

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Forums

The Second Half of December 2012

This report summarizes notable events discussed on Jihadist Web forums during the second half of December 2012. The following are the main points covered in this report:

- **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) offered a monetary reward to anyone who assassinated the US Ambassador to Yemen as well as any US soldiers on Yemeni soil.**
- **A new Syrian Islamist umbrella organization called "The Syrian Islamic Front" declared its establishment on December 21, 2012, as well as its intention of turning Syria into an Islamic theocracy.**
- **Sheikh Abu Harith Al-Maqdisi, a member of the Ansar Al-Sharia Army in Syria, discussed his vision for the day after the fall of Bashar Al-Assad. According to Al-Maqdisi, the Mujahideen will turn toward Jordan, conquer it, and turn it into an Islamic theocracy. Lebanon's Hezbollah will have to fight for its life and the threat to Israel's security from the Mujahideen will intensify.**
- **The Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad group in West Africa declared the establishment of a new Jihadist media institution named "Al-Murabitoon".**
- **The Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen movement in Somalia announced that Sheikh Abu Mansur Al-Amriki was no longer a member of the group because of his attempts to divide the ranks of the Mujahideen by spreading fallacious reports; widely covered by the Western media, the reports stated that there are deep rifts within the leadership of Al-Shabab.**
- **The Ansar Iran movement established a new media outlet named "Al-Farouq".**
- **The Jihadist web forums, particularly Shumukh Al-Islam, published eulogies in memory of Sheikh Mahub Rawiya Al-Rahman, one of the pioneers of the Jihadist web forums, who was killed in fighting with supporters of Bashar Al-Assad in Tripoli, Lebanon.**

New Publications*Strategy*

- Jihadi websites such as *al-Ansar* and *al-Jihad Al-Alami* recently published an article which falls in line with a current Jihadist trend of stressing the importance of welfare in Jihad.¹

The author of the article is Abu Shadiyya, who through his line of arguments identifies himself as both supporting al-Qaeda's ideology as well as affiliation with the Iraqi cluster of insurgency groups that pursue the aim of establishing the caliphate in Sunni-dominated regions of Iraq.

Interestingly, the article builds upon a main principle of political strategy developed by Joseph Nye, former Assistant Secretary of Defense under the Clinton Administration. Nye introduced the term "Smart Power" to describe a strategy that embraces both "hard" and "soft power" as diplomatic tools. The meaning of this is that in order to attain a certain goal one has to use his wits and combine soft power strategies (persuasion, charms) and hard power strategies (coercion, pressure). According to Abu Shadiyya this principle can already be found in the Quran and ancient Islamic history, arguing that if there are terms such as "smart, soft and hard power", then this means "smart, soft and hard terror" for Muslims.

Throughout his relatively long elaboration on these different types of terrorism he places far more emphasis on the soft variant, citing several Quranic verses that deal with welfare and good deeds (i.e. 21:73; 21:90; 35:32; 48:5). With reference to a speech given by Osama bin Laden in 2010, Abu Shadiyya underlines that "soft terrorism" has long since found its way into the Jihadist discourse. In his speech Osama bin Laden stressed the importance of doing good deeds for those that are in need. This must transcend empty words and manifest in "Muslim Aid" (1) reforming the role of the media as the most important asset in spreading information about the strains of people in different parts of the world; (2) establishing "emergency teams" that can quickly reach areas in which catastrophes happened in order to distribute fresh water, food and medication; (3) increase investment in agriculture to tackle hunger, the world's greatest problem; (4) develop ill-

¹ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

kept and neglected areas such as Sudan, which only uses a fraction of its vast potential to grow food.

Seeing this as a tangible token of welfare in Islam, Abu Shadiyya draws connections to Iraq and Syria, listing 13 examples to promote soft terrorism that will improve the humanitarian situation in these countries. These points include: (4) Iraq must take the initiative in launching agricultural, industrial and pharmaceutical humanitarian projects to aid Syria in its needs; (7) Iraq has the responsibility to incite and propel its economy to put in action these humanitarian projects; (9) Iraq must create a "Ministry of Soft Terrorism" to organize such humanitarian projects in a comprehensive manner; etc.

- Emir Tartarstan Abdullah sent a message in a video clip to all the Mujahideen, especially those in the Caucasus emirate. According to Abdullah, many Muslims and even "the peoples of the periphery" (Jews and Christians) have asked the Mujahideen to liberate their lands, from the Ural Mountains to Astrakhan, including all of the territory of Siberia, from the infidel invaders. Given this, the emir declared a change in the Mujahideen's military tactics, in the framework of which they would break into small groups of two to four people who will act separately without contact between the groups, receiving all essential information from video clips.

In addition, the Emir of Tatarstan took responsibility for the knife related murders of two Russian security agents of the FSB on November 20, 2012; for the bombing of the gas pipeline near Moscow on November 3, 2012; and for the bombing of a cargo train carrying oil on November 24, 2012. He threatened to continue to pursue and assassinate judges, prison guards, and security personnel, and to attack power stations, electric lines, chemical plants, and train tracks throughout Russia.²

² http://echokavkaz.blogspot.co.il/2012/12/blog-post_23.html (Arabic).



Abdullah, emir of Tatarstan

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- During the latter half of December 2012, the members of the Jihadist Web forum Sinam Al-Islam published the following:
 - A guide to building airplanes and the mechanisms to operate them remotely.³
 - A guide to visual and audio wiretapping devices and information about devices that help uncover espionage measures.⁴



Shown in the photograph: devices for detecting wiretapping devices

- A guide to compiling biological weapons.⁵
- A guide to making anthrax.⁶

³ <http://snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁴ <http://snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁵ <http://snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁶ <http://snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

- A female visitor to the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Jihadist web forum appealed to readers on behalf of the Mujahideen in Syria and asked them to post guidebooks and manuals on map reading and understanding topography. Several such guides were posted in response.⁷

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- A visitor to the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Jihadist web forum reported the death of Naman Demolli, the first martyr from Kosovo in the Syrian arena of Jihad. Demolli previously fought with the Kosovo Liberation Army against the Serbs. Thirteen years later, he joined the Mujahideen of the Al-Nusra Front in their fight against Bashar Al-Assad's regime. He was killed during fighting in Talbiseh, Homs Province, on November 8, 2012.⁸



Naman Demolli, the first martyr from Kosovo

- The administration of the Shumukh Al-Islam Jihadist Web forum reported the death of one of its prominent contributors, Sheikh Muhib Ruya Al-Rahman, whom the administrators called "the sheikh of Jihadist Web forums". According to the report, Al-Rahman was killed by a sniper on December 9, 2012 during fighting against the supporters of the Syrian regime in Tripoli,

⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

Lebanon.⁹ Al-Rahman was considered one of the pioneers of Jihadist propaganda, posting some 26,761 items on Jihadist Web forums.



Images of Muhib Ruya Al-Rahman in life (left), and as a martyr (right)

- A visitor to the Shumukh Al-Islam Jihadist Web forum reported the death of an Egyptian from Talha, Dakahlia Province, named Abu Hudhaifa 'Abd Al-Basit Hamed. Hudhaifa was killed at a Syrian Army checkpoint in Jarjanaz, Idlib Province on December 21, 2012. The contributor further reported that Hudhaifa had lived for a time in Ireland, where he had been active among Islamist exiles. He had studied engineering in Ireland but did not complete his degree course because he decided to join the struggle against the regime in Syria.¹⁰

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

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



Abu Hudhaifa 'Abd Al-Basit Hamed

- The Jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published exclusive photographs of Muhammad Ahmad Baker Guenith Abu Omar Al-Maqdisi, a Palestinian Mujahid who participated in fighting against the regime of Bashar Al-Assad in Syria. The married father of three children lived in the Al-Shati Refugee Camp in the western part of the Gaza Strip. A former member of the Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam Brigades of Hamas, he engaged in training the Brigades' forces. At the end of Eid Al-Fitr in late September 2012, Al-Maqdisi immigrated to Syria where he served as a military instructor on the Syria-Turkey border. He was killed on December 27, 2012 in Maarat Al-Numaan, in northeastern Syria, by mortar fire lobbed by the Syrian regime forces. He was buried in Sarmada, near the border with Turkey.¹¹ One visitor to Ansar Al-Mujahideen posted a link to the YouTube video recording Al-Maqdisi's last will and testament.¹²

¹¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹² <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6BOFFy66XQ> (Arabic).



Abu Omar Al-Maqdisi training Mujahideen in Syria



From the YouTube video

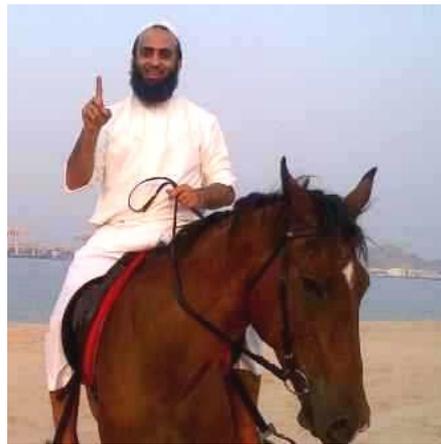
- A member of the Jihadist web forum Sinam Al-Islam reported the death of Sheikh Ismail Muhammad Al-'Alush, an Islamist activist who had established the Facebook page "The Official Spokesman for the Tigris Network", helped to establish and headed the Al-Ansar Brigades, and served as commander of the Al-Furqan Company as well as a field commander. He was killed on December 27, 2012, in clashes with Syrian regime troops.¹³



A banner dedicated to the memory of Ismail Muhammad Al-'Alush

¹³ <http://snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

- A member of the Jihadist web forum Sinam Al-Islam reported the death of Abdullah Al-Hamadi, allegedly the first citizen of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to join the fight against the regime in Syria. Al-Hamadi found his way to Syria after being exiled by UAE security forces. He was killed in clashes with Syrian regime forces.¹⁴



Abdullah Al-Hamadi, the first martyr in the Syrian conflict from the UAE

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan took responsibility for a suicide attack perpetrated in the heart of Kabul, the capital, on December 17, 2012, which targeted a US military corporation. Atiq Allah, the suicide attacker, age 23, drove a car laden with 2,500 kilograms of explosives into a building belonging to the corporation. Some 150 US soldiers and a large number of Afghans were working in the building at the time. As a result of the attack, the attacker, 100 US soldiers, and numerous Afghans were killed, scores were wounded, and property was damaged.¹⁵

Iraq

- During the latter half of December 2012, The Islamic State of Iraq published the following:

¹⁴ <http://snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁵ http://shahamat-arabic.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=23774:2012-12-17-12-02-45&catid=1:news&Itemid=2 (Arabic).

- A report documenting 33 military actions in Kirkuk Province during September-October 2012.¹⁶
- A report documenting 45 military actions in Anbar Province during September-October 2012.¹⁷
- A report documenting 36 military actions in Al-Janub Province in September-October 2012.¹⁸
- An announcement taking responsibility for several attacks on Iraqi security forces in retaliation for the humiliation of Sunni women prisoners.¹⁹
- A renunciation of claims that Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, Emir of the Islamic State of Iraq, had been captured by Iraqi security forces. The renunciation added that this was one in the endless list of lies spread by the Iraqi government in an attempt to conceal its defeat and the deteriorating security situation.²⁰
- A visitor to the Jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen posted photographs of a high-ranking general in the Iraqi Army named Khaled Jaro Al-Dulaimi, who purportedly was systematically persecuting the Sunnis in Iraq and committing crimes against them. Consequently, the contributor asked the Mujahideen to place him at the top of their list of targets for assassination.²¹

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

¹⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

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

²¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



A photograph of General Khaled Jaro Al-Dulaimi which was uploaded to Ansar Al-Mujahideen

- On December 28, 2012, riots broke out following the arrest of Sunni guards of the Minister of the Interior, who were suspected of engaging in terrorism. The Sunni rioters called for the overthrow of Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki, whom they claimed continues to discriminate against the Sunni minority in Iraq, and because of his alliance with Iran. This turn of events elicited comments from visitors to the Jihadist Web forum Hanein on the growing tension between Sunnis and Shiites in Iraq. One contributor posted a photograph of a Sunni in Al-Anbar Province tearing up banners bearing slogans in support of the Shiite majority.



Defacement of banners identified with the Shiites in Iraq

Visitors to the forum denounced the attempts of Sunni and Shiite religious scholars [ulama'] to reconcile the two populations.²² They claimed that such attempts do damage to Islam and the Muslims, and that the advice and Islamic-legal rulings of such "interpreters" [of sharia, Islamic law] do not suit the spirit of the words of Allah and the prophet Muhammad and therefore should be completely ignored.

Some forum contributors took advantage of the forum to disseminate propaganda against specific religious and government leaders in Iraq, such as Sheikh 'Abd Al-Malik Al-Sa'di, a prominent Sunni expert on Islamic law in Anbar Province and the former Mufti of Iraq. One week previously, Al-Sa'di had sent a telegram to the Prime Minister of Iraq insisting that the Shiites must respect the civil rights of the Sunni minority for the good of the country's unity.²³

²² <http://www.wna-news.com/inanews/news.php?extend.17388>;
<http://www.26sep.net/nprint.php?lng=arabic&sid=37936> (both in Arabic).

²³See
[http://en.aswataliraq.info/\(S\(aauzha45pph53w55g4hgja55\)\)/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=151951&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/(S(aauzha45pph53w55g4hgja55))/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=151951&l=1) (English).

An additional expression of the rising tension between Sunnis and Shiites in Iraq can be seen in the denunciation of Shiite Islam by participants in the forum, who cursed its followers and predicted their destruction, multiple times. For example, one contributor wrote: "Bring on the killing, now, now".



A banner associated with Al-Qaeda which appeared beside a post supporting Iraq's Sunnis

The Shiite awakening in Anbar Province, which is ostensibly under complete Sunni control, confounded one Sunni contributor, who wrote, "The most important question is how Shiite Islam reached Anbar Province – a pure bastion of the Sunna?"

Very strident criticism was leveled against Sunnis with nationalistic aspirations, including by activists identified ideologically with Al-Qaeda and global Jihad. One of the main claims against them concerned Shiite Islam's manipulative exploitation of Iraqi nationalism for its ends, at the expense of Sunnis, who continue to follow it blindly, unwittingly. In this context, someone wrote that the television station in Baghdad had begun to broadcast biased and incorrect items out of a desire to promote Shiite values in the public consciousness, and despite this, the Sunnis continue to promote nationalism without realizing that by doing so the Shiite wolf, which has already devoured them, their families and homes while they were busy with their fantasies, dreaming that the "wolf" would one day become a dove.²⁴

A similar argument arose on the Jihadist Web forum Al-Fida. One contributor posted a photograph of a Sunni Muslim clasping a sign that read: "Al-Zarqawi is the solution".²⁵ Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi, the leader of the branch of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, was known to have overseen a series of devastating terrorist attacks

²⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

against the Shiite population in Iraq, for which he was sorely criticized by the leadership of Al-Qaeda, who feared that the organization would lose its popularity and that its base of support would be eroded. Waving this banner indicates to a certain extent the prevalence of the idea of Al-Zarqawi of the sanctity of war against the Shiites, not to mention the declarations of the Islamic State of Iraq, which defined the institutions of the Iraqi state as Shiite institutions that must be fought.



A Sunni Muslim holding a small sign reading, "Al-Zarqawi is the solution"

The Arabian Peninsula

- Al-Malahem, the media outlet of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published a video clip titled, "The Jihad of the Umma [Muslim Nation]".²⁶ In it, Sheikh Ibrahim Suleiman Al-Rubaish, AQAP's Mufti, and Sheikh Abu Huraira Qasim Al-Rimi, a member of its Shura Council, accused the US of trying to defend the anti-Muslim American film, "Innocence of Muslims", which derided the Prophet Muhammad. They expressed support for a fatwa issued by several Yemeni religious scholars [ulama'] determining that all Muslims are obligated to wage Jihad against the US, if it invades Yemen. Also according to the video, AQAP has placed a bounty on the head of the US Ambassador to Yemen, and on all American soldiers there.

²⁶ <http://ansar1.info> (English).



The banner advertising the AQAP video clip



Two scenes from the video offering a reward to anyone who assassinates an American soldier, or the US Ambassador, in Yemen

Al-Sham [Greater Syria]

- The Al-Nusra Front published an audio file titled, "O People of Al-Sham, We Sacrifice Our Souls for You", by its leader, Sheikh Al-Farith Abu Mohammed Al-Julani. Al-Julani notes in the statement that Bashar Al-Assad's regime is nearing its end because of the actions of the Mujahideen, and that very soon, the banner of tawhid [monotheism] will fly in Syria's skies – that is, Syria will become an Islamic theocracy. Al-Julani clarified that the US had placed the Al-Nusra Front on its list of terrorist organizations and fears the establishment of an Islamic state in Syria. This decision, he claimed, has been criticized by people from all across the spectrum, especially politicians and analysts.

Al-Julani noted that the West had failed in its attempts to figure out and understand the nature of the Al-Nusra Front. For example, the Al-Nusra Front had refused to respond to the international campaign to convince it to join the conference of Syrian opposition organizations that was held in Ankara, Turkey, to meet with representatives of other countries or official organizations or to accept outside funding. Al-Julani claimed that the Al-Nusra Front had succeeded in handily overcoming obstacles in its path and to perpetrate hundreds of high-quality attacks against Syrian security forces and installations. To illustrate, Al-Julani cited a list of attacks perpetrated by the Al-Nusra Front in Damascus and Aleppo, such as the attack against the Syrian Army Headquarters in Damascus.

Al-Julani thanked the Syrian people for standing with the Al-Nusra Front against the US and supporting it, especially after the Front had been added to the list of terrorist organizations. He praised the Syrian demonstrators who had taken to the streets to express their support for the Front. In addition, he thanked the brigades fighting in Syria, which also stood beside the Front against the US, and he called for unity and mutual understanding among them.²⁷

²⁷ <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).



A banner advertising the audio statement of Sheikh Farith Abu Mohammed Al-Julani

- During the first half of December 2012, the **Al-Nusra Front** posted several announcements (Nos. 184-187) taking responsibility for military actions and terrorist attacks perpetrated in Syria, among them the assassination of a Syrian Army soldier in Homs by a sniper on December 30, 2012.²⁸
- A member of the Jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen posted a link to a video clip showing members of the Al-Nusra Front preparing pita and loaves of bread for distribution to residents of Syria.²⁹



From the video: An Al-Nusra Front operative prepares pita for the people

²⁸ <http://snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

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

- In a video clip posted on the Web site Beirut Observer, a prominent leader of the Al-Nusra Front known as Abu Al-Bara declared the beginning of Jihad against Hezbollah and its strongholds in Lebanon, because of Nasrallah's policy of oppressing Sunnis in Lebanon and Syria. Al-Bara called on all Sunni Muslims in Lebanon to attack Hezbollah's strongholds.³⁰



From the video clip

- The American news portal Time (formerly *Time Magazine*) posted an interview with Sheikh Abu Adnan, a member of the Shura Council of the Al-Nusra Front in Aleppo. In it, Adnan discussed among other issues, the continued fighting against the Syrian regime, and the inclusion of the Al-Nusra Front on the US's list of terrorist organizations.³¹
- On December 19, 2012, Sheikh Abu Harith Al-Maqdisi, a member of the Army of Ansar Al-Sharia in Al-Sham, published an opinion piece about the future of the revolution in Syria and the Mujahideen.³² Al-Maqdisi claimed that the West is not interested in seeing Syria become an Islamic state, and therefore is planning to interfere with the Mujahideen's intention to transform Syria into one. To this end, the West is using collaborators such as the Druze, the Alawites and the Christians, who are considered the real enemies of the Muslim Nation, "...because they live with us in the same area. Purification of

³⁰ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_SLI0pL3eM;
http://beirutobserver.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=87596 (both in Arabic).

³¹ <http://world.time.com/2012/12/25/interview-with-a-newly-designated-syrias-jabhat-al-nusra/> (English).

³² <http://snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

the country from the internal enemy will preserve it from the external enemy. Anyone who thinks that the US, the West, the Zionists, and Russia will help the Sunnis at the expense of the traitorous collaborators – is mistaken”.

Al-Maqdisi added that Russia is the real political loser from the Syrian revolution, because of its support of the Syrian regime. He added that the West and the Zionists have exploited this situation for two reasons:

- a. A desire to extend the life of the Syrian regime so as to sow as much destruction as possible throughout Syria, ruining its infrastructure and depleting its military arsenal, lest the latter fall into the hands of the Sunnis. In addition, the longer the revolution goes on, the easier the West and the Zionist feel it will be for them to divide up the country as they wish.
- b. To buy time so as to establish an alternative to the Assad regime, while forcing the opposition forces to capitulate on various issues.

According to Al-Maqdisi, because the area is a sensitive one, Russia and the US aspire to maintain stability there, and at the same time to prevent any threat to Israel. Therefore, Russia supports Syria and the US supports the revolutionaries. Moreover, Russia itself is benefitting from this state of affairs and so is China, since the US and the Zionists have funneled money to them so that they will support Syria. In effect, Russia is enjoying both receiving money from the West and from depressing the Syrian economy. Russia will benefit economically, whether or not the Syrian regime falls.

Al-Maqdisi further insisted that the West and the Zionists are not interested in seeing the total collapse of the Syrian regime and the state institutions, but rather in the replacement of the regime only, lest chaos ensue. However, based on the existing data, it appears that it is very difficult for the opposition forces to enter the field because of the significant might of the Mujahideen there. Thus, the plan to divide Syria may fail. The revolution itself, according to Al-Maqdisi, is likely to spread to other regimes that are loyal to the West, such as Jordan. In this way, the West and the Zionists will lose additional areas of influence to the Mujahideen, just as the Russians have lost Syria.

Al-Maqdisi noted that Russia's provocation of the West is increasing as the West's plan [to divide Syria] comes nearer to fruition. The West, as Al-Maqdisi formulates it, aspires to eliminate the Mujahideen, to leave the Syrian regime standing, and to force it to establish an Alawite state, and then to have the

weak coalition enter Syria so as to take control of a weak Syrian state, which will have no choice but to placidly accept the division of Syria.

Al-Maqdisi also discussed Russia's comment about the imminent collapse of the Syrian regime and the death of hundreds of thousands of Syrians. He claimed that this comment was a reflection of Russia's realization that Syria was facing a bloody war that is liable to spread throughout the region, dragging into it Lebanon's Hezbollah, which benefits from Iranian support, and the Sunni revolutionaries. Moreover, this comment was, according to Al-Maqdisi, a type of provocation of the West meant to expose its true face and prove that the West is not really and truly interested in the fall of the Syrian regime.

According to Al-Maqdisi, the Zionist regime is again making the same mistake, because it is technically at war with Syria but prefers to secretly stand alongside the Syrian regime. In effect, the Zionists want to fight the Mujahideen and the revolution, once they have obtained the consent of the Syrian regime. This situation, in Al-Maqdisi's eyes, is identical to the bloody events of 1970 in Jordan, known as "Black September". According to Al-Maqdisi, at that time Jordan used its infantry to clear the country of the Palestinian organizations that were based there, while Israel helped it to bomb the Palestinians in Jordan from the air. He claimed that Israel is "the only country that can use any weaponry in the area on the pretext of self-defense. If the collaborator Alawite regime were to fire two missiles at the Zionist entity, it would start a regional war. The [Zionsit] entity would fire tens of mortars at the Mujahideen and their areas of concentration, using limited atomic or chemical weapons in retaliation, while claiming that it was doing so in self-defense against the Alawite regime, which has a negative image worldwide. And the world would support this ugly war of the [Zionist] entity...". According to Al-Maqdisi, one month is sufficient for Israel to completely decimate what is left of the Syrian regime, and at the same time to strike the centers of the Mujahideen. He claimed that such a war is in Israel's interest, because of its desire to eliminate the Mujahideen, because it knows that, the day after the fall of Bashar Al-Assad's regime, the threat to its existence will only increase. Therefore, the real war will take place between Israel and the Mujahideen.

Al-Maqdisi clarified that while Syria was receiving international support from Shiite groups such as Lebanon's Hezbollah, the army of Muqtada Al-Sadr of Iraq, and other minority groups, the Syrian regime nevertheless will not be able to end the revolution, but only to push back the revolutionaries for a few more months, thanks to its superiority in the air and its many types of weapons.

Arab rulers, in Al-Maqdisi's opinion, are satisfied with merely expressing verbal support and empathy for the revolutionaries. He claimed that they do not know that the revolution is inching toward them.

Al-Maqdisi further stressed that the solution to the war in Syria lies in uniting the ranks among the groups fighting there, and defining who the enemy is. Al-Maqdisi stressed the paramount importance of securing a popular base of support for the fighting brigades and of preserving the public interest: "If the Mujahideen lose the popular base of support, they will have come to the end of their plan for Al-Sham". Therefore, it is important for the Mujahideen to maintain their popular base of support.

Another important point, in Al-Maqdisi's eyes, is the focus on Damascus. When Damascus falls, the war will end, and all of the other provinces will fall without a fight, just as happened in Iraq with the fall of Baghdad and in Afghanistan with the fall of Kabul. Al-Maqdisi called on the Mujahideen to support any revolution that breaks out in any country proximate to Syria. The war in Syria, he claimed is causing the adjacent nations to close their borders with it so as to choke the Mujahideen and prevent them from coming across the border. Turkey, for example, had opened its borders, but it should be remembered that it is a member of NATO, because of its security concerns. Therefore, according to Al-Maqdisi, the Mujahideen must be aware of the danger lurking among neighboring governments, and be cognizant of how important it is for them to be cautious and safe.

- Abu Harith Al-Maqdisi published an additional opinion piece titled, "Considering Events in the Area", in which he reiterated several of the ideas he expressed in the previous opinion piece. He focused on how the revolution in Syria was likely to affect the countries of the region.³³

Syria: The sudden collapse of the Syrian regime will harm Iran and Russia, since they will lose an ally in the region, and will interfere with Western and

³³ <http://snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

Zionist plans to divide Syria. The Mujahideen will grow stronger and Islam will be the rising force in Syria and will fill the vacuum that will be left after the fall of the regime. The US, for its part, will try to have secular opposition coalition forces infiltrate Syria, as a means of preserving its influence in the region. Al-Maqdisi added that the US absolutely does not want the Al-Nusra Front to be part of any arrangement that will be arrived at after the fall of the regime, and therefore has placed it on its list of terrorist organizations. In addition, the discourse aroused by the US regarding the fear that chemical weapons will fall into the hands of the Al-Nusra Front was meant, he added, to signal the Syrian regime to use such weapons against the Mujahideen and also to libelously blame the Mujahideen of not hesitating to use chemical weapons against civilians.

Lebanon: Victory for the revolution in Lebanon will be a victory for the Sunnis. In response, the Shiites will try to frighten the Sunnis in various ways, so as to forestall their progress and the spread of the revolution into the areas where they live. The Christians will form an alliance with the Shiites – or else will wage war against them. The Zionists, for their part, will be very involved in the field so as to prevent a “Sunni program on their northern border”. In addition, the Zionists will try to find a solution for securing their northern border, with the weakening of the strength of Hezbollah after the fall of the Syrian regime.

Al-Maqdisi forecasted several possible scenarios for Lebanon:

- a. Disengagement of Hezbollah from Iran and the cessation of Iranian support, so as to force Hezbollah to turn to the Zionists as a last resort, if the other ethnic and religious groups in Lebanon wage war against Hezbollah.
- b. Hezbollah will be weakened but not destroyed, forcing it to ask the Zionist entity for help, so that it remains a stumbling block to the Sunnis.
- c. Hezbollah will promise to establish a Shiite mini-state in southern Lebanon whose border will be open to the Zionist entity. The border itself will be secured by Hezbollah, and the establishment of the Shiite mini-state will force the Sunnis to ally themselves with Syria or to establish a state in northern Lebanon. The Christians will establish a state of their own in central Lebanon, with the Druze keeping watch over all three states for the Zionist entity.

Jordan: Jordan is the key to the gulf and the road to the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Its conquest is a breath of fresh air/life for the Mujahideen in Al-Sham and the Arabian Peninsula, and will cause the US and the Zionists much consternation. The Hashemite Dynasty has collaborated with the Zionist entity for many long years; it sold it the West Bank and Jerusalem. The calm on the border between Syria and Jordan has been preserved for more than 40 years; however in light of the recent developments, Syria and Jordan are liable to open the gates of hell for Israel. Al-Maqqdisi addressed the King of Jordan, saying that the Mujahideen would soon conquer his country.

Palestine: Al-Maqqdisi sees the members of Hamas as traitors, because they have become the border guards for Israel, they have in the past supported the regime of Bashar Al-Assad, and because they have hounded the Salafi-Jihadists in the Gaza Strip. Al-Maqqdisi wondered whether during Israel's latest operation – Pillar of Defense – victory truly belonged to the Palestinians. He claimed that it was a victory that felt like defeat, since the Hamas and Fatah leadership sold their victory for the opening of the border crossings, after pandering to the Zionists by destroying the tunnels, and in exchange for the entry of Arab delegations – especially since, in order to end the blockade of the Gaza Strip, they expressed willingness to cooperate with the Jews and to remain silent on the matter of the settlements. "Tomorrow Hamas will arrest anyone who thinks of firing one shot at the [Zionist] entity, on the pretext of maintaining the cease fire...".

Egypt: The Muslim Brotherhood has failed and fallen into the trap that the Zionists laid for them when they entered the Sinai Peninsula in order to rid it of Salafi-Jihadists. It also erred by drawing closer to Iran and agreeing to open the Suez Canal to Iranian ships. Preservation of the peace agreement with the Zionist entity is also a black mark on their reputation. President Morsi and his government have also erred by enabling secular Egyptians to take to the streets in support of the Coptic Christians and to protest against the constitution and the transformation of Egypt into an Islamic state.

The US, Russia and Iran: These countries will all lose, according to Al-Maqqdisi, from the fall of the Syrian regime, and Israel will be forced to remain vigilant against the increase in the threat to its security from the Mujahideen, as was stated in the previous opinion piece.



The logo of the Army of Ansar Al-Sharia in Al-Sham

- Eleven Islamist groups fighting in Syria declared on December 21, 2012 in a video clip the establishment of The Syrian Islamic Front, which will fight to overtake the regime of Bashar Al-Assad and to establish a culturally Islamic state ruled by Sharia [Islamic law]. This new umbrella organization claimed that it would continue to aim to achieve its ends in the military and civilian arenas, and using political, propaganda, educational and humanitarian means in accordance with Sharia. The new umbrella organization stressed further that Islam is the guiding ideology of various groups and that it will strive to establish an Islamic state on the territory of Syria. At the time of its establishment, the Front included the following groups:
 - a. Ahrar Al-Sham Brigades, throughout Syria
 - b. Islamic Al-Fajr Movement, in Aleppo and environs
 - c. Jama'at Al-Tali'a Al-Islamiyya [Islamic Vanguard] in Idlib and environs
 - d. Ansar Al-Sham Brigades in Latakiya and environs
 - e. Mus'ab bin 'Umayr Brigade in the environs of Aleppo
 - f. The Army of Tawhid [Monotheism] in Dayr Al-Zur
 - g. The Suqur Islam Brigade
 - h. Al-Iman Fighting Brigades
 - i. Special Operations Brigades
 - j. Hamza bin 'Abd Al-Mutalib Brigade, in Damascus and environs.



The announcement of the establishment of the Syrian Islamic Front

The Front added that it extends its hand to all Islamic groups in Syria, which are welcome to join it.³⁴ In response, on December 28, 2012, the group Liwa Al-Islam announced that it was joining the Front.³⁵



Liwa Al-Islam declares it is joining the Syrian Islamic Front



The logo of the Syrian Islamic Front

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

³⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=386679711424954> (Arabic).

- The Al-Nusra Front's Propaganda Department denied on December 18, 2012 a report in the media, headed by the Qatari Al-Jazeera Network, which stated the Al-Nusra Front commander, Abu Muhammad Al-Julani, was killed or kidnapped. The group stressed that the reports on the appointment of a new commander to the Al-Nusra Front, Abu Jilabib or Abu Anas Al-Sahaba, are untrue and the two are merely field commanders.³⁶ The Facebook page of the "Al-Nusra Front Supporters" attacked this report, stressing that it is part of a propaganda war meant to spread fear amongst the Al-Nusra Front ranks.
- The "Liwa Al-Mujahideen Latakia" group, affiliated to the Al-Nusra Front, produced a first video clip following a day of training of its members in one of the camps in the environs of Latakia.³⁷ Latakia is considered to be a main harbor city in Syria and a stronghold of the Alawi sect.



A segment from the video clip

- The Hizb Al-Tahrir Al-Islami Party (The Islamic Liberation Party) criticized the composition of the Syrian leadership which was decided at the Antalya Conference under the sponsorship of the US, Britain and France. The representatives of the new leadership are supposed to constitute an alternative leadership in Syria for the day following Bashar al-Assad's regime. The representatives of the new leadership were elected from amongst the Syrian military and revolutionary and opposition councils. According to the

³⁶ <https://twitter.com/JbhatALnusra>

³⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com>

Party this is an attempt to subjugate the rebel Jihadi factions to the new leadership, that defer to the US authority. Therefore, the Party warns the Mujahideen in Syria not to have the revolution hijacked from under them and have all of their achievements in the field thus far been for naught.³⁸

Hizb Al-Tahrir Al-Islami is an international Muslim organization, founded in 1953 in Jerusalem by Taqi Al-Din Al-Nabhani. The organization supports the reinstating of the rule of the Muslim Caliphate, ruled by a Caliph who will be elected by all of the Muslims, by the implementation of Islamic law (Sharia). This organization is active in over forty countries, mainly in Europe, North America, Australia, Central Asia, North and East Africa, as well as many Arab countries.



A banner prepared by the Islamic Liberation Party alerting against the US attempt to subjugate the rebels to the American plan. The photograph shows the representatives of the alternate leadership elected in the Antalya Conference

- The "Qabidun 'ala Al-Jamr" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of the Sinam Al-Islam Jihadi forum, published a video clip on behalf of the "Ansar Al-Sharia Army" in Syria. The video focuses on the fighting that went on in the Yarmuk Refugee Camp in the outskirts of Damascus.³⁹
- The manager of the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Jihadi forum, called Naser Al-Din, published links to a two part documentary on the fighters of the Al-Nusra Front and on the fighters in other Jihad groups in Syria calling for the implementation of the Sharia, the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate and

³⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/da3m.syria>; www.syriatruth.org/news/tabid

³⁹ <http://snam-s.net/vb>

the downfall of Bashar Al-Assad's regime. The documentary was produced by the journalist Yasin bin Rabi' for the Echorouk Algerian TV station.⁴⁰



Banner for the documentary on the Al-Nusra Front

- Asad Al-Jihad 2, a prominent writer on several Jihadi forums, called to the people in Syria and especially the leaderships of the groups fighting Bashar Al-Assad's regime, to convene a joint meeting prior to Bashar Al-Assad's fall. This is to formulate an agreed plan that would propose a vision that meets the demands of every one of the groups, whether they are Islamic or nationalists, while ensuring the rights of the Syrian people. In the event such a meeting is not held between all of the fighting factions and an agreed formula found, then according to him there is concern that the achievements of the revolution and Jihad will be stolen. Therefore, Asad Al-Jihad 2 stressed that one must strive for unity of the ranks and ensure that the vacuum created after the fall of Bashar Al-Assad's regime is filled.⁴¹
- Following the US's inclusion of the Al-Nusra Front in the list of terror organizations, a member of the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Jihadi forum posted photographs from demonstrations of support of the Al-Nusra Front in front of the Syrian embassy in Algeria, held on December 14, 2012.⁴²

⁴⁰ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> . See document based on this video and other sources containing reference to the foreign fighters coming in to Syria in order to take part in the fighting against the Syrian regime: ICT's Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group, "Evidence of the Influx into Syria of Foreign Jihadist Fighters", 28.11.12. <http://ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=550f1Jrll6Q%3d&tabid=320>

⁴¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb>

⁴² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>



The writing: "We are all Al-Nusra Front... all of us... all of us... all of us"

Africa

The Maghreb

- Sheikh Abd Al-Hamid Abu Zayd, a senior member of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb operating in the Sahara region, referred in a video tape published by the "Sahara Media" Mauritania news agency, to the fate of the four kidnapped French citizens who were abducted from northern Nigeria and are held by it for close to two years. According to him, he elected to publish the tape regarding the abductees following the requests of the abductees' families asking for information on the negotiations for their release, conducted between the organization and the French government. According to him, the issue of the abductees was at first under the responsibility of the Central Al-Qaeda organization in Afghanistan, however later on this responsibility was transferred to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, who expressed willingness to enter into negotiations with France regarding the release of the abductees. However, he contends that France has not agreed to his request thus far. Towards the end of the tape Abu Zayd stressed that the abductees are alive and well.⁴³

In November 2012 the families of the abductees sent a video tape of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb asking for information on the fate of their

⁴³ http://www.saharamedias.net/%D8%B9%D8%A8%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D8%A3%D8%A8%D9%88-%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D9%8A%D8%A4%D9%83%D8%AF-%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%86-%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%AD%D9%85%D9%84-%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7-%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A4%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%82%D9%81_a17403.html

relatives, promising they will act for true negotiations between the abductors and the French government.⁴⁴



Sheikh Abd Al-Hamid Abu Zayd

- The Ansar Al-Sharia group in Libya published in the course of the second half of December 2012 several publications:
 - Photographs of patrols and tours made by the group members in Benghazi on December 23, 2012, to safeguard its residents.⁴⁵



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http://www.saharamedias.net/%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%B1%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%86-%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%B3%D9%8A%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%AC%D9%87-%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%A5%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AA%D9%86%D8%B8%D9%8A%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D8%A8%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%BA%D8%B1%D8%A8_a17238.html

⁴⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/raya.media>

- Photographs from a campaign for the distribution of radiators to needy families. The campaign was launched on December 24, 2012.⁴⁶



- A notice warning not to celebrate the Christian Christmas holiday.⁴⁷
- The Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad group in West Africa declared the establishment of a new Jihadist media institution that will operate under the name "Al-Murabitoon".⁴⁸



The logo of the Al-Murabitoon media institute

- A surfer on the Al-Fidaa Jihadi forum noted that in protest against the corruption prevalent in the Tunisian media, Islamists in Tunisia threw TV sets on the beach.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/raya.media>

⁴⁷ <http://snam-s.net/vb>

⁴⁸ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

⁴⁹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb>



- In the course of the second half of December 2012, the tension level between the Salafi Jihadi movement in Tunisia and between the Muslim Brotherhood government in the country rises, following the break-in of the Tunisian Ministry of Interior forces to the house of one of the members of the Salafi Jihadi movement in Tunisia. As a result of shooting on the part of these forces, the member was injured and his wife was killed on the spot. The government itself claimed that the grounds for the break-in were suspicion of weapons being present inside the house.

The movement members called this a criminal act expressing an attempt on the part of the government in Tunisia to get into the good graces of the US. Thus for example, the movement claimed that the US gave the Tunisian government 15 new vehicles as an expression of its pleasure from the war waged by the government against the Salafi Jihadi in the country. Especially US satisfaction after the Tunisian government killed a number of the Salafi movement who demonstrated in front of the US embassy, protesting the American anti-Muslim movie depicting the Prophet Muhammad in a ridiculous light.⁵⁰

Mali

- Some of the tribes dispersed in northern Mali expressed willingness to implement Sharia law and punish anyone breaking it. Furthermore, they instructed the forming of an Ulama council that would convene once every

⁵⁰ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>

three months and through which courses will be held for imams, callers for prayer and preachers. In addition they called for the spilling of blood of anyone collaborating with the forces of the Economic Community of West African States – ECOWAS, calling for international military intervention against the armed groups that took over northern Mali. In November 2012 ECOWAS approved sending 3,300 soldiers to Mali for a limited period, in order to liberate northern Mali.⁵¹

- The Ansar Al-Din movement held a ceremony with many participants where additional tribes in the area of northern Mali swore allegiance to the movement.⁵² This act expressed another increase in the group's popular power base.
- The Ansar Al-Din movement published a video clip titled "Uphold the Religion".⁵³



A banner for the video and a segment from it

- The Mauritania news agency, Sahara Media, published a video tape that it received showing the maneuvers of members of the Ansar Al-Din movement, as they prepared for the upcoming confrontation in northern Mali.⁵⁴

⁵¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>

⁵² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb>

⁵³ <http://snam-s.net/vb>

⁵⁴ http://www.saharamedias.net/%D8%B5%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%B5%D8%AF-%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%88%D8%AF%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B3-%D9%88%D8%B9%D8%B8%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%AD%D8%B6%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%A5%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AF_a17432.html



In the video: maneuvers of the Ansar Al-Din movement

- The "Qabidun 'ala Al-Jamr" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of the Sinam Al-Islam Jihadi forum, declared a collaboration with the Al-Murabitoon Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of the Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad group in West Africa. The collaboration is an open forum that will be held with Sheikh Hamed Waleed al-Khair, head of the Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad group in West Africa. In this discussion the surfers may address questions to the sheikh in various matters, and especially matters pertaining to the Jihad theaters. It was further stated that the date of this forum will be published at a later date.⁵⁵



Notice on the open forum with Sheikh Hamed Waleed al-Khair

⁵⁵ <http://snam-s.net/vb>

Egypt

- The "Islamic Jihadi Da'awa in Egypt" movement, headed by Muhammad al-Zawahiri, brother of Al-Qaeda's leader and one of the senior members of the Salafi Jihadi movement in Egypt, announced its support of the Al-Nusra Front and the people of Syria.⁵⁶
- The "Islamic Jihadi Da'awa in Egypt" movement, founded on September 29, 2012 and headed by Muhammad al-Zawahiri, announced the establishment of a Da'awa mechanism/ team called "the Winning Sect" (Al-Taifa Al-Mansura), that will operate to spread the principle of the uniqueness of God, to abolish polytheism, to spread the knowledge of the Sharia based on the Quran and Sunna and that will command what is known and prohibit the obscene. The founding notice stated that the mechanism will include leaders and sheikhs from the Salafi Jihadi movement in Egypt that will act to end the dispersion of distorted religious knowledge by the ulama recruited by the governments of usurpation and ignorance.⁵⁷



A segment from a press conference held by the group announcing its establishment

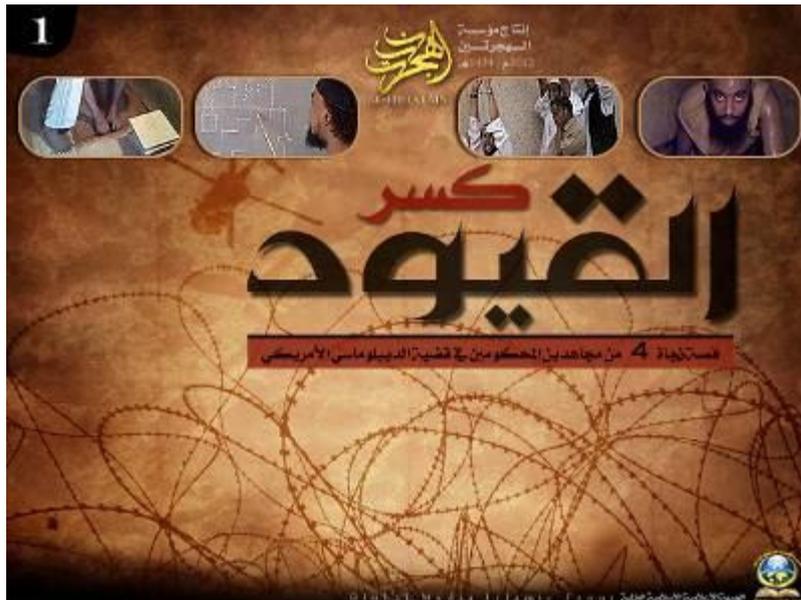
Sudan

- The GIMF Jihadi media institute published in collaboration with the Jihadi Al-Hijratayn Media Foundation, a video tape titled "Breaking the Chains" which is the first of two parts. The tape follows a rescue mission of four Mujahideen from the central Kobar Prison in Khartoum in northern Sudan, sentenced to

⁵⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

⁵⁷ <http://today.almasryalyoum.com/article2> ; <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>

death for the murder of the American diplomat, Granville, on January 1, 2008. Their rescue was carried out by digging a tunnel over 38 meters long. Amongst those who escaped was Abd Al-Rauf Abu Zayd Muhammad Hamza, son of the leader of the Ansar Al-Sunna Jihadi group in Sudan.⁵⁸



A banner for the video "Breaking the Chains"

Somalia

- The Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen movement published on December 17, 2012 on its Twitter account a message of clarification which stated Abu Mansur Al-Amriki, an American convert to Islam and member of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, was no longer considered to be a member of the movement.⁵⁹ According to the statement, in the course of 2012, the world media, and especially western media, discussed Mansur extensively because of some video tapes he leaked to the internet. According to the movement, the media used these tapes to claim that the Mujahideen in Somalia was divided amongst themselves and there are rifts between them. The movement

⁵⁸ <http://snam-s.net/vb>

⁵⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/qadaya.alumma1> ;
<http://aljahad.com/vb/showthread.php?t=25066> ;
<http://dawaalhaq.wordpress.com/2012/12/17/%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D8%A8%D9%88-%D9%85%D9%86%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B1/>

stressed that Mansur "does not represent in any way the immigrants in Somalia or their opinion. The opinions of Abu Mansur and the video tapes on his behalf are an individual product openly reflecting his love of publicity and have no connection to reality". The movement added that despite Mansur's inappropriate conduct it chose to treat him according to the path of the Prophet Muhammad, by way of counseling and guidance. However, as all attempts to advise him have failed, the Mujahideen are duty bound to warn the Muslims against his perverse and faulty path, determined to sow division among the pioneers of the Muslim nation.

The movement made it clear that Mansur did not select the date of publication of his video tapes by chance, the first in March 2012 during his preparations to invade the Lower Shebelle Province and the second in October 2012 upon the enemy's takeover of the city of Kismayo. He did so in order to direct attention to the Mujahideen being under heavy pressure. Finally, the movement wished to apologize before the Muslim nation and especially before the Mujahideen for having been forced to witness such behavior.

- The official spokesperson for the Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen movement, Sheikh 'Ali Mahmud Raji, declared that the US and its allied have decided to enter into a campaign against the Al-Shabab movement. This was after American means of espionage in Djibouti and the Seychelles have moved their activity from these countries to Mogadishu. Raji also claimed responsibility for the detonation of a car bomb on the road leading to Villa Somalia in Mogadishu, killing a senior American intelligence operative who was an expert on east Africa. Finally, he stressed that his movement is ready to fight the US and its allies.⁶⁰

The Caucasus

- Sheikh Abu Abd Al-Rahman Al-Maghribi, who has been expressing lately on behalf of the Caucasus Mujahideen sites, published a response regarding the question "Is it possible to go on Jihad in Syria while Jihad is going on in the Caucasus?" First, the Sheikh congratulated those asking themselves this question as they show their sympathy to their brothers far away from them. Second, according to the Sheikh all the experts agree that in a situation where an enemy enters the territory of a Muslim state, Jihad becomes a

⁶⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/qadaya.alumma1>

personal mission of every Muslim, both in that country and outside. Therefore, in the current status, it is understandable that the Jihad in the Caucasus has great importance for every Muslim worldwide. Add to that the clear fact that in the moment there is no shortage of fighters and resources for Syria. Moreover, even if the day comes when the last sentence is no longer true, Syria is still surrounded by many Muslim neighbors with many fighters and resources, which they are duty bound to provide to their brothers. The Sheikh declares that the fighters in the Caucasus cannot leave their missions at this time and they must stand firm in face of the Russian enemy.⁶¹

- The Umma News website summarized the Mujahideen's monthly activity in the Caucasus theater. According to the data, in this theater a total of 41 Jihadi operations took place, killing 34 and injuring 31 of Allah's enemies, together with the turning of eight men into shahids. According to the publication, this month nine supply convoys were neutralized and five structures were destroyed. The website even attributed importance to the number of losses as a result of the "heretics" activity: 22 men and one woman were killed on the Muslims side together with the abduction of 34 more men, six women, one old man and a university professor. This is a 50% increase in the number of operations and the number of casualties caused by the Mujahideen activity compared to the previous month.⁶²
- The Umma News website followed the events of the end of December in the Chontaul Province, where it was claimed that a massacre was perpetrated by the Russian forces against the Muslim residents in the area. According to the website it seems that the events brought on a violent outburst on the part of the Mujahideen against the Russian forces.⁶³ However, two days following the events, a report was published on the website according to which it seems that there were no violent protests on the part of the Muslims and the events ended after the Russian forces murdered one Muslim family. Those publishing the article explained that the change and amendment stem from the fact that the first publication was based on information coming in from Russian sources, which as it turns out were untrue; according to them there were

⁶¹ <http://vdagestan.com> (Russian)

⁶² <http://ummanews.com/news/kavkaz/9472-----1434----15---13--2012-.html>

(Russian)

⁶³ <http://ummanews.com/news/kavkaz/9545-2012-12-28-13-47-23.html> (Russian)

many Mujahideen forces in the Province, but they were there for a reason unrelated to the murder.⁶⁴

- The Valiat Dagestan website called for a protest against the "heretic" attempts to force the Christian New Year celebrations on the Muslim population in the Caucasus. The events began escalating after the "heretics" beat and kidnapped a young man who was distributing pamphlets supporting the act, on the night of December 27, 2012. The website notes in this publication that this is distinct religious coercion on the part of the Russian government and call that it does not go without comment.⁶⁵
- The Sada Al-Caucasus Center in Arabic welcomed an initiative, first of its kind, to reinforce the propaganda for the northern Caucasus and the people of the Caucasus amongst Arabic speakers. The Center called for Arabic speakers to promote the issue of the Caucasus in the electronic media Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and blog video tapes, audio tapes, photographs, banners and more. The Center suggested that Arabic speaking surfers contact it in order to receive instructions on the matter at the following email: RevolutionofIslam@gmail.com.⁶⁶



A banner calling to increase propaganda for the Caucasus on the internet amongst Arabic speakers

⁶⁴ <http://ummanews.com/news/kavkaz/9552-2012-12-28-19-25-12.html> (Russian)

⁶⁵ <http://vdagestan.com> (Russian)

⁶⁶ <http://echokavkaz.blogspot.co.il>

- The Sada Al-Caucasus Center operating on behalf of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus published a video segment in Arabic called "the Chechnya Battles 1996". In the opening statement it said that the publication documents the transitional stage from the fight in the Caucasus for independence after the wars against Russia in 1996.⁶⁷

Iran

- The Ansar Iran movement published in the course of the second half of December 2012 several messages, including:
 - Launching a new media institute operating on its behalf called Al-Farooq, the movement released the following statement: "As Al-Farooq media we hope to bring to our audiences professionally edited, high quality videos and images. We hope to release our productions here, on our blog, on our Facebook page and our YouTube channel as appropriate, as well as on our Arabic And Fars".⁶⁸



The logo of the Al-Farooq media institute

- Repeated messages promising to harm Shiites everywhere they may be, whether it is in Iran, Iraq, Syria or elsewhere.⁶⁹

⁶⁷ <http://www.alplatformmedia.com>

⁶⁸ <http://ansariran.blog.com>

⁶⁹ <http://ansariran.blog.com>



A banner prepared by the group and posted on its Facebook page⁷⁰

- Condemnation of an ethnic purge perpetrated by Iran against the Sunni population in the Baluchistan region.⁷¹
- Declaration on cooperation with a Jihadi group called Sepah-e Sahaba Iran. The group stresses that in this collaboration there is also the wish to dispel rumors spread by Iranian Intelligence that the relationship between the two groups is poor.⁷²

China – East Turkistan

- Yilmaz Şahin Hilal, head of the Turkistan Islamic Society, was interviewed by Turkish TV and noted that the Chinese government continues to perpetrate crimes against the Muslim population living in China. He stressed that the only entity caring and acting to protect the Muslim population in China is the

⁷⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Harakat-Ansar-Iran/442994285750337>

⁷¹ <http://ansariran.blog.com/2012/12/25/ethnic-cleansing-of-baluchis-in-iran/>

⁷² <http://ansariran.blog.com/2012/12/17/harakat-ansar-iran-announce-cooperation-with-sepah-e-sahaba/>

Islamic Turkistan Party, a Salafi Jihadi group identifying with the concept of global Jihad.⁷³



Yilmaz Şahin Hilal

The West and the rest of the world

- The Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF) published on December 19, 2012 a song titled "The Lion of Germany Murad" by Abu Talha Al-Almani, a member of the Salafi Jihadi Millat Ibrahim Group in Germany and the former German rapper, Deso-dogg. The song is about Lowe Murat K, also called the Lion of Germany, a German citizen of Turkish origin who stabbed three police officers during a demonstration protesting the dishonoring of the Prophet. In the course of the demonstrations there were clashes between the members of the group and German security officers in Bonn, for which they were incarcerated. In the song Abu Talha called to kidnap German citizens as hostages so as to bring about the release of Murad K and to slaughter anyone offending the Prophet Muhammad.⁷⁴ On December 28, 2012 the GIMF published another of his songs titled "Chechnya".⁷⁵



A banner for the Lowe Murat K song

⁷³ <http://www.kureselhaber.net/turkistan-islam-partisi-turkistan-davasinin-tek-temsilsidir.html> (Turkish).

⁷⁴ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>

⁷⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>



A banner for the Chechnya song

- The Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF) published a song titled "We are those who gave Oath to Usama".⁷⁶



A banner for the song

⁷⁶ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>

Miscellaneous

- The management of the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Jihadi forum notified its surfers on December 18, 2012 of its return to activity on the web after having stopped operations for a period of two weeks. According to the management, the forum was down due to sabotage at the hands of the enemies of Islam, which at the end did not succeed.⁷⁷ At the beginning of December 2012 this forum was taken down together with two additional Jihadi forums, Al-Fida and Shumukh Al-Islam.



The notice on the return to activity of the Al-Fida Jihadi forum

- The Al-Fida Jihadi forum announced the opening of its gates for the registration of new members for one day.⁷⁸
- Abdullah Muhammad Mahmud, a researcher and analyst at the "Dawat Al-Haqq Institute for Research" criticized the Al-Jazeera network for untrue content and reports pertaining to the Mujahideen, such as the apprehension of the Emir of the Islamic State of Iraq by the Iraqi security forces, the death of the Emir of the Al-Nusra Front and his replacement by a Jordanian Emir, etc. According to him, this state of affairs expresses hostility on the part of Al-Jazeera towards the Mujahideen, much like the Al-Arabiya satellite channel that for this reason has lost all credibility in the eyes of the viewers.⁷⁹
- Towards the end of December, two of the leading Jihadi forums, Shumukh Al-Islam and Al-Fida, were taken down again. One of the surfers on the "Global Jihad" Jihadi forum noted that the reason they were taken down was connected to an electronic attack perpetrated by the Americans and the Zionists. The surfer stressed that the electronic attack was another component in the propaganda war carried out by the enemies against Islam

⁷⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> ; <http://al-fidaa.com/vb>

⁷⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb>

⁷⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>

and that therefore the Muslim nation must defend itself, amongst other things, by reinforcing propaganda on the internet.⁸⁰

Facebook

- A researcher called Abdullah Muhammad Mahmud, at the "Dawat Al-Haqq Institute for Research" noted that the disabling of the Jihadi forums as has occurred in the course of December when three major Jihadi forums were disabled has had great effect on the activity of the Mujahideen supporters and anyone taking an interest in the topic of Jihad. In light of the above, the writer suggests not relying only on the Jihadi forums as a channel for spreading messages and for strengthening ties with Jihad supporters, and also open accounts in the Facebook social network and on Twitter, in the event the Jihadi forums are disabled again.⁸¹



- The Liwa Al-Mujahideen in Latakiya, affiliated to the Al-Nusra Front, launched a new account on Facebook.⁸² As of January, the page has received more than two hundred "likes".

⁸⁰ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

⁸¹

<http://dawaalhaq.wordpress.com/2012/12/23/%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D9%88%D9%83-%D9%88%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%AA%D8%B1-%D9%85%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%82%D8%B9-%D8%A8%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%82%D9%81-%D8%A7/>

⁸² <https://www.facebook.com/lwa.mojaheden>



The group's banner on Facebook

- On December 21, 2012 the "Syrian Islamic Front" launched a page on Facebook. The page contains official notices and video clips on behalf of said group. As of January 2013 the page has received over 10,000 "likes".⁸³



The group's logo on Facebook

Twitter

- A surfer on the Al-Fida Jihadi forum directed the attention of the forum surfers to the launching of a global campaign to release the Saudi Sheikh Naser Al-Fahd, incarcerated in Saudi Arabia since 1994. The campaign began through the #Free_Nasr_alFhd Twitter account in English and through Facebook on the part of a group of activists called Hashtag. The campaign is supposed to start with a demonstration in front of the Saudi embassies in London, New York and Sydney to raise global awareness to the problem of the incarceration.⁸⁴

⁸³ <https://www.facebook.com/Islamic.Syrian.Front>

⁸⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb>

Sheikh Anjam Hudri, a Salafi Jihadi Sheikh residing in London and attempting to promote the idea of implementing the Sharia in some European countries, responded to this campaign as follows: "May Allah free Sheikh Nasr Al-Fahad & bless us to work to establish sharia, support Jihad & free the Aseer [Prisoner] wherever we are".⁸⁵

Sheikh Naser Al-Fahd, a radical Saudi cleric, was born in 1968 in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. He was a graduate of the Al-Imam University in Riyadh. On August 1994 he was arrested and incarcerated by the Saudi authorities for composing a song, allegedly, condemning the morality of the wife of the Saudi Prince Nayif. In November 1997 he was released from prison. He published fatwas supporting the Taliban regime and prohibiting the Muslims from collaborating with the US. In May 2003 he issued a fatwa allowing use of weapons of mass destruction against the US. He openly supported harming western citizens and supported terror attacks in Saudi Arabia. Following the above, he was arrested again by the Saudi authorities. However, due to Saudi pressure he was forced to retract (in November 2003) the fatwas permitting the blood of western citizens who were granted entry to Saudi Arabia, as well as the accusation of heresy he made against Saudi government personnel and his call to young Muslims to go carry out Jihad in Iraq and Afghanistan.



A virtual poster for the release of the sheikh as posted on Twitter

⁸⁵# free_Nasr_Alfhd

- A member on the Al-Fida Jihadi forum announced that on December 16, 2012 a Twitter account was opened for Sheikh Abu Sa'ad Al-'Amili, a prominent writer on the Jihadi forums, at the following address:
<https://twitter.com/al3aamili>.⁸⁶

⁸⁶ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb>