihadist Web forums during the second half of December 2011. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- Abu Yahya Al-Libi summarizes the key events of 2011.
- A new video clip in memory of Anwar Al-Awlaki is produced by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and a message is sent to Muslims living in the US to join the battlefields of jihad or to fight the US on its own soil.
- In an audio file, Ibrahim Al-Rubaysh discusses the achievements of the Arab revolutions, especially as reflected in the weakening of the US in the Middle East.
- A new jihadist organization, calling itself Ansar Al-Din, is established in northern Mali.
- Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad in West Africa takes responsibility for abducting three European citizens in Algeria.
- A new jihadist organization calling itself Ansar Al-Mujahideen is established in the Sinai Peninsula.
- Three new jihadist media outlets are established: Al-Ibda, Ibn Taymiyyah (identified with the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist Army of Islam), and Al-Farq (based in Egypt).

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New Publications

Ideology

- Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, a Jordanian Salafi-jihadist Web portal, published a "letter of support to Al-Tawhid groups" by Sheikh Abu Humam Al-Athari, a member of the portal's Shura Council.¹ It also published a book by Sheikh Al-Khatib Al-Baghdadi titled, "A Response to the News"², and an article by Abu Al-Mundhir Al-Shanqiti, titled, "There Are No Women in Tahrir Square".³
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Fajr published a book written by Sheikh Abdullah Khalid Al-Adam (also known as Abu Ubaydah) titled "Generous Notes for the People of Jihad" (196 pp.). The book, which can be read as a guide or compendium of advice geared for mujahideen on the path of actual jihad, covers, for example, the importance of consultation among the mujahideen; how to behave when disagreements arise among mujahideen; how to behave when a jihadist leader is killed; and how to protect the property and savings of the mujahideen. It is worth noting that the foreword to this book, which is dated March 31, 2008, was penned by the late Sheikh Atiyyah Allah, a senior leader of Al-Qaeda who was killed in Afghanistan at the end of August 2011.⁴
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Malahem, which functions under the aegis of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published an audio file by Sheikh Ibrahim bin Sulayman Al-Rubaysh, the spiritual ideologue of AQAP, titled, "The Harvest of the Arab Revolutions". According to Al-Rubaysh, one significant achievement of the popular rebellions in Arab countries is the weakening of the US in the Middle East. Regional allies of the US are collapsing one after another, as the US looks on from the sidelines without lifting a finger to help them. In the eyes of Al-Rubaysh, this passivity is a sign of despair and defeat. He claims two things are responsible for this: (a) the collapse of American civilization, with its war against Islam having proven that its values are not valid; (b) the military defeat of the US in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Al-Rubaysh lists additional achievements of the revolutions: proof that the Arab people(s) are capable of forcibly changing reality; release from the tyranny of Arab regimes; exposure of the true face of certain people and

¹ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

² <http://ns1.as-ansar.com/vb/> (Arabic).

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

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

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groups in Arab society, such as the Shi'ites in Bahrain, who collaborated with Iran against the Bahraini regime; exposure of ulamaa [religious scholars] who collaborated with the ruling regimes rather than serving Islam; and proof of the rightness of the da'wa [mission] of the mujahideen to free people from their tyrannical rulers and from the West. Al-Rubaysh goes on to stress that the Arabs must continue their fight, until they witness the establishment of a government of their choice, and not in accordance with the wishes of the West.⁵



"Harvest of the Revolutions"

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published the Eid Al-Adha Sermon of senior Al-Qaeda leader Sheikh Abu Yahya Al-Libi. In it, Al-Libi discussed three major events that took place during 2011. The first was a series of collapses and defeats of the enemies of Islam, chief among them the US. According to Al-Libi, America's decision to withdraw its troops from Iraq is an unmistakable sign of its defeat in the war against Islam. Moreover, its propaganda efforts to camouflage this defeat have been unsuccessful – and in any case, the war against the US continues. Al-Libi also claimed that the US was now trying to wage a new kind of war against the mujahideen, through "sub-contractors" who fight on its behalf. As examples of this, he cited Kenya and Ethiopia, which are battling the mujahideen in Somalia; the Pakistani Army, which is battling the mujahideen and the Taliban in Pakistan; and the Yemeni Army, which is battling Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen. Al-Libi further insisted that the US prefers using such sub-contractors because it is currently incapable, economically or militarily, of engaging in battle in these arenas.

⁵ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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The second major event of the year, according to Al-Libi, was the Arab revolt against tyrannical regimes, which caused several of them to collapse. Al-Libi saw this as a seminal event, and urged that this trend continue.

The third major event of 2011 cited by Al-Libi was the death of Sheikh Osama bin Laden. Al-Libi claimed that the US had erred if it thought that it would regain its honor and wreak revenge by eliminating Bin Laden. In fact, the opposite has been the case: in the months since Bin Laden's death, the US has suffered unbearably painful blows from the mujahideen in Afghanistan – and jihad there rages on. Al-Libi stressed that jihad against the US would continue whether or not Al-Qaeda disappeared, since the US is fighting not Al-Qaeda or any other one group, but the entire Muslim nation.⁶



The cover of Al-Libi's Eid Al-Adha Sermon

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masada published an article titled, "But There Is No One to Cry for Umm Ubaydah", by Abu Osama Al-Gharib, a 25-year-old Muslim from Vienna, a key operative of the Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF) who was captured by Austrian security forces in 2009 and sentenced to four years in prison for disseminating jihadist propaganda and making threats. Al-Gharib was released from prison several months ago. In the article, which was first published on May 15, 2008, Al-Gharib demanded that the Belgian government immediately free Umm Ubaydah, a Muslim woman whom it had arrested that year on suspicion of involvement in terrorist activities. In the foreword to the article, written in 2011, Al-Gharib claimed that the article was still relevant, even though it had been written several years previously. Many

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

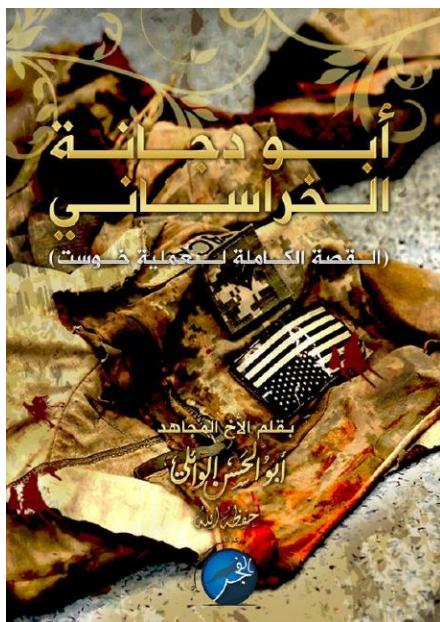
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Muslim women were still imprisoned under dire conditions in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the West, and their honor trampled. He therefore urged all Muslims act to free them.⁷

Strategy

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Fajr published a book titled, "Abu Dujanah Al-Kurasani: The True Story of the Attack in Khost" (59 pp.). The book sheds light on the attack committed by Al-Kurasani against a CIA base in Khost Province, Afghanistan, on December 30, 2009, in which seven CIA agents and a Jordanian intelligence officer were killed.⁸



"Abu Dujanah Al-Kurasani: The True Story of the Attack in Khost"

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Malahem published a video clip titled, "Story of the Escape: Part Two", which documents at some length how members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula succeeded in freeing their friends from Yemeni prisons.⁹

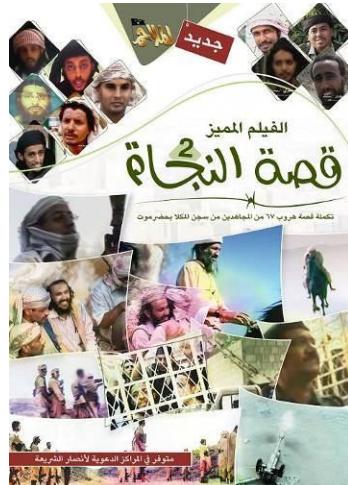
⁷ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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The second video installment in the story of the rescue of Al-Qaeda operatives from prisons in Yemen

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted a list of links for downloading video clips containing instructions on how to assemble explosive devices and roadside bombs, and how to concoct poisons.¹⁰
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam calling himself Asad Al-Malhama offered to answer questions from Web surfers on the assembly of explosive devices and bombs. Later in the same thread, and in response to questions from fellow surfers, Al-Malhama provided detailed explanations, with illustrations, on how make bombs.¹¹



Illustrated instructions for assembling explosive devices

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

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

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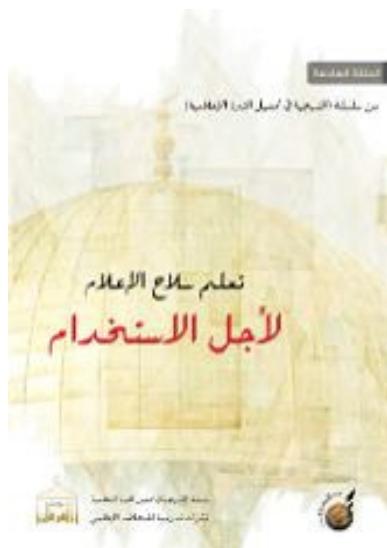
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- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, who is participating in an online course on jihadist propaganda hosted by the forum, published detailed instructions on how to fly a light plane.¹²



How to fly a light plane

- The jihadist media outlets Al-Yakin and Al-Furqan published a book titled, "Know How to Use Your Propaganda Weapons". It is the third installment in a series of publications titled "The Road to Gaining Propaganda Knowledge".¹³



On using propaganda to good effect...

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Fajr published a video clip titled, "The Intelligence Interrogation", Part 25 in a series by Sheikh Abdullah Al-Adm titled, "The Terrorism Industry".¹⁴

¹² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

¹³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

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- The new jihadist media outlet Ibn Taymiyyah, which functions under the aegis of the Army of Islam – a Salafi-jihadist group active in the Gaza Strip – published its first video clip, titled, "Free the Prisoners from the Tight Bond". The video clip emphasizes the duty of working to free Muslim men and women imprisoned in the West and the Middle East. The video explains that the mujahideen ascribe supreme importance to this matter and work to free their imprisoned brethren in multiple ways – among them by breaking into prisons in Afghanistan, Iraq, and North Africa. The video notes that the mujahideen in Palestine succeeded in freeing more than 1,000 prisoners in exchange for the release of captive Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. It stresses the role of the Army of Islam in Shalit's abduction – a role it claims was not duly cited by the media – and, consequently, the credit due the organization for the Palestinian prisoners' release. The video clip then describes how Shalit was kidnapped. In conclusion, the Army of Islam reiterates that freeing Muslim prisoners must be a top priority of the mujahideen, and states that the army will use jihad to reach this goal.¹⁵



The first video clip issued by the new jihadist media outlet Ibn Taymiyyah

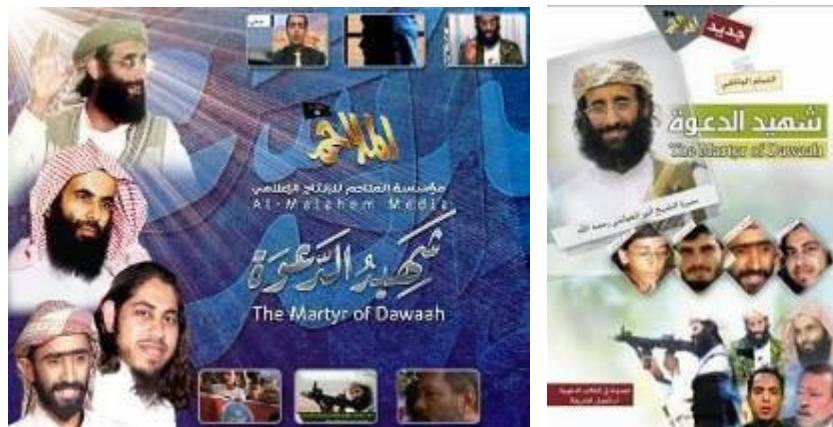
¹⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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Promoting the Myth of Martyrdom

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Malahem, which is identified with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published a documentary film titled, "Martyr for the Muslim Mission [Shahid for Da'wa]: A Biography of Sheikh Anwar Al-Awlaki", an Islamic cleric of Yemeni extraction who was born in New Mexico. A prominent AQAP ideologue who focused his propaganda efforts on the English-speaking Muslim community in the West, Al-Awlaki was shot and killed in Yemen by a US drone plane in early October 2011. Despite its title, the movie does not relate the biography of Al-Awlaki, but rather expounds on the obligation of Muslims to fight the US, as Al-Awlaki preached in his lifetime. In the opening scenes, Al-Awlaki is shown praising the religious commandment to wage jihad. Later in the movie, AQAP's spiritual leader Ibrahim Al-Rubaysh eulogizes Al-Awlaki, and discusses America's war against the Muslims and Islam. A relatively unknown individual named Abu Yazid also appears in the movie, and discusses three additional AQAP members, among them the former editor of the English-language jihadist periodical *Inspire*, Samir Khan, who were killed along with Al-Awlaki. The movie ends with a previously-unreleased speech delivered by Al-Awlaki, in which he asks Muslims in the US to choose between two alternatives: to leave the US and join the frontlines of jihad, or remain in the US on condition that they battle it from within, in retaliation for America's brazen intervention in the internal affairs of Islamic countries, and its repeated acts of aggression against the Muslim population in Yemen, for example.¹⁶

**From the film documenting Anwar Al-Awlaki's mission**

¹⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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- The jihadist media outlet Sawt Al-Islam [The Voice of Islam], which functions under the aegis of the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), published a video clip in Uighur titled, "Lovers of Paradise 6".¹⁷

Magazines

- The most recent volume (number 34) has been published of the jihadist periodical *Al-Waqi*, which aggregates jihad-related and international news items. This volume also showcases an interview with Sheikh Abu Zubayda Al-Lubnani, an Al-Qaeda mujahid of Lebanese origin. In it, Al-Lubnani discusses the martyr [shahid] Abu Kandahar Al-Zarqawi, the former administrator of the jihadist Web forum Al-Hisbah, who was killed in Afghanistan by US forces at the end of 2010. Al-Lubnani related that he had first met Al-Zarqawi through PalTalk, an online chat program, and that subsequently they spent six months together fighting at the frontlines of jihad in Waziristan.¹⁸



The cover of the jihadist magazine Al-Waqi (left), and the interview with Abu Kandahar Al-Zarqawi (right)

- A member of the jihadist forum Al-Fida published the first volume of a new periodical called *News of the Mujahideen* (142 pp.). The periodical, which will apparently be issued monthly, contains a sampling of jihadist-themed articles and news of developments in the various arenas of jihad.¹⁹

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

¹⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

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أخبار المجاهدين
Mujahideen News
العدد 1

Volume 1 of News of the Mujahideen

Reports from the Field*Afghanistan-Pakistan*

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published new photographs of camps in southern Waziristan, where members of the Taliban-Pakistan train.²⁰



A Taliban training camp in southern Waziristan, Pakistan

Iraq

- A member of the jihadist forum Al-Tahadi posted a thread titled, "The Islamic State of Iraq Hangs Collaborators and Traitors from the Bridges of Al-Anbar". In it, the writer uploaded a video clip showing the execution by hanging of a Muslim whom the Islamic State of Iraq had accused of collaborating with the enemy.²¹

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

²¹ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb> (Arabic).

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**Thus will be done to the enemies of the Islamic State of Iraq**

- The Islamic State of Iraq took responsibility for a terrorist attack against Iraqi troops near the city of Baqubah, in the heart of Diyala Province. The attack, perpetrated using both a booby-trapped car and a suicide bomber, killed 23 people and wounded tens more. The Islamic State of Iraq also published a report of 30 terrorist attacks in Diyala Province, for which it claimed responsibility.²²
- A prominent contributor to the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida who goes by the name of 'Ashiq Al-Qaeda (lit., "Loves Al-Qaeda"), wrote to say that the reality in Iraq had changed since the withdrawal of US forces, even though the withdrawal was only partial, and several thousand American soldiers remain on Iraqi soil. According to 'Ashiq Al-Qaeda, Iraq now faced a new phase, in which its Sunni residents are under existential threat from Iran and its militias, which are plotting to gradually take control of all of Iraq's territory and spread Shi'a Islam. To meet this threat, he stressed, Iraqi mujahideen must close ranks. 'Ashiq Al-Qaeda then urged Ansar Al-Islam to initiate a merger with the Islamic State of Iraq, and thereby open the way for additional jihadist groups to do the same. If the mujahideen are united, he claimed, they will be better able to cope with the Shi'ite threat, to implement shari'a in Iraq, and to build another layer in the edifice of the Islamic Caliphate.²³
- The Islamic State of Iraq published a report detailing its (68) military actions in areas of the Northern Province,²⁴ and its (29) actions against security

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

²³ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

²⁴ <https://as-ansar.org/vb/> (Arabic).

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installations, which included eliminating police officers and collaborators and planting explosive devices in Baghdad Province.²⁵

- The Islamic State of Iraq published an announcement titled, "Thursday Incursion into Baghdad Province", in which it took responsibility for a number of terrorist attacks perpetrated simultaneously against multiple security targets, including the main office of criminal investigation in Baghdad. The Islamic State of Iraq added that these "quality attacks", perpetrated under the guidance of its "ministry of war", were meant to aid imprisoned Sunnis and avenge their execution.²⁶
- Ansar Al-Islam, a Salafi-jihadist group active in Iraq, took responsibility for the explosion in Baghdad of two bombs, which killed or injured some 150 people.²⁷

The Arabian Peninsula

- The English-language jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen, together with the jihadist media outlet Al-Masada Media, published a translation into English and Bosnian of the first part of a news report produced by the Madad Press Agency, which functions under the aegis of Ansar Al-Shariah in Yemen. The publication itself deals with jihad in Yemen.²⁸

The Maghreb [North Africa]

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Andalus, which functions under the aegis of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), sent its condolences to the residents of Guemar, a desert oasis in Algeria near the border with Tunisia, on the death of senior AQIM leader Abu Khabab Abd Al-Haq Al-Guemari. In addition to eulogizing Al-Guemari, AQIM briefly surveyed his life, and noted that, in recent years, he had battled collaborators with France in the Sahara. Al-Guemari was killed by such collaborators in the city of Al-Wadi. AQIM stressed that the Algerian regime would be punished for its deeds, and that a fate like Qaddafi's and Bin Ali's awaited it.²⁹

²⁵ <https://as-ansar.org/vb/> (Arabic).

²⁶ <https://as-ansar.org/vb/> (Arabic).

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

²⁸ <http://ansar1.info/> (English and Arabic).

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

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Condolences on the death of Abu Khabab Abd Al-Haq Al-Guerami

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida posted a thread containing a link to a video clip initially posted on Facebook concerning the participation of Tunisian mujahideen in various arenas of jihad.³⁰

Al-Sham [Greater Syria]

- The policy council of Fath Al-Islam, a Salafi-jihadist group active in Al-Sham, published a position paper titled, "The Syrian Revolution and the Deception of the Arab Protocol". In it, Fath Al-Islam criticizes the Arab League's response to the popular rebellion in Syria, and its attempts to reach an agreement with the Assad regime to quell the bloodbath in Syria. In the opinion of Fath Al-Islam, the Arab League's policy is largely dictated by the West, which uses it to protect its interests in the region. The Arab League's handling of events in Syria are thus tainted by a large stain of hypocrisy. According to Fath Al-Islam, rebellion in Syria will not cease until the regime has been overthrown, as this is the will of the people.³¹
- A prominent contributor to the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida, who calls himself 'Ashiq Al-Qaeda (lit., "Loves Al-Qaeda"), pointed out differences between the popular revolution currently raging in Syria against the regime of Bashar Al-Assad, and the popular revolution in Libya against the regime of Muammar Qaddafi. According to 'Ashiq Al-Qaeda, NATO's intervention in Libya hastened the fall of Qaddafi and the victory of the rebels. In Syria, however, 'Ashiq Al-Qaeda claimed that intervention of this sort would be precluded by several factors, chiefly concern for the security of Israel, which borders Syria, but also Iranian, Russian and Chinese support for Syria. Given this state of

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

³¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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affairs, 'Ashiq Al-Qaeda urged the Syrian people to take up arms against the regimes, as demonstrations and slogans alone would not suffice.³²

- On December 27, 2011, the jihadist media outlet Al-Fajr published an official announcement by the Abdallah Azzam Brigades concerning two terrorist attacks against security installations in Damascus, which were carried out on November 23, 2011. The announcement denied that mujahideen from any group had been involved in these attacks, and stated that the intelligence forces of "the regime of the Syrian tyrant, Bashar Al-Assad" were to blame, since the regime had failed to subdue the revolution.

The announcement stressed that the regime had also escalated the actions of "its lackeys in Syria and Lebanon" – and then blamed them on the mujahideen.

The Brigades did not rule out the possibility that Assad's regime might publish a video clip showing mujahideen – thousands of whom were in its custody – taking responsibility for the terrorist attacks. The Brigades therefore stressed that the mujahideen had their own official media outlets, and only through them did they announce their actions – which they did not conceal and of which they were not ashamed.

The Brigades then lashed out again at "Bashar's regime and its tentacles in Lebanon – the Shi'ite Hizbulah" – which do not balk at killing innocents and committing crimes to save themselves from annihilation and from the collapse of the [Assad] regime. The Brigades blamed Lebanese Army officers affiliated with Hizbulah for inciting the Palestinians in the refugee camps in southern Lebanon, to divert attention from events in Syria. They therefore appealed to the Palestinian factions not to fall into this conspiracy-trap, and added that the Syrian regime, together with Hizbulah, had begun perpetrating assassinations and explosions, and shooting rockets, to confuse matters and buy time for the oppressive regime. They blamed some Christian leaders, and especially the commander of the Lebanese Army, for conspiring with the Assad regime for their own ends.³³

- A new jihadist media outlet called Ibn Taymiyyah, which is identified with Jaysh Al-Islam [The Army of Islam], a Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group active in the Gaza Strip, published a eulogy on the death of Muaman Abu Daf, also

³² <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

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known as Abu Aziz, a senior leader in Jaysh Al-Islam. Abu Aziz was killed in an air strike by the Israel Defense Forces on December 30, 2011, while he was trying to fire missiles into Israeli territory. The eulogy was signed by a group affiliated with Jaysh Al-Islam known as Al-Shabab Al-Salafi Al-Sunni Al-Mujaheed.³⁴

Egypt

- Abu Abd Al-Qadir Al-Guemari, a prominent contributor to the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, who is deemed an historian and researcher of Islam, posted a link to a video-taped sermon given by Ahmad Samir Ashush at a Salafi mosque in Cairo on December 16, 2011. Samir Ashush is the nephew of Ahmad Ashush, formerly a senior leader of jihad who had been released from prison following the revolution in Egypt.³⁵
- A new organization calling itself Ansar Al-Jihad is now active in the Sinai Peninsula. It recently took responsibility for blowing up the gas pipeline to Israel and Jordan, and for conducting a terrorist attack on the road to Eilat (inside Israeli territory) in August 2011. On December 20, 2011, Ansar Al-Jihad published its first, constitutive announcement, in which it promised to do all it could to fight the corrupt Egyptian regime, the Jews, the Americans, and anyone who helped them. Ansar Al-Jihad promised to fulfill Osama bin Laden's vow that the US and all those living therein would never know security until Palestine knew security, and until all of the Crusader armies had left the Arabian Peninsula. The organization also cited the manhunt conducted by Mubarak's regime, its allies, and Israel against the Muslims in Egypt and especially in the Sinai Peninsula, and the regime's theft of Egypt's natural resources for sale to Israel at the lowest possible price, to placate the US. The organization further noted Mubarak's oppression of any protest against him and his henchmen on the barest suspicion that it was in support of the Sunna and Salafa, and therefore threatened Egypt's security. The organization regretted the situation in Egypt and especially in the Sinai Peninsula, which was a result of neglect of jihad against the Egyptian regime. Even worse, it cried, was that after the "lions in Sinai" had blown up the gas pipeline in an attempt to upset the balance of power and warn the regime to stop helping

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

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

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Israel, the regime had killed the martyr [shahid] Salim Muhammad Juma, a "hero who had motivated many of those who had been 'asleep at the wheel' to carry out the action at Umm Rashrash [Eilat] and instill fear in the Jews. All praise and thanks to Allah that these actions have forged a new generation of adherents to the Oneness of God [Al-Tawhid] in the Sinai Peninsula".³⁶

Africa

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam quoted an item on the establishment of a new jihadist group in Azwad, in northern Mali, headed by Iyad Ghali: the Ansar Al-Din Movement. According to this writer, Ghali was formerly the Consul General of the Republic of Mali in Saudi Arabia. After his return to northern Mali, he collected a group of fighters, including soldiers and officers in the Malian army, with whom he aimed to liberate Azwad.³⁷ In a comprehensive interview with Sahara Media several days after the group's establishment, Ghali stated his intention of fighting Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), which he saw as a dangerous enemy. He also claimed to have proof of the Malian government's cooperation with AQIM.³⁸

**Iyad Ghali**

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida discussed a brief announcement published by a relatively unknown group called Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad in West Africa, which apparently split off from Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) following an internal disagreement whose nature is as yet unclear. In the announcement, which was published on December 12, 2011, Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad in West Africa took responsibility for the abduction on October 23,

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

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

³⁸ <http://www.saharamedia.net/smedia/index.php/2008-12-24-00-08-06/13307--q-q.html> (Arabic).

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2011 of two European women, one Spanish and one Italian, and a Spanish man, from the Rabuni Refugee Camp in Tindouf Province, Algeria, near the Moroccan and Mauritanian borders. The Polisario Front, a nationalist movement that strives to obtain independence for the Western Sahara, severing it from Morocco, is also active in this area, and has threatened to expand its efforts beyond the African Sahel.³⁹



Young Europeans abducted by Al-tawhid wal-Jihad in West Africa

- Sheikh Hasan Husein Adam, a senior member of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published a book titled "Support and Advocacy for the Final Statement of the Scholars of the Islamic Provinces in Somalia".⁴⁰



The cover of a book by Sheikh Hasan Husein Adam

- Abu Hanifa Shat Al-Arab, the supervisor of the "Voice of the Caucasus" section of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, quoted from an Arabic-language Twitter feed of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen⁴¹ that announced the group's capture of a Burundian prisoner. The prisoner appealed to the

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

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

⁴¹ http://twitter.com/HSMPress_arabic.

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government of Burundi to help release him from captivity, claiming that the Ugandan Defense Forces were interfering with negotiations for his release.⁴²



A citizen of Burundi captured by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Kataib, which functions under the aegis of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, announced "the arrival of Djibouti forces in the [Somali] capital, Mogadishu".⁴³ It also announced that "the Haji Saliban Tribe had sworn allegiance to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen".⁴⁴ Al-Kataib further announced that 15 military personnel from the Islamic province of Juba, Somalia, had surrendered to members of Al-Shabab and expressed regret for their deeds.⁴⁵
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Kataib, which functions under the aegis of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, announced a number of bomb explosions at enemy centers in Mogadishu.⁴⁶ According to a different announcement, the explosives unit of Al-Shabab had detonated an explosive device in the vicinity of Burundian forces in Bandar Islamic Province, Somalia, killing five Burundian soldiers and wounding four others.⁴⁷ A third announcement reported the destruction of an armored vehicle belonging to Kenyan forces.⁴⁸
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Kataib, which functions under the aegis of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, reported on an event in the city of Kismayo, in the Islamic Juba Province, held by the Horta Tribe and attended by senior provincial officials as well as by leaders of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. At the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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event, the Tribe presented military materiel and weapons which it intended as assistance to jihad.⁴⁹

- The judicial council of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen published an announcement about the establishment of a "Diwan (bureau) to respond tyranny".⁵⁰

The West and Elsewhere

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida published a collection of video clips for downloading on the mujahideen in the Philippines.⁵¹
- The jihadist media outlet Sawt Al-Islam [The Voice of Islam], which functions under the aegis of the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), published an Eid Al-Fitr sermon.⁵²
- The jihadist media institute of Jund Al-Khilafa, a Salafi-jihadist group with ties to Al-Qaeda and the Al-Haqani network, which is composed largely of Kazakhs and is active primarily in Afghanistan and vicinity, called for the removal of Kazakhstan's President Nazarbayev.⁵³
- The jihadist media outlet Jundullah, which functions under the aegis of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), published a Farsi-language video clip of an interview with Sheikh Mohammed Yasir, the former spokesman for the Taliban in Afghanistan. Yasir was arrested by the Pakistanis in 2009.⁵⁴

**Mohammed Yasir**

⁴⁹ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

⁵¹ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

⁵² <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/> (Arabic).

⁵³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

⁵⁴ <http://ansar1.info/> (English and Arabic).

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- The jihadist media outlet Sawt Al-Islam, which functions under the aegis of the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), published a video clip in Uighur titled, "The Reasons for Victory".⁵⁵

Miscellaneous

- Millat Ibrahim, a German Salafi-jihadist Web portal (<http://www.millatu-ibrahim.com>), published an Arabic-language video clip of a sermon by Salafi preacher Sheikh Hafiz bin Ajab Al-Dosari, titled "Help for the Sunnis". In it, Al-Dosari asks Muslims to aid their Sunni brethren in Syria, in Damajj, Yemen, and in Ahwaz in southern Iran, and those who are imprisoned.⁵⁶



- Jihadist Web forums announced the establishment of a new jihadist media outlet, to be called Al-Ibda.⁵⁷



The logo of the new jihadist media outlet, Al-Ibda

- Jihadist Web forums announced the establishment of a new jihadist media outlet known as the Ibn Taymiyyah Center and identified with the Salafi-

⁵⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

⁵⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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jihadist group Jaysh Al-Islam [Army of Islam], which is active in the Gaza Strip.⁵⁸



The logo of the Ibn Taymiyya Media Center

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida posted a thread written by Sheikh Abu Saad Al-Amili, himself a prominent contributor to jihadist Web forums, on "The Phenomenon of the Closure of Jihadist Forums"; the comments were written following the "disappearance" from the Internet of Shumukh Al-Islam for several days in December 2011. According to Al-Amili, the Muslims and their enemies are currently warring in many arenas, including a prominent one that he called the "jihadist propaganda frontline". Al-Amili noted that the closure of jihadist Web forums like Shumukh Al-Islam by the enemy was a natural part of this propaganda war, and stated that the forum was a natural target of enemy attack because it was currently the most prominent of the jihadist Web forums, and a serious source of news, announcements, and analyses. According to Al-Amili, its disappearance for one reason or another should not hamper jihadist propaganda efforts, since its place could be taken by other jihadist Web forums like Al-Fida or Ansar Al-Mujahideen. Al-Amili went on to state that although surfers on jihadist Web forums could do nothing about this matter, they nevertheless were required at this time, in particular, to be more active in reading the materials published on these forums – that is, they should write comments and "talkbacks", participate more, and disseminate jihadist materials on jihadist forums and other Web sites, so as to increase exposure to additional target audiences.⁵⁹

⁵⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

⁵⁹ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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- The Postal Information Section of the jihadist media outlet Global Islamic Media Front (GMF) informed the members of the jihadist Web forums Al-Fida, Shumukh Al-Islam, and Ansar Al-Mujhaideen that they could send suggestions and opinions to its email address, via the following Web site: <http://gimfmail.blogspot.com>.⁶⁰
- Jihadist Web forums announced the establishment of a new jihadist media outlet named Al-Faroq, which would focus on the situation of Muslims around the world, and particularly in Egypt.⁶¹

**The logo of the new media outlet Al-Faroq**

- Through a campaign involving banners, links to video clips, and reports on the conditions in which Muslim women were being held as political prisoners in Saudi Arabia, the Hafidat Safiyya Workshop, a propaganda group active on jihadist Web sites, asked Web surfers to call for the release of these Muslim women prisoners.⁶²

**A typical banner of the type posted by Hafidat Safiyya**

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

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

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