

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Web Forums

The Second Half of January 2012

This report summarizes notable events discussed on Jihadi Web forums during the latter half of January 2012. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- The Nigerian group Boku Haram has taken responsibility for a series of coordinated attacks perpetrated on January 20, 2012, against several police institutions in Kanu, the second-largest city in Nigeria.
- Using a car laden with explosives, the Somali group Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen carried out a suicide terrorist attack against the regional headquarters of the Ethiopian Army in the city of Beledweyne.
- Ansar Al-Sharia has succeeded in taking over the city of Rada'a in Yemen.
- The Shari'a Council of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has ruled that the faithful may kill the Houthis in Yemen, and stating that, in fact, it is the duty of every Muslim to wage war against the Houthis.
- The spokesman for the Islamic State of Iraq has emphasized that the jihad in Iraq will continue even though the US has withdrawn its troops, and that now the majority of effort will be directed against Iran's agents in Iraq and their Shi'ite allies.
- A new jihadist group called "The Aid Front for the Syrian People" has been established, with the central goal of overthrowing Bashar Al-Assad.
- A new Salafi group has been established in Egypt named "Followers of the Sunna for the Salvation of Egypt" and headed by Hani Al-Sibai and Tariq Abd Al-Halim.
- A new jihadist Turkish periodical, *İslam Dünyası*, has been published.

New Publications

Ideology

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Fajr has published an article by Sheikh Abdallah Al-Adm (Abu Ubaydah) titled, "Syria (The Next Hope)". In it, Abu Ubaydah discusses the popular rebellion in Syria. He claims the rebellion must be an armed one, because the Alawite sect that currently heads the Syrian regime, and which is fighting for its survival, is waging a war of destruction against the Sunni population. He feels that the West is well aware of the severity and implications of the crisis in Syria, and is trying to unseat the Syrian regime by imposing an economic embargo, supporting the Syrian National Assembly and the Free Syrian Army, and the like. Abu Ubaydah expresses the opinion that the Syrian regime will suffer a fate similar to that of Qaddafi in Libya and of the other Arab regimes that have collapsed during the past year, and that jihad guarantees this.¹
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masada, which functions under the auspices of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, has published an article by Abu Jandal titled, "Behind Prison Bars: Lessons of a Prisoner". In it, Abu Jandal stresses the duty of every Muslim to free Muslim prisoners by any and all means possible – armed struggle, monetary payments, etc..²
- In its da'wa [missionary] lessons section, the jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab has published an audio file by the Kuwaiti Salafist Sheikh Khalid Al-Husaynayn titled, "Strengthening the Relationship with God". It has also published an audio file titled, "Signs of the Decline in Faith".³
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masada has published an article titled, "Who Will Help Umm Sayf Al-Ansariya?" by Abu Usama Al-Gharib, a Muslim from Vienna and a key operative of the Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF), who was captured in 2009 by Austrian security forces and sentenced to four years in prison for making threats and disseminating jihadist propaganda. Al-Gharib was released from prison in September 2011.⁴ Similarly, the Salafi-jihadist Web portal Millat Ibrahim published a video clip of a sermon by Abu Usama titled "Tawhid Is the Highest Concern".⁵

¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/>; <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (both in Arabic).

⁴ <http://alghoorabaa.wordpress.com> (Arabic).

⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Fajr has published a 272-page book titled "Generous Notes for the People of Jihad" by Sheikh Abdallah Khalid Al-Adam (Abu Ubaydah). The book itself was written in early 2008 and first published on December 22, 2011, with a second edition, containing addenda and an index, being issued on January 30, 2012. Sheikh Atiyyah Allah, a senior member of Al-Qaeda who was killed in Afghanistan at the end of August 2011, wrote a foreword to the book, which is a compendium of advice on matters of jihad for mujahideen on the path of jihad. Among the topics covered by the book are the importance of consultation among mujahideen; how to behave when disagreements arise among the mujahideen; how to behave when a jihadist leader is killed; and how to safeguard the wealth and property of the mujahideen.⁶
- The jihadist public relations group Al-Ansar Mailing List Newsletter has published a video clip titled, "Go Away...You Are Free", about Yemeni security personnel who have turned themselves in to, or been caught by, Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen. Ansar Al-Sharia released those security personnel who vowed to its leaders that they would neither rejoin the ranks of Yemen's security forces nor serve the Yemeni regime.⁷



"Go Away...You Are Free"

The Arab Spring and the Process of Democratization

In recent months, the Salafi-jihadist discourse has been increasingly critical of a growing trend among some Islamist actors in the public sphere in Arab countries, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, to participate in the democratic processes engendered by the fall of previous regimes and the collapse of the old order.

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

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

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masada, which functions under the auspices of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, has published an article by Sheikh Abu Saad Al-Amili titled, "For You Is Your Religion and for Me Is My Religion: Neo-Islamists and Democracy". In it, Al-Amili criticizes the various Islamist forces in Arab countries that are willing to adopt democracy as the reigning order. He claims that doing so is a death blow to Islam.⁸
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masada has published an article by Sheikh Abu Ayman Al-Masri titled, "Questions and Answers: A Ruling on Participation in Political Parties and Posting Candidacy for Presidency of the Republic for the Purpose of Imposing Shari'a". Al-Masri himself absolutely forbids participation in parliament or in the democratic process, which he believes contravenes Islamic law [shari'a] and smacks of polytheism.⁹
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Faroq has published an article by Sheikh Jalal Al-Din Abu Al-Fatuh titled, "Democratic Jurisprudence". In it, Al-Fatuh criticizes the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafis for being willing to adopt democracy, which he claims is not only unsuited to the principles of Islam but in fact contravenes them, and is rife with heresy.¹⁰



"Democratic Jurisprudence", by Sheikh Al-Fatuh

Strategy

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Fajr has published a video clip by Sheikh Abdallah Al-Adam titled, "The Security and Planning of Special Operations", which is part 27 in a series titled "The Terrorism Industry".¹¹

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

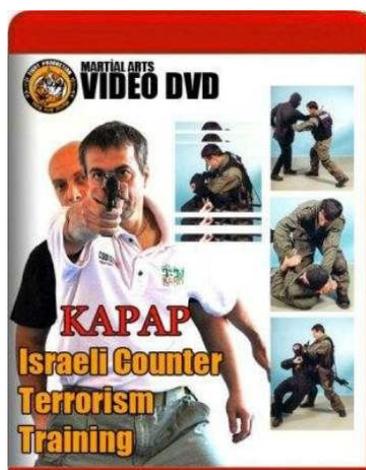
⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

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

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, who is participating in the forum's online course in jihadist propaganda, posted links to an Israeli training video on a type of combat known as KAPAP, an acronym for a tactic used by Israeli security forces in their war against terrorism. According to the post writer, KAPAP integrates a mix of offensive and defensive tactics, including boxing, judo, jujitsu, and wielding a knife, gun and rifle.¹²



Israel's hybrid method of face-to-face combat

- The supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, who goes by the name Abu Al-Ayna Al-Khurasani, published a video clip containing a detailed explanation of how to make hand grenades. The clip was produced by Abu Dujanah Al-Yamani, defined as "a soldier of the Islamic State of Iraq".¹³
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam named Asad Al-Malhama published a detailed and illustrated explanation of how to acquire and prepare a particularly potent form of explosive known as hexamine.¹⁴ In another thread, Al-Malhama discussed how to insert ball-bearings, pellets and other types of shrapnel into bombs and explosive belts so as to cause more intense damage and injury.¹⁵

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

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

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

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

تصنيع مادة الهكسامين (مادة أولية مهمة لتصنيع بعض أنواع المتفجرات القوية مثل RDX - HMTD - HMX)		
المواد المطلوبة: فورمالين + نشادر		
		
<p>- مادة النشادر (هكذا تسمى محليا - وبعضهم يطلق عليها كبريتة الطعام أو البوظن) ويمكن الحصول عليها بكل سهولة من محلات بيع العطارة والبهارات أو المخازن الكبيرة</p> <p>- تستخدم في صناعة بعض أنواع الكعك والحلويات</p> <p>- تعرف برائحتها التفاذة جدا لذلك نجد أنها تستخدم أيضا في إغاثة المغسى عليه</p>	<p>- الفورمالين (عبارة عن محلول من مادة الفورمالدهيد بتركيز تقريبا 37%) - وهي مادة سامة ومسرطنة يجب التعامل معها بحذر وليس القفازات</p> <p>- تحصل عليها بسهولة وبكميات كبيرة من الصيدليات البيطرية حيث تستخدم لتنظيف مزارع الكواجن</p>	<p>أفضل أنواع الشظايا هي ذات الشكل الكروي المعروفة بـ(الرمان بلي) التي تباع في محلات بيع قطع غيار الدراجات الهوائية وإصلاحها - دائما في الأحياء النائية لا تستخدم إلا هذا النوع لأنه الأفضل حيث يظهر لمسافات بعيدة وبسرعة عالية لعدم وجود ما يعيقه بحكم شكله الكروي - ويجب أن تكون الشظايا متراصة بشكل جيد إلى بعضها البعض ولا يوجد بينها فراغات وتكون ملتصقة بفراء صمغي جيد يحافظ على النظامها وتكفي بصيغ لوح الشظايا من ومناسب على جسم الاستشهادي</p>

Instructions for using noxious substances to create lethal bombs

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam who is participating in the forum's online course on jihadist propaganda published a translation into Arabic of "The Offensive-Defensive War of Nerves" by former Israeli Army Chief of Staff and Secretary of Defense Moshe Dayan.¹⁶
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida posted a thread, which received a high ranking from the forum's administrators, discussing recent changes in the strategic balance in the Middle East, to the detriment of Israel. The contributor claimed that Arab countries now hold modern, advanced weaponry that can strike deep inside Israeli territory, which should be used to do so. To this end, he posted maps showing sensitive military and civilian installations located inside Israel – electric power stations, television stations, army bases – as potential targets of attack.¹⁷



A map of the kind uploaded to Al-Fida by a forum member promoting attack of Israeli installations

Promoting the Myth of Martyrdom

- The jihadist media outlet Markaz Ansar Al-Ilam, which functions under the auspices of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Ilam, produced a video clip

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

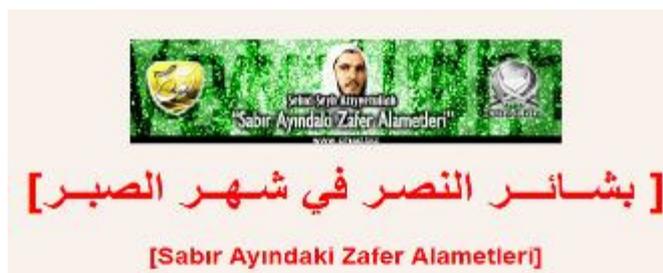
¹⁷ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

containing a eulogy of Sheikh Atiyyah Allah, a senior member of Al-Qaeda's leadership who was killed in a drone strike in Afghanistan in August 2011.¹⁸



In memory of Sheikh Atiyyah Allah

- The Turkish-language jihadist media outlet Cihad.Biz and the jihadist media outlet Al-Ibda jointly published a video clip by Sheikh Atiyyah Allah titled, "In the Ranks of Victory during the Month of Patience".¹⁹



The banner advertizing the video clip posted by Cihad.Biz and Al-Ibda

Magazines

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Ansar, which functions under the auspices of Ansar Al-Islam, published a new volume (59) of the periodical *Hasad Al-Mujahideen*.²⁰



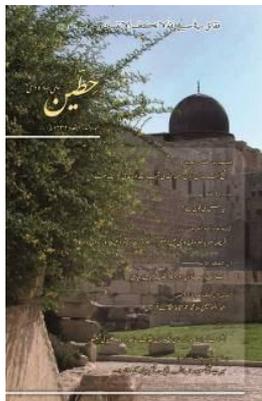
Hasad Al-Mujahideen

- Volume 7 of the jihadist periodical *Hittin* was published in Urdu.²¹

¹⁸ <http://snam-s.net/vb/> (Arabic).

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

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



Hittin

- The Turkish-language jihadist Web forum Cihad.Biz published the first volume of a new periodical in Turkish titled *İslam Dünyası* [The World of Islam]. The periodical is 68 pages long.²²



A new Turkish-language jihadist periodical

Reports from the Field

Iraq

- The Islamic State of Iraq published reports covering its recent activities: a report on the 228 terrorist attacks it had conducted throughout northern Iraq between August and November 2011,²³ a report documenting its (28) military

²¹ <http://ansar1.info/> (Arabic).

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

²³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

activities in Diyala Province;²⁴ and a report on its military activities (35 terrorist attacks) in Salah Al-Din Province and northern Baghdad.²⁵

- The Islamic state of Iraq announced that it had carried out a terrorist attack in Samara, in the Al-Mushada region, against Shi'ite security forces, in retaliation for their execution of several Sunni prisoners.²⁶
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Furqan, which functions under the auspices of the Islamic State of Iraq, published an audio file by its official spokesman, Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Adnani, titled, "Now Is the Time for War". In it, Al-Adnani claims that the Islamic State of Iraq is currently in control of the situation in Iraq. He derides those who claim that the mujahideen no longer have any religious-legal justification for their struggle since the withdrawal of US forces from Iraq, adding that now is the time for real war against the Persian occupation and its agents. He also trumpets the "crushing defeat" experienced by the US in Iraq.²⁷
- The Islamic State of Iraq announced that it had conducted a terrorist attack in Ramadi on January 16, 2012, as instructed by its Ministry of War. The attack was carried out in two stages. During the first stage, three car bombs were detonated at two police stations, and at the headquarters of the Sahwat Militia. During the second stage, four suicide terrorists carrying light weapons, hand grenades and explosive belts entered the main target of the attack: the intelligence building in Ramadi's government complex. This latter stage began as a surprise attack on a key checkpoint at the entrance to the building, which killed all those present. Next, one of the attackers detonated a booby-trapped car in the interior plaza of the complex, thereby paving the way for the other three attackers, who killed the remaining guards and anyone else in the vicinity. They then stormed one of the buildings in the complex, from which they exchanged fire with the soldiers and police who streamed to the complex. Throughout, the attackers maintained direct telephone contact with their commanders, until the authorities disconnected all communications lines in the city. The latter did not dare come near intelligence headquarters, until the attackers had detonated their explosive belts. The announcement ended with a warning from the Islamic State of Iraq to the Shi'ite government to

²⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

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

²⁷ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

desist from executing Sunni prisoners, and with a promise that all such executions would be avenged.²⁸



The announcement of the Islamic State of Iraq on the attack in Ramadi

- A contributor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein raised the following issue: “Many brothers, especially those who are critical of the Islamic State of Iraq, wonder why it has not attacked the Crusaders in 2011; they believe this has many implications, relative to the multiple attacks conducted by Iraqi resistance and insurgent groups during that year”. The contributor responded to his own question, explaining that the Islamic State of Iraq had conducted multiple attacks against the Crusaders, but attention was diverted from them by the many attacks carried out by other organizations, leading some to believe that the Islamic State of Iraq had not committed any attacks. The contributor explained that he had compared the attacks conducted by the Islamic State of Iraq and those conducted by Iraqi insurgents, and discovered that, in 2011, the Islamic State of Iraq had conducted 33 attacks against the Crusaders, Ansar Al-Sunna had conducted 18 attacks, and the Twentieth Revolution Brigades had conducted 20 attacks. He concluded that fewer attacks had been conducted in 2011 by all of the resistance movements than in previous years. For example, in 2009, the Islamic State of Iraq carried out 133 attacks and in 2010 it carried out 41 attacks. Other contributors commented that it was more important to attack those who had left the religion [apostates] and Shi’ites than Crusaders, since the former were showing ceaseless, unbridled enmity toward the Sunnis. One contributor

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

wrote, "The killing of a traitorous Iraqi is lovelier to me than the killing of an American. Sunni identity is more important than national identity."²⁹

- A surfer on the Web forum Hanein wrote that, since the death of Emir Abu Umar Al-Baghdadi and Minister of War Abu Hamza Al-Muhajir, the Islamic State of Iraq's media and communications had slackened. He wondered whether this was the result of an inability to generate discourse, whether it arose from a tactical consideration, whether it evidenced a lack of material resources, or reflected the security situation. He noted that the Islamic State of Iraq's propaganda was an organizational creation, which was not dependent on any one individual, such that it should not be lost if any one or more individuals were killed. As proof, he noted that a new emir (Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi Al-Husseinie Al-Qarshi) and a new minister of war (Al-Nasser Lideen Allah Abu Suleiman) had been appointed, as had a deputy emir (Abu Abdallah Al-Husni Al-Qarshi). He expressed his opinion that it had been wise to appoint a deputy emir, operationally, for the good of indoctrination and incitement, and to spur the soldiers of the Islamic State of Iraq to battle. He added that filling these positions so soon [after the assassination of their predecessors] was indicative of clear-minded thinking, operationally and regarding media and communications. He claimed that the Islamic State of Iraq had thus proven to its enemies that it was a State with organized institutions that would not be shaken by the death of its leaders, that had others waiting to fill the shoes of those who had died and, beyond this, had even appointed a deputy emir. The simultaneous appointment of these three leaders proved that the Islamic State of Iraq was united and cohesive, and sent a message to its soldiers and to the nation that it was in fine shape. The writer added that, at the same time, the Islamic State of Iraq should not be judged, nor its current state be compared to its past situation, as it was indeed facing a cruel onslaught that was affecting its operations and its propaganda. Although he, too, had discerned the delays in the Islamic State of Iraq's media publications and so on, but called for a moratorium on criticism, as the Islamic State of Iraq knew what it was doing. For example, he explained that the Islamic State of Iraq had decided it was prudent, operationally and tactically, for the emir not to speak in public [including via video clips and audio files], although his predecessor had issued audio files. The contributor stated that the current

²⁹ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

situation served the Islamic State of Iraq, and urged others not to believe enemy slander that there was no emir simply because he had not made his voice heard.³⁰

The Arabian Peninsula

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published a eulogy on the death of Sheikh Atiyyah Allah, a senior member of Al-Qaeda's leadership who was killed in a drone strike in Afghanistan at the end of August 2011.³¹
- AQAP's Shari'a Council published a religious ruling [fatwa] regarding "fighting the Shi'ite Houthis in the southern Arabian Peninsula". According to the Shari'a Council, every Muslim has an obligation to wage jihad against the Shi'ite Houthis, who persisted in deriding the Prophet and his disciples, attempting to impose Shi'a Islam on the Sunni population in Yemen, and blockading and attacking Sunni cities. One could kill Houthis to protect the honor of the Prophet and the souls of the Muslims.³²
- The Madad News Agency, which functions under the auspices of Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen, published a fourth,³³ fifth,³⁴ sixth,³⁵ seventh³⁶ and eighth³⁷ news report about its activities. The reports covered the following items, among others: developments in the fighting against the Yemeni Army; the assassination of Yemeni security personnel, such as Ali Al-Haji, the head of the Terrorism Unit in Aden; cooperation between the Yemeni regime and Obama's regime in fighting the mujahideen in Yemen; the presence of US Army forces on Yemeni territory; aid to the Sunni residents of Yemen; the struggle against the Houthi militias that were persecuting the Sunni population, for example in the city Damaj; and providing electricity to the residents of Abyan Province.

³⁰ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

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

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

³⁴ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/> (Arabic).

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

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

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



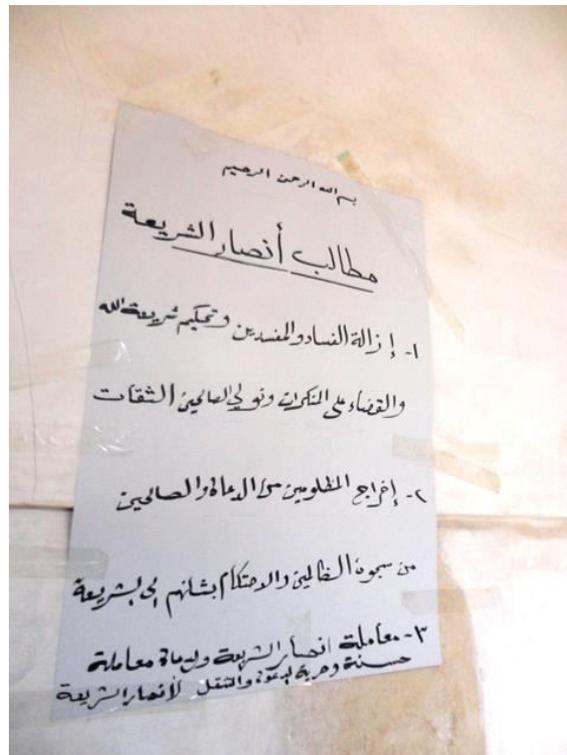
Madad Newsletter Number 7

- The jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published photographs of members of Ansar Al-Sharia in Radda, taken on January 14, 2012.³⁸

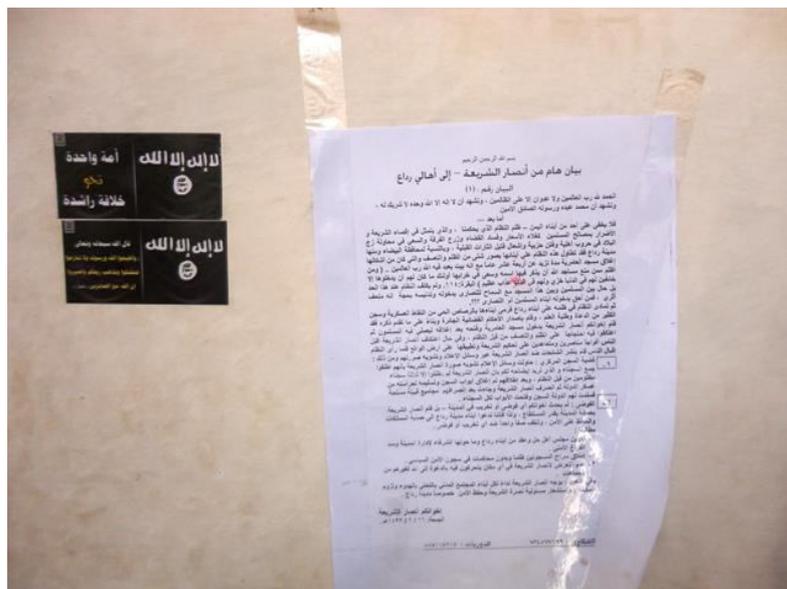


Members of Ansar Al-Sharia on the streets of Radda

³⁸ <http://aljahad.com/vb/>, <http://hanein.info/vb/> (both in Arabic).



A sign bearing the demands of Ansar Al-Sharia: eliminate corruption and the corrupt; end despicable acts; adopt the [word of] authoritative scholars; release imprisoned clerics and people who follow the straight path, and judge their cases under Islamic law [shari'a]; improve the treatment of Ansar Al-Sharia, including granting its members freedom of speech and movement



An announcement by Ansar Al-Sharia to the residents of Radda. To the left is a sign reading, "One Nation moving down the straight path, to the Caliphate"

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Hanein posted a YouTube video in which several members of the Radda Tribe are seen swearing an oath of loyalty to

Ayman Al-Zawahiri in the presence of Tariq Al-Dahab, the emir of Ansar Al-Sharia in Radda.³⁹

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masada published part of an ode by Ghalib Bagaaiti (Abu Hajer) titled, "On the Occasion of the Arrival in the Arabian Peninsula of More Than 40 Mujahideen, Who Joined Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula".⁴⁰
- The Madad News Agency, which functions under the aegis of Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen, published a video clip titled, "Eye on the Mujahideen: Part 2". The video clip includes photographs of American soldiers on the roof of the Sheraton Hotel in Sanaa.⁴¹
- The English-language jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published a translation into English of an interview conducted by the Yemeni daily *Al-Jumhuriyyah* with Sheikh Tariq Al-Dahab the emir of Ansar Al-Sharia in Radda.⁴²



Sheikh Tariq Al-Dahab, Emir of Ansar Al-Sharia in Radda, Yemen

- The BBC in Arabic conducted a telephone interview with Tariq Al-Dahab, known as the emir of Ansar Al-Sharia in Radda, calling him "the leader of an armed group in Radda". Web surfers on the forum Hanein responded that while contact with the media is necessary, caution is warranted, especially since the media are traitorous.⁴³

³⁹ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

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

⁴² <http://ansar1.info/> (English).

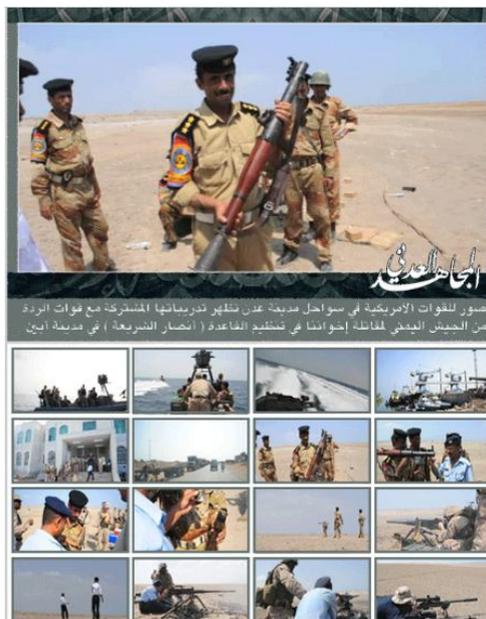
⁴³ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

- The jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published recent photographs of members of Ansar Al-Sharia in Jaar.⁴⁴



Mujahideen on motorcycles in Jaar, Yemen

- A member of the jihadist forum Al-Fida calling himself Abas Al-Husni, who is described as an expert in strategy, posted a thread titled, "The Yemeni Revolution...Who Will Harvest Its Fruits?".⁴⁵
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida published a video clip proving that American troops had arrived in Aden and were holding joint training exercises with the Yemeni Arm, in preparation for fighting Ansar Al-Sharia.⁴⁶



Joint training exercises between the US and Yemeni Armies

⁴⁴ <http://aljahad.com/vb/> (Arabic).

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

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

- The jihadist propaganda group Nakhbat Al-Ilam Al-Jihadi [The Best of Jihadist Propaganda]: Department of Transcription and Advertising, published a book titled, "A Tale of Redemption: The Story of the Escape of 67 Mujahideen from Al-Makala Prison in Hadramaut". The book is a transcription of a propaganda movie issued in two parts – the first in June 2011 and the second in January 2012 – by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). The film contained testimony, impressions, and documentation of the rescue of prisoners from Makala Prison in Yemen.⁴⁷



"A Tale of Redemption"

The Maghreb [North Africa]

- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) announced its willingness to release the Mauritanian security official it had kidnapped in Adel Bagrou, on two conditions: (a) if two of its members, currently being held by the Mauritanian authorities, were released; (b) if the captive's family or tribe swore never again to again serve in the Mauritanian security forces. AQIM ridiculed the president of Mauritania, wondering whether he would release one prisoner, a native Mauritanian, with the same care he had taken in freeing Western prisoners. AQIM cited "the Zionist entity" for freeing 1,000 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for one soldier, proving that it was more concerned about the life of its soldiers than the Mauritanian regime.⁴⁸

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

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



Will the Mauritanian authorities help free one of their countrymen?

- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) published an announcement titled, "Assistance and Support for the Intifada of Our People in Al-Dabdad".⁴⁹ In it, AQIM expressed solidarity with the residents of Al-Dabdad, a city in Illizi Province in Algeria, and with their protest calling on the Algerian regime to cease its injustices and discrimination. In this context, AQIM stressed the following:
 - a. Every Muslim is obligated to express solidarity with, and to assist, the residents of Al-Dabdad.
 - b. The members of AQIM encourage and support the residents of Al-Dabdad in their demonstrations against the Algerian regime and their demand that their imprisoned brethren be freed.
 - c. The members of AQIM vow to help the residents of Al-Dabdad in every way permissible.
 - d. To show its support for the residents of Al-Dabdad, AQIM had abducted the governor of Illizi Province with the aim of pressuring the Algerian regime to free prisoners. However, the Libyan Army intervened, arresting the kidnappers and bringing about the release of the governor to the Algerian government. AQIM warned Libya not to extradite the kidnappers to Algeria. The abduction of the Algerian governor had also been meant to pressure the Algerian regime to free imprisoned members of the family of Muhammad Ghadir, one of AQIM's most senior commanders in the Sahel and Sahara.
- The Tunisian jihadist media outlet Al-Qayrawan Media published and distributed a pamphlet containing an article by Abdallah Khalid Al-Adam Abu Ubaydah titled, "An Essay on the Brink of Chaos".⁵⁰ The article was first published on November 26, 2011 and dealt with the instability, locally and

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

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

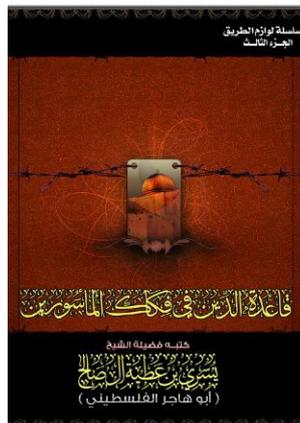
worldwide, ensuing from the Arab revolutions in the region.⁵¹ Al-Qayrawan Media also published a video clip titled, "That You May Understand the Way of the Criminals: The Islam Desired by the US".⁵²



The cover of the pamphlet published by Al-Qayrawan Media

Al-Sham [Greater Syria]

- The jihadist media outlet Ibn Taymiyya, which is identified with Jaysh Al-Islam, a Palestinian jihadist group in the Gaza Strip, published a book titled, "The Religious Basis for Freeing Prisoners", the third part in a series of publications titled, "The Demands of the Path". In the book, Jaysh Al-Islam emphasizes the importance of jihad for freeing Muslim prisoners, and explains that doing so is a religious obligation.⁵³



The cover of a book published by Jaysh Al-Islam's media outlet, Ibn Taymiyya

- The general leadership of the group Masadat Al-Mujahideen [The Lion's Den of the Mujahideen], a Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group functioning in the Gaza

⁵¹ See: *Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Forums*, The Second Half of November 2011, pp.3-4

<http://www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=zDNYOgDSSUw%3d&tabid=344>.

⁵² <http://www.ansar1.info/> (English and Arabic).

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

Strip, announced the opening of "A War against the US by Setting the Forests of Nevada Ablaze".⁵⁴ The group noted the following:

- a. It took full responsibility for having set fire to the forests of Nevada, USA, on January 20, 2012.
 - b. It was expanding the arena of jihad to the US and, soon, to additional areas.
 - c. It had issued a three-month ultimatum to the enemies of Islam and the Jews to withdraw from Palestinian lands and cease their actions against the Muslims lest the war be expanded to those countries fighting Islam.
 - d. It is the duty of every individual Muslim to attack Israel and its allies, chiefly the US, and their citizens and soldiers, until Palestine is liberated, their armies have withdrawn from Muslim lands, and the word of Allah has been made law.
- The jihadist propaganda institution Riyah, which functions under the auspices of Masadat Al-Mujahideen [The Lion's Den of the Mujahideen], a Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group in the Gaza Strip, published an announcement titled, "A Fire that Is Meant to Harm Several Experts in Chemistry [Working for] the Enemy". In it, Masdat Al-Mujahideen group took responsibility for setting fire to the building in Beer Yaakov, Israel where a group of Israeli chemists was meeting on January 31, 2012.⁵⁵
 - Jihadist Web forums reported the establishment of a new jihadist group called The Front for the Protection of the Syrian People [Jabhat Al-Nasra L'Ahl Al-Sham]. The reports had been preceded by a media campaign of several days' duration replete with banners heralding the imminent publication of an announcement that would be joyous for Muslims. The jihadist media outlet Al-Manarah Al-Baydha [The White Lighthouse], which functions under the auspices of the new group, published a video clip in which the group's director-general, Al-Fatih Abu Muhammad Al-Jawlani, outlined the group's mission. Al-Jawlani reported that the group would, among other things, work to overthrow the regime of Bashar Al-Assad, so as to stop its bleeding the Syrian people, and to end Iranian interference in Syria.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

⁵⁶ <http://snam-s.net/vb/> (Arabic).

الفاتح أبو محمد الجولاني - حفظه الله -
المسؤول العام لجهة النصرة



The people of Shamal should realize that this regime will not be overthrown
but by the will of Allah

Scenes from the video published by Al-Manarah Al-Baydha

- A surfer on the jihadist Web forum Hanein reported the establishment of a new brigade in Syria called Dhu Al-Nurayn, whose goal is to oppose the Syrian regime [so as to] impose the rule of Allah. The group's URL is <http://www.facebook.com/Zo.Al.Norain>.⁵⁷
- Several jihadist Web forums highlighted an item published in the Western press regarding the release of Sheikh Abu Musab Al-Suri from prison in Syria. Al-Suri is thought to be a very senior strategist of Al-Qaeda. All of the various contributors and prominent members of these forums reacted positively.⁵⁸ According to various reports in the Western press, Al-Suri's release was timed to coincide with Bashar Al-Assad's intended punishment of the West, chiefly the US, for pressuring him Assad to stop massacring the Syrians demonstrating against him. It should be noted that, as of this writing, no official declaration has been made of Al-Suri's release by any Islamist organization.
- The political council of Fath Al-Islam published an article titled, "A Policy Analysis of the Syrian Revolution and the Struggle of the Hidden Hands". The article surveys the relative involvement of various forces in the Syrian arena, discusses their motivation for involvement, and proposes how to respond to them. According to the political council, the Syrian people cannot merely demonstrate against the regime, but rather must storm government buildings, *en masse* and armed with live weapons. Moreover, the Free Syrian Army must guard against being used as a pawn by the West, chiefly the US; convince the various ethnic groups in Syria to stop taking the side of the

⁵⁷ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

⁵⁸ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

Syrian regime; and put the utmost effort into assassinating Bashar Al-Assad and his brother Maher.⁵⁹

- The jihadist propaganda organ Minbar Al-Tawhid Wal Jihad, which functions under the auspices of a Jordanian Salafi-jihadist Web portal of the same name, published the first part of a documentary film about the life of Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, a senior Salafi-jihadist in Jordan, who has begun serving a five-year prison sentence there for having assisted terrorists in the Caucasus.⁶⁰

Egypt

- The Al-Maqrizi Center for Historical Research, which is located in London and headed by Hani Al-Sibai, an Egyptian Salafi-jihadist sheikh living in London, announced the establishment of a new group in Egypt called, "Followers of the Sunna for the Salvation of Egypt" headed by Hani Al-Sibai himself and Tariq Abd Al-Halim, an Egyptian Salafi sheikh who settled in Toronto, Canada in the late 1980s.⁶¹ According to the group, Islamic forces in Egypt such as the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafis have lost their way, and are no longer faithful to Islamic tenets, such as the Oneness of God [tawhid] – primarily because they have turned to politics. The group stated that immediate action must be taken to turn Egypt into an Islamic state and to impose shari'a [religious law].⁶² The group has also established an Internet site that serves as a platform for its ideas and publications:
<http://www.tayarsunni.com/index.html>.



Tariq Abd Al-Halim (left) and Hani Al-Sibai (right)

⁵⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

⁶¹ For more information about the biography of the sheikh, see <http://www.tariqabdelhaleem.com/new/Section-2> (Arabic).

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



The logo of the group, "Sunnis to Save Egypt"

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Faroq published a video clip titled, "Meeting with Tahrir Square: The Greatest Challenge for Secularism". In it, Sheikh Ahmad Ashush, a senior member of the Salafi-jihadist camp in Egypt who was recently released from prison thanks to the revolution, lectures on torture in Egyptian prisons during Mubarak's reign, democracy, and related topics.⁶³



From a video clip featuring Sheikh Ahmad Ashush

- Ansar Al-Jihad in the Sinai Peninsula, a new Salafi-jihadist group established in late December 2011 in the Sinai peninsula, swore loyalty to Ayman Al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda, on January 23, 2012.⁶⁴
- Al-Talia Al-Salafiyya Al-Mujahida, a Salafi-jihadist group in Egypt headed by Sheikh Ahmad Ashush, announced its intention to participate in demonstrations scheduled for January 25, 2012 – the first anniversary of the revolution – to prevent the revolution from being "hijacked", and correct the path it is on, to one that is truly Islamic. The group claims that, since the rise of Muhammad Ali to power in the 19th century, Egypt has been subject to colonialism and the crimes of Arab rulers like Mubarak, Qaddafi and Assad. The group rejects all types of tyranny, and calls for freedom for all of the

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

⁶⁴ <http://www.snam-s.net/vb/> (Arabic).

Egyptian public. It also intends to make Egypt an Islamic state like that established by Muhammad.⁶⁵ Since November 2011, the group has maintained a blog titled either "The Mujahideen in Egypt" or "Ansar Al-Sharia".⁶⁶

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida noted that activists had increased their efforts to spread jihadist propaganda among the young revolutionaries in Tahrir Square. He posted several photographs of the jihadist publications being distributed in Cairo, such as an essay by Sheikh Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, a senior member of the Salafi-jihadist camp in Jordan. Sheikh Al-Maqdisi began serving five years in prison in Jordan, in part for having assisted terrorists in Chechnya.⁶⁷



A jihadist flyer of the type being passed out in Tahrir Square in Cairo

Africa

- A contributor to the jihadist Web forum Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in English who calls himself Abu Fatimah wrote of the significance of the increased presence of African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces in Somalia. Abu Fatimah claims this represents a new phase for the mujahideen, one posing both new opportunities and new threats. He warns that, from now on, the mujahideen will have to fight against troops from Ethiopia and Kenya, as well as against the US drones that have recently infiltrated Somalia, indicating clearly that Western superpowers are overseeing the fighting in Somalia. According to Abu Fatimah, this situation has three implications: first, the "invaders" have realized that they need a more significant military force to maintain their hold on the area; second, the plethora of forces of all types is

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

⁶⁶ <http://ansarsharia.blogspot.com> (Arabic).

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

expected to strengthen the presence of the local mujahideen; third, to defeat the "invaders", the mujahideen must show unity.⁶⁸

- A contributor to the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida posted a thread that received a high ranking from the forum administrators. In it, the contributor claims that veiled Muslim women in Mogadishu are being denigrated and killed by collaborators with the Crusaders. For example, he reports that a soldier pulled the veil from a Muslim woman, threw her to the ground, and shot her in the head.⁶⁹
- The jihadist Al-Kataib Media Foundation, which functions under the aegis of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, announced the opening of the Harar Institute for Islamic Studies in the city of Marca, the capital of Lower Shabili Province.⁷⁰
- The Al-Kataib Media Foundation published identifying information about two Kenyan captives kidnapped by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.⁷¹

**Harakat Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen Media Department
Kenyan Prisoners of War**

POW1	
Name:	Yusef Mubarek
Age:	35 years
Sex:	Male
Ethnicity:	Kenyan
Height:	1.75m
Weight:	70kg
Complexion:	Dark
Build:	Medium
Eye Color:	Brown
Hair Color:	Black
Religion:	Muslim
Occupation:	Teacher
Address:	Kenya
Phone:	
Mobile:	
Passport:	
Other:	



POW2	
Name:	Abdullah Mubarek
Age:	35 years
Sex:	Male
Ethnicity:	Kenyan
Height:	1.75m
Weight:	70kg
Complexion:	Dark
Build:	Medium
Eye Color:	Brown
Hair Color:	Black
Religion:	Muslim
Occupation:	Teacher
Address:	Kenya
Phone:	
Mobile:	
Passport:	
Other:	



Identifying details of two Kenyans being held by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Kataib, which functions under the auspices of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published a video clip titled, "They Are the Enemies...So Beware of the Them".⁷²

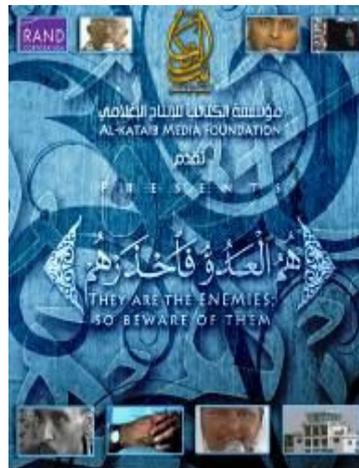
⁶⁸ <http://ansar1.info/vb> (English).

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

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

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

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



The opening of the video clip, "They Are the Enemies...."

- The news agency Al-Shadah, identified with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published a second news report dealing with recent developments in the Somali jihad arena.⁷³



News from the jihadi front in Somalia, published by Al-Shadah

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen's Al-Kataib Media Foundation published several reports on the situation in Somalia, and on the following actions of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen:
 - On January 17, 2012, Al-Shabab members ambushed Kenyan and Somali government forces between Ceel Waaq and Ceel Cadde, killing and injuring soldiers and leading the forces to withdraw from the area. Al-Shabab also captured significant munitions.
 - On January 19, 2012, an Al-Shabab terrorist brigade detonated a bomb near the car of Somali government spokesman in Banadir

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

Province. The spokesperson was not in the car at the time, but five of his bodyguards were wounded.

- On January 1, 2012, Kenyan fighter planes bombed the village of Poulhaji, killing and injuring Somali citizens. Web surfers responded that a blow should be leveled against "Crusader Kenya".
- On January 22, 2012, Bilal Al-Barqawi was killed in a drone strike in Mogadishu. Al-Barqawi, of Lebanese extraction and British citizenship, had been active in the jihad in Somalia.⁷⁴
- On January 24, 2012, Al-Shabab member Muhammad Abd Hasan used a booby-trapped car to complete a suicide attack at the regional headquarters of the Ethiopian Army in Beledweyne, where multiple officers of both the Ethiopian Army and the Somali government were present. The attack wreaked havoc: it almost completely razed the headquarters building, killed some 40 members of the Ethiopian Army, including its Deputy Commander General, and wounded 70 others. According to the press office of Al-Shabab Al-Mujhaideen, this is the latest strategy of retaliation against the incursion of other countries into Somalia, whose withdrawal from the city would not prevent quality attacks.⁷⁵



A banner bearing the image of suicide terrorist Muhammad Abd Hasan

- The Nigerian terrorist group Boku Haram [whose name means, "Western Education Is Forbidden"] published an audio file in which its leader, Abu Bakr Shekau, took responsibility for a series of coordinated attacks conducted on January 20, 2012 against several security centers in Kanu, the second-largest

⁷⁴ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

city in Nigeria, which claimed the lives of 185 people. According to Shekau, the attacks were a response to the authorities' refusal to free Boko Haram members, among them women and children, incarcerated in Kanu. He promised to kidnap women and children in retaliation.⁷⁶

The Caucasus

- A contributor to the Web forum Hanein wrote that in March 2012 presidential elections would be held in Russia, including in Dagestan. Noting that Islamic law [shari'a] does not recognize elections of any kind, he emphasized that the elected Russian Duma [parliament] was a council of tyrants purporting to pass laws that only Allah could impose. He appealed to the Muslims in Russia to boycott the upcoming elections, and iterated that the mujahideen in Dagestan recognized only the Qur'an and the Sunna of the Prophet, and not tyrants who oppressed the Muslims and stole their resources. Lastly, he claimed that the legitimate regime in Dagestan was that of the emir of the Caucasus Emirate.⁷⁷
- The jihadist Web portal Kavkaz Center published a video clip of a speech made to the Muslims of the Caucasus by Abd Al-Malek, a member of the Temir-Khan-Shura sector of the Dagestan Front of the Armed Forces of the Emirate of Caucasus. According to Abd Al-Malek, "The situation of the Muslims in the Caucasus gives them cause for violent resistance against the invasive military forces. They believe in Allah, and know He will bring them through this difficult trial. This is the promise of Allah to the Muslims, even though many people do not understand it, and are not zealous, despite reading the Qur'an. Such people are Allah's greatest enemy, for they are the sinners. By calling for peace and reconciliation, they contest the path that Allah has dictated we must walk, and they can expect to face divine judgment by Allah. When Allah strikes the enemies of Islam, these sinners will claim that they were devout Muslims all along – but this is not really the case. Allah scrutinizes his believers, He searches among them for the bravest martyrs. Some say the world is under American rule, but this is not the truth. Allah has promised that He will gather together the enemies of Islam, and purify Islam itself: the age of America is over, and the age of jihad has begun. It will

⁷⁶ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic); http://www.sahara-times.com/Nigeria-Boko-Haram-menace-d-attaquer-Sokoto-rejette-le-dialogue_a1816.html (French).

⁷⁷ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

continue until the Day of Judgment, which Allah has clearly stated will culminate in a violent struggle. Above all, all Muslims, wherever they are and whomever they be, must now unite in common struggle. This is our message to all those who claim we must choose the path of peace. Allah has said we must treat other nations with tolerance, as long as they do not impede Islam; but the moment they disturb the balance, they must be hounded mercilessly, and every particle of their societies obliterated as punishment. Ultimately, all of our current harsh events are Allah's test of the Muslims, for if Allah wished to end these wars He would do so with the wave of His hand. But Allah seeks for martyrs [shahid] among the Muslims; they are the ones who will earn both material-earthly and spiritual rewards. All of these facts may be subsumed in one question: What else must the Muslims of the Caucasus do to bestir themselves, and cease their indifference?"⁷⁸

The West and Elsewhere

- The jihadist Al-Ansar Center, which functions under the aegis of the jihadist Web forum Sinam Al-Islam, published a video clip titled, "The Castles of the Ayatollahs". It contained an interview with Nizar Al-Samrai, "the last of the Iraqi prisoners in an Iranian prison".⁷⁹



"The Castles of the Ayatollahs"

- The jihadist media outlet Sawt Al-Islam, which functions under the auspices of the Turkistan Islamic Party, published a video clip in the Uighur language title, "Tourism of the Believers".⁸⁰
- A contributor to the Web forum Hanein posted a YouTube video, which had been broadcast by the BBC in Arabic, dealing with the upcoming dedication of a large church in the capital of Qatar. Forum contributors criticized the emir of

⁷⁸ <http://vdagestan.com/2012/01/obrashhenie-abdulmalika-k-musulmanam-ik-vdtemirxan-shurinskij-sektor/>

⁷⁹ <http://www.snam-s.net/vb/> (Arabic).

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

Qatar for allowing this, and noted that he had also allowed the US to establish a large military base on Qatari territory.⁸¹

General Reports

- The jihadist Web forum Al-Fida published a video clip titled, "Stories from Waziristan".⁸²



The opening of the video clip, "Stories from Waziristan"

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published a video clip titled, "In Praise of Praying Isha'a [the Night Prayer]" by Sheikh Khalid Al-Husaynayn, a Salafi-jihadist sheikh of Kuwaiti origin.⁸³
- The jihadist Al-Qadisiyyah Media Center, which focuses on translation and dissemination of materials into the Asiatic languages spoken on the Indian sub-continent (e.g., Urdu, Bengali) published an article on the one-year anniversary of its founding (January 17) titled, "Abu Omar...The Martyr [Shahid] of Jihadist Advocacy". The article reviews the contribution to jihadist advocacy on the Indian sub-continent, especially Pakistan, of Abu Omar, one of Al-Qadisiyya's founders. Abu Omar was killed when Pakistani security forces stormed his home.⁸⁴

⁸¹ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸³ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁴ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic and Urdu).



On the anniversary of the founding of the Al-Qadisiyyah Media Center

Miscellaneous

- The jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam announced the beginning of a short story-writing competition for contributors to Islamic forums; the stories are meant to concern jihad, da'wa [missionary work], or the problems of the Muslim nation [umma]. One of the competition's goals is to reach new segments of the public using new forms of advocacy and propagation.⁸⁵



A banner advertising the short story-writing competition

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Sanam Al-Islam posted a banner that he claimed to have designed himself. The banner spotlights Saudi hacker Xo-Omar, who succeeded in hacking into Israeli computer networks, stealing a large number of Israeli credit card numbers from them, and publishing those numbers on the Internet.⁸⁶

⁸⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

⁸⁶ <http://www.snam-s.net/vb/> (Arabic).



A homemade banner celebrating the actions of Saudi hacker Xo-Omar

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida noted with satisfaction that the forum now had 4,000 members. He also cited statistical data such as the number of topics covered by the forum (19,592), and the number of individual responses to the various threads posted (121,194).⁸⁷
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen in Arabic asked surfers to contribute to a propaganda campaign to free Muslim prisoners in Iraq by designing and disseminating banners for the Internet.⁸⁸



An appeal to Sunni Web surfers to contribute their artwork to a campaign to free Muslims from Iraqi prisons

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida calling himself Abu Abd Al-Qadir Al-Qamari, who is defined as an historian and researcher of Islam, published a short biography of Sheikh Ahmad Salamah Mabruk (1956-). A native of Egypt and formerly a senior member of the Egyptian group Islamic Jihad, in 1981 Mabruk was arrested and served seven years in prison for his involvement in the assassination of former Egyptian President Anwar Al-Sadat. Upon his release in 1988, Mabruk traveled to Afghanistan, where he participated in the jihad against the Russians. During his time in Afghanistan, he met Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri, and the two began collaborating in the framework of Islamic Jihad. In 1998, thanks to cooperation among

⁸⁷ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

⁸⁸ <https://as-ansar.org/vb/> (Arabic).

Azerbaijani, Egyptian and US intelligence agencies, Mabruk was extradited from Azerbaijan to Egypt, where is imprisoned to this day.⁸⁹



Sheikh Ahmad Salamah Mabruk

- Several jihadist Web forums, such as Shumukh Al-Islam and Al-Fida, have embarked on a propaganda campaign to free Afia Siddiqui, a Pakistani brain scientist who is thought to [also] be a member of an Al-Qaeda sleeper cell. In 2008 she was extradited to the US to stand trial for the attempted murder of American agents and military officers during interrogation in Afghanistan. Since that time, she has been serving a sentence in a US prison. Web surfers were asked to contribute to the campaign by designing banners and editing video clips that would increase public awareness of Siddiqui's plight.⁹⁰

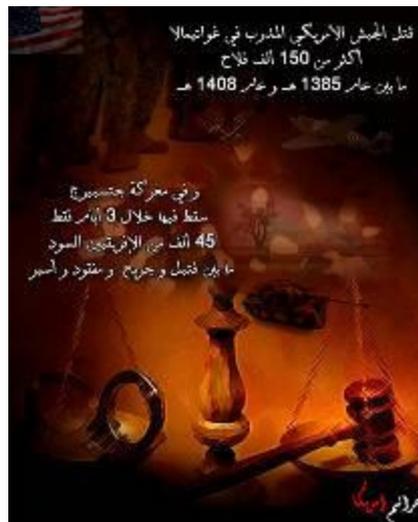


Banners appealing to jihadist Web surfers to join the campaign to release Afia Siddiqui

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

⁹⁰ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida published a collection of photographs and calligraphy fonts, which could be downloaded for use in designing jihadist publications.⁹¹
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida posted 19 banners designed by a Web surfer named Umm Jihad Al-Muhajirah, which focused on US crimes against Islam and the Muslim nation. The member asked his fellow surfers to disseminate these banners.⁹²



One of the banners created by Umm Jihad Al-Muhajirah

- A surfer on the Web forum Hanein suggested that denizens of jihadist Web forums school themselves in communications skills, including hacking, which has proven to be a valuable weapon, which can be used to strike at the enemy's economy and funding sources, and to dismantle anti-Islamic Web sites. He also recommended that jihadist Web surfers establish a "hacker group" that would target anti-Islamic Web sites. This group could be subdivided into teams, as follows: one team would monitor such Web sites; another team would teach others how to hack; and another team would attack the Web sites of Western governments, Israel, Iran and Syria, Christian missionary sites, apostate sites, other Shi'ite sites and pornographic sites. The surfer asked that interested fellow-surfers contact him through his Facebook page: (<http://ar-ar.facebook.com/people/%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A9->

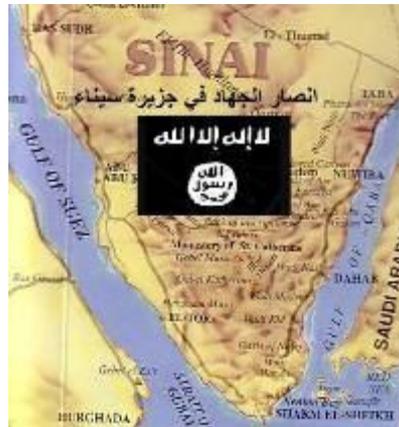
⁹¹ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

⁹² <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<http://www.hanein.info/vb/10001919406880>).⁹³

Facebook

- On December 17, 2011, a new page was opened on Facebook devoted to Ansar Al-Jihad in the Sinai Peninsula, a new Salafi-jihadist group established in late December 2011. As of this writing, the page has some 230 friends.⁹⁴



⁹³ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

⁹⁴

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%81%D8%AD%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%B3%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%AF-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%AC%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%B3%D9%8A%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A1/317411741617131?sk=info> (Arabic).