

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Web Forums

The First Half of February 2012

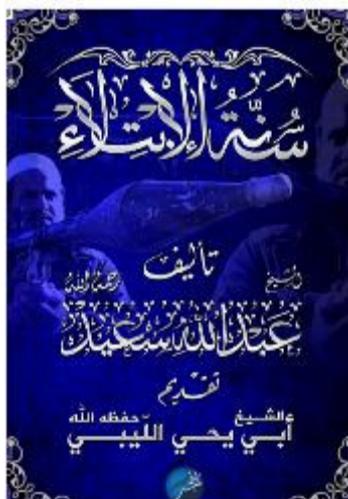
This report summarizes notable events discussed on Jihadi Web forums during the first half of February 2012. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- Ayman Al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda, announced that the Somali movement Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen had officially joined Al-Qaeda.
- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen organized a large celebration in honor of its having joined the ranks of Al-Qaeda.
- Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen executed three Yemeni citizens suspected of collaborating with US forces.
- The Islamic State of Iraq took responsibility for assassinating Mullah Nadim Al-Juburi, a former leader who had left the organization.
- Abu Muhammad Al-Tahawi, an influential Salafi-jihadist in Jordan, called for jihad against the regime of Bashar Al-Assad.
- A new volume was published of *Al-Shamikha*, a jihadist magazine for women.
- New volumes appeared of three publications that cover the jihad in Afghanistan.
- The Salafi-jihadist media outlet Al-Faroq, which focuses on Egypt, launched a new Facebook page.

New Publications

Ideology

- The jihadist media institution Al-Fajr published a 147-page book by Abdallah Said titled, "The Sunna of Facing the Test". It is almost certain that Abdallah Said was the leader of Al-Qaeda in Pakistan until he was killed on December 17, 2009 in a US Air Force missile strike in northern Waziristan. This can be deduced from the foreword to the book, written by senior Al-Qaeda leader Sheikh Abu Yahya Al-Libi; in it, Al-Libi comments that he had the honor of having been with Abdallah Said when he was killed by an American missile. The book itself discusses difficulties faced by the mujahideen, such as hunger and insufficient funding, and suggests ways of strengthening their faith to help them overcome these difficulties.¹



"The Sunna of Facing the Test", by Abdallah Said

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masadah published an article by Sheikh Abu Ayman Al-Masri titled, "An Open Letter in Response to [the Comments of the] Mufti of the Saud Family Regarding a Warning to Young People Not to Join Jihad". As Al-Masri notes, although the response itself was written several years ago, it is only being published now because the Mufti of Saudi Arabia recently issued a series of warnings about the danger to Islam and to Saudi Arabia's security posed by the Shiites in the Kingdom's eastern reaches. According to Al-Masri, the Mufti's approach is tinged with hypocrisy: in or around 2007, he had expressed the different view that it was the West and its

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

allies that posed a danger to Islam. At that time, the Mufti had warned the mujahideen *not* to join jihad in foreign lands. Al-Masri then criticizes in detail the Mufti's attitude toward jihad against the West, and tries to prove his error on the matter.²



"An Open Letter..."

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Malahem published "A Series of Methodological Articles (1-7)" (42 pp.) by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi Al-Nazhari, also known as Harith bin Ghazi Al-Nadhari Muhammad Murshidi, a senior member of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). Most notably, the articles in the series address the legality of jihad, the obligation to implement shari'a, and the contradiction between shari'a and the democratic order.³
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published the video clip "Glad Tidings from the Two Shaykhs", prepared by Sheikh Mukhtar Abu Al-Zubayr, the emir of the Somali movement Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, and Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri, the emir of Al-Qaeda. In the first part of the video clip, we hear Al-Zubayr swearing allegiance to Al-Zawahiri in the name of all of the members of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, and vowing to persevere on the path of jihad laid down by Sheikh Osama bin Laden. The second part of the video clip is devoted to a sermon by Ayman Al-Zawahiri. The sermon begins with a review of recent events experienced by the Muslim nation, in general, and the mujahideen, in particular, among them the defeat of the Crusader enemy in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the revolutions of the Arab peoples, which have succeeded in overthrowing the greatest of criminals among the leaders of

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

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

Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, and which continue to upset the stability of the regimes in Yemen and Syria. Al-Zawahiri then explains that, thanks to these events, the hold of the US on the region has gradually weakened even as the jihadist movement has derived strength and encouragement from these same events. Al-Zawahiri then relates joyfully that Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen has joined Al-Qaeda, reinforcing the "jihadist bloc" in its campaign against the Crusader Zionists and their allies, including the rulers of those countries in the region who have permitted Crusader forces to enter their territory: Kabul, Baghdad, Mogadishu and Grozny, the capital of Chechnya. Al-Zawahiri praises the staunch steadfastness of Al-Shabab in facing attacks by the US-Ethiopia-Kenya alliance. Al-Zawahiri then appeals to the members of Al-Shabab to spread justice among all segments of the Muslim nation [umma] and make Somalia "the fortress of Islam and jihad in East Africa". In conclusion, Al-Zawahiri stresses that the Muslim nation is fighting the Crusaders and their supporters, and calls for aid to the Muslims languishing in their prisons.⁴



From the video clip, "Glad Tidings from the Two Shaykhs"

- The Turkish-language jihadist Web forum Cihad.Biz and the jihadist media outlet Al-Ibda jointly published a translation of a video clip titled, "Democracy...The God of Our Times" by Sheikh Abu Yahya Al-Libi, a senior leader of Al-Qaeda.⁵

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

⁵ <http://aljahad.com/vb/> (Arabic and Turkish).



The Turkish-language translation of a video clip by Abu Yahya Al-Libi

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published an audio file by Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri, emir of Al-Qaeda, titled, "Onward, Lions of Al-Sham [Greater Syria]". In the eight-minute recording, Al-Zawahiri accuses the regime in Damascus of crimes against civilians, and praises the regime's opponents. Al-Zawahiri appeals to the Muslims in Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan to come to the aid of the rebels in Syria. "Wounded Syria lies bleeding, day after day, while that butcher son of a butcher, Bashar bin Hafez Al-Assad, rests not... but the opposition of our people in Syria will continue despite the pain, the sacrifice and the bloodshed, and will grow even stronger. Our men in Syria do not trust the West or the US, or the Arab and Turkish governments...You know best of all what they are plotting against you. Our men in Syria don't trust the Arab League or the corrupt governments that support it...If we seek liberty, we must free [the Syrian people] from this regime. If we seek justice, we must take revenge [against the Syrian regime]...Fight on in your rebellion and fury, accept nothing but independent governments that will respect you!"⁶

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



Ayman Al-Zawahiri speaks to the Syrian rebels

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masadah published an article by Abu Saad Al-Amili titled, "Ansar of the Immigrants and the Immigrant Collaborators". In it, Al-Amili praises the contribution of those engaged in jihad, whether directly or indirectly.⁷

The Arab Spring and the Democratization Process

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Faroq published a book titled "Proof of an Injunction against Entering Parliament", by Sheikh Ahmad Fuad Ashush, an Egyptian Salafi-jihadist who was released from an Egyptian prison during the popular revolution in Egypt. Ashush criticizes the participation of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafists in the process of democratization in Egypt, claiming that the Muslims are being called upon to defend Coptic churches in the name of democracy, even as the Copts wage war against the Muslims and Islam.⁸

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

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



The cover of a book by Sheikh Ahmad Fuad Ashush

Strategy

- Abu Asma'a Al-Kubi, a long-standing contributor to the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, published an article titled, "Don't Trust Any But Yourself, and Energize the Believers". In it, Al-Kubi recommends that Muslims endeavor to ensure the victory of the mujahideen over the Western forces, headed by the US, that are on Muslim lands, and promote the rule of Islam. For example, he emphasizes the importance of individual jihad, especially in the US. According to Al-Kubi, it would be wise to keep the US occupied with matters of internal security, for two reasons: to diminish its already weakened economy by creating deterrence and sowing fear, leading the US to expend significant sums in an effort to cope with home-grown terrorism; and to foil any future US plans to open additional fronts beyond its borders, like Afghanistan and Iraq. Al-Kubi cites the English-language magazine *Inspire*, formerly published by renowned Sheikh Anwar Al-Awlaki, as an inspiration and source of guidance to Muslims in the West on how to fight the enemies of Islam in their own countries.⁹

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



Abu Asma'a Al-Kubi on the Muslim struggle against the West

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masadah published an audio file by Sheikh Mamun bin Abd Al-Hamid Hatm titled, "Operative Steps for Coping with the Houthis". The recording is part of a series titled, "Understandings That Must Be Corrected".¹⁰

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam who is participating in the forum's online course on jihadist propaganda posted links to video clips giving detailed instruction in the Israeli hybrid hand-to-hand fighting method, Krav Maga.¹¹

Promoting the Myth of Martyrdom

- The Palestinian Salafi-jihadist media outlet Ajnad Al-Muwahidun published a video clip titled, "The Martyr [Shahid] Abdallah Al-Tilbani Abu Hamza". A member of an Islamist group functioning in the Gaza Strip, Al-Tilbani was killed by the Israeli Air Force in late December 2011.¹² It is not clear with which organization Al-Tilbani was affiliated. Although the Palestinian Islamic Jihad's Al-Quds Brigades have claimed that he was among their ranks, this video clip indicates that Al-Tilbani belonged to one of the Salafi-jihadist groups active in Gaza.

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

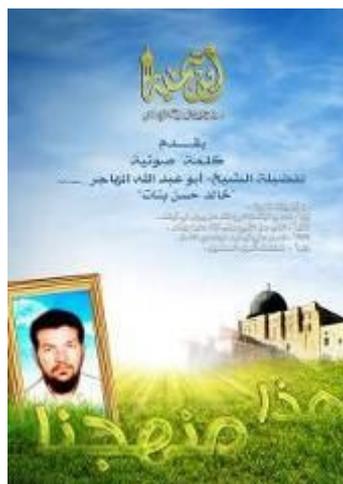
¹¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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



In memory of Abdallah Al-Tilbani Abu Hamza

- The jihadist media outlet Ibn Taymiyyah, which is identified with the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist Army of Islam, published an audio file titled, "This Is Our Way" by Sheikh Abu Abdallah Al-Muhajir, who was affiliated with another Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group calling itself Jund Ansar Allah [Soldiers Supporting Allah] until his death in September 2009 at the hands of Hamas security forces at the Ibn Taymiyyah Mosque in Rafah, Gaza Strip. In the recording, Sheikh Al-Muhajir sets four goals: to coordinate efforts to impose the rule of Allah; to defend the Prophet's honor; to uphold the principle of the Oneness of God [tawhid] among the mujahideen; and to free Muslim prisoners.¹³



Abu Abdallah Al-Muhajir sets forth his principles

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

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has published the following new volumes of jihadist magazines in Arabic, English and Urdu dealing with the jihad in Afghanistan: Volume 69 for January-February 2012 of the Arabic-language magazine *Al-Somood*;¹⁴ Volume 37 for February 2012 of the English-language magazine *In Fight*;¹⁵ and the volume for February 2012 of the Urdu-language magazine *Nawai Afghan Jihad*.¹⁶



Recent volumes of jihadist magazines (left to right) *Al-Somood*, *In Fight*, and *Nawai Afghan Jihad*

- A second volume has been published of the jihadist periodical for women *Al-Shamikha*. The volume is devoted to the important contribution of Muslim women to jihad.¹⁷



Volume 2 of *Al-Shamikha*, a jihadist periodical for women

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

¹⁵ <http://www.ansar1.info/> (English and Arabic).

¹⁶ <http://bab-ul-islam.net/> (Arabic and Urdu).

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

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published a video clip titled, "Indeed, Power Is Shooting", which is dedicated to the martyr [shahid] Abu Kandahar Al-Zarqawi, the former administrator of the jihadist Web forum Al-Hisaba, who was killed by US forces in Afghanistan near the end of 2010. The video clip also shows mujahideen in Afghanistan shooting at coalition forces.¹⁸
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Ibda published "Photographs from Khorasan, Part One". The photographs in question, never before publicized, show senior leaders of Al-Qaeda who were killed in the Afghanistan-Pakistan arena, either in action or during a US drone strike. Among those shown in the photographs is Abu Layth Al-Libi, formerly a senior military commander of Al-Qaeda and Al-Qaeda's spokesman, who was killed in an air strike on January 29, 2009.¹⁹



Senior Al-Qaeda commanders who died fighting for the cause

- The jihadist media outlet Omar, which is identified with the Pakistani Taliban, published a video clip titled, "The Fedayoun of Islam (Part 2)".²⁰
- The English-language Web site Ansar Al-Mujahideen quoted an interview conducted by CNN on February 14, 2012 with Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Afghan Taliban. Mujahid discussed a number of topics during the interview, including the future plans of the Taliban and the situation in Saudi Arabia and Qatar.²¹

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

¹⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

²¹ <http://ansar1.info/> (English).

Iraq

- The Islamic State of Iraq – Al-Qaeda's branch in Iraq – took responsibility for the assassination of its former leader Mullah Nadim Al-Juburi, who left the organization in 2007 in protest against the killing of innocents, and who subsequently took charge of the forces of "awakening" that began fighting Al-Qaeda in Iraq. Al-Juburi was also a member of the National Reconciliation Commission, and served as a media commentator and advisor on Al-Qaeda. Threats on his life forced Al-Juburi to leave Baghdad; he spent two years in Jordan. When he returned to Iraq, he joined the Shiite government. According to the Islamic State of Iraq, one of its members killed Al-Juburi using a weapon with a silencer. The assassination was prompted by comments Al-Juburi made on Iraqi television regarding changes in the structure of the leadership of the Islamic State of Iraq. The Islamic State of Iraq also discussed its (23) military activities in Baghdad Province, directed primarily against Shiite targets in retaliation for a series of executions of Sunni prisoners by the Iraqi government.²²



Mullah Nadim Al-Juburi

- The Islamic State of Iraq published a report documenting its 62 actions in Al-Anbar Province.²³

The Arabian Peninsula

- The withdrawal of Al-Qaeda-affiliated Ansar Al-Sharia from Rada, Yemen, sparked a debate on the jihadist Web forum Hanein. Some forum contributors explained the withdrawal as Ansar Al-Sharia's way of preserving life and avoiding bloodshed. Others noted that Ansar Al-Sharia's withdrawal signaled that its conditions – implementation of Islamic religious law [shari'a], release of its imprisoned members, and freedom to engage in da'wa [missionary

²² <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

activities] – had been accepted by tribal elders. One contributor noted that the occupation of Rada had been a means, and not an end, and that the end – to impose shari'a – had been accomplished.²⁴

- The jihadist news agency Madad, which is identified with Ansar Al-Sharia, published a video clip titled, "An Eye on Events: Part 3".²⁵
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida quoted an extensive interview of Abu Hamza bin Muhsin Al-Marqashi, Al-Qaeda's emir of Abyan Province, Yemen. In the interview, Al-Marqashi discussed the fight against the Yemeni regime, and Al-Qaeda's new strategy in Yemen.²⁶



A journalist interviews Abu Hamza bin Muhsin Al-Marqashi

- Ansar Al-Sharia published the death sentence issued by the Shari'a Court of Abyan Province against three Yemeni men who had been spying for US security forces, and who were accused of hiding surveillance devices in the cars of several Ansar members, leading to the death of ten of them in US air strikes. Ansar Al-Sharia also published the names of people wanted for collaborating with the US. In addition, in its video clip "An Eye on Events" (see above), Ansar Al-Sharia showed the three Yemenite men confessing that they had spied for the US against members of the group.²⁷

²⁴ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

²⁶ <http://adenlife.net/news/9417.htm> (the source, in Arabic); <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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



Photographs of the three Yemeni spies who were executed

- A contributor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein asked whether it was in the interest of Ansar Al-Sharia in the Arabian Peninsula, and especially in Yemen, to engage in dialogue, as the Taliban had. Some contributors responded in the affirmative, citing the Hudaibiya Contract, signed by the Prophet with infidel members of the Quraysh Tribe in Mecca, as an example. Others asked about the identity of the partner and the basis for dialogue, stressing that Ansar Al-Sharia did not engage in dialogue with strong regimes, and so much the less so with weak ones. They further claimed that Al-Qaeda's strategy was global and not confined to Yemen, as Al-Qaeda sought more than one area of control. Others, who oppose dialogue, stated that "the other side" understood only the language of weapons. They iterated that there should be no dialogue unless the conditions set by Ansar Al-Sharia were met: that is, implementation of shari'a [Islamic religious law] and the release of mujahideen prisoners. These contributors stressed that it was the Americans and the apostates who needed dialogue, and that dialogue carried out during a state of war against Islam, outside the laws of Allah, was tantamount to treason against Allah and His Prophet. These contributors also noted that the Taliban had denied engaging in dialogue, clarifying that they only discussed prisoners who were captives of the Taliban.²⁸

²⁸ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

The Maghreb [North Africa]

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida drew the attention of visitors to the forum to a film documenting the demonstration on February 9, 2012 of Salafi jihadists at the US Embassy in Kairouan, Tunisia, in protest against the incarceration of 'Afia Al-Sadiqi, a Pakistani expert in brain science who is thought to be a member of an Al-Qaeda sleeper cell. In 2008, Al-Sadiqi was extradited to the US to stand trial for attempting to murder US agents and army officers during interrogation in Afghanistan. She has been serving time in an American prison ever since. The film shows demonstrators holding Al-Qaeda banners.²⁹



Protesting the incarceration of 'Afia Al-Sadiqi

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Andalus, which functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), warned the Mauritanian regime that it had an extension of 20 days to meet its demands,³⁰ or else AQIM would execute one of the Mauritanian security personnel it had kidnapped in January 2012.³¹

Al-Sham [Greater Syria]

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam calling himself Abu Ubaydah Al-Makki 1407 appealed to the members of the jihadist Web forums

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

³⁰ For more detail on the conditions cited by AQIM for the release of the Mauritanian security agent, see: *Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Web Forums. The Second Half of January 2012*, p.17. www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=vD9fBsu6Kw0%3d&tabid=344.

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

Shumukh Al-Islam, Ansar Al-Mujahideen and Al-Fida to disseminate materials advocating the release of Muslims imprisoned in Al-Sham. To this end, he published a series of video clips, which could then be distributed via the forums or via Twitter, for example. Another member of Shumukh Al-Islam posted a list of email addresses through which such materials could be disseminated.³² A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida initiated a similar campaign advocating the release of Muslims imprisoned in Lebanon.³³

- In a nearly 40-minute (39:48) video clip titled, "Informing the People So They Can Aid the Residents of Al-Sham", Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Tahawi, a venerable Salafi-jihadist in Jordan, sanctioned and inaugurated jihad against Bashar Al-Assad.³⁴



The venerable Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Tahawi

- A contributor to the Web forum Hanein began disseminating photographs and banners supporting the Syrian people, and appealed to his fellow Web surfers to post them on additional forums and disseminate them by email. In response, surfers denigrated the Syrian president and urged jihad against him. They decried the use of Syrian tanks to bomb helpless innocents, rather than to free occupied Islamic lands. Citing sources close to the mujahideen in Syria, a contributor calling himself Abu Al-Qaqa revealed that Iraqi activists from the Islamic State of Iraq and Rayat Al-Haq and Jihad had been in Syria for some time, and were fighting the forces of the Syrian regime.³⁵

³² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

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

³⁵ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).



A banner appealing to Web surfers to stop Bashar Al-Assad

- In the same context, a reader visiting the jihadist Web forum Hanein appealed to Muslims in Muslim and Arab lands to wage jihad to assist the residents of Syria. Similarly, in light of the “massacre” being perpetrated by the Syrian regime against the Sunni residents of Homs, the leadership of the Iraqi group Rayat Al-Haq and Jihad appealed to young people to wage jihad not only against the Syrian regime, but also against Iran’s Revolutionary Guard and against activists fighting with Muqtada Al-Sader, who were assisting the Syrian president. In response, contributors to Hanein wondered whether it was possible to enter Syria from Iraq; they were answered in the affirmative.³⁶ One contributor explained that it was possible to help financially, and not only by engaging in physical jihad. To illustrate, he stated that a machine gun cost US\$1,350.00, and a bullet cost US\$2.00.³⁷
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida published a video clip showing the suffering caused the Syrian people by the oppressive regime of Bashar Al-Assad. The video clip was given a high ranking by the forum’s administrators.³⁸
- On February 10, the Political Council of Fath Al-Islam published an announcement titled, “The Syrian Revolution and World Fascism”. The announcement criticized the UN Security Council, whose discussion of the situation in Syria had produced no resolutions regarding the overthrow of the Syrian regime, sanctions against it, or international intervention. It called the members of the Security Council “fascists”. It also severely criticized Russia and China, which had vetoed any Security Council decisions, claiming “they seek war, not a solution”. According to the Political Council of Fath Al-Islam, the UN Security Council is hostile to Islam and Muslims and covets their

³⁶ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

³⁷ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

natural resources, which of course leads to conflict. It claimed that Security Council member states fear the awakening of Islam and the imminent establishment of a modern-day Caliphate, and so egg Syria on toward civil war as part of their conspiracy to divide Syria. The Political Council of Fath Al-Islam claims that the aim of this conspiracy is to safeguard "the Zionist entity" and its influence. The Political Council of Fath Al-Islam also blamed the US for its policy in the region, deriding its economic instability. According to the Political Council, the Jews will emigrate from the US, just as they did from Europe, as soon as Americans realize that the Jews are to blame for the dire economic situation of the US. The Political Council of Fath Al-Islam then attacked the Syrian regime for its "war of annihilation" against its own people, and claimed that its "scorched earth policy" was meant grind down the people and ensure the primacy of the Alawites. The Political Council praised the struggle of the Syrian people, particularly for having abandoned requests for international protection in favor of faith in Allah. The Political Council appealed to all sides fighting in Syria, especially the Free Syrian Army, to hoist the [Al-Qaeda] banner of "There Is No God but Allah", noting that the Free Syrian Army had named its brigades after early Islamic military commanders, who had fought under that banner – and won. The Political Council called on the Syrian people to be patient and believe in Allah. According to the Political Council of Fath Al-Islam, "...to overthrow [the] fascist conspiracy to impose a new Sykes-Picot agreement", the Muslims, especially those in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, must storm the artificial borders to help the Syrian people, before they themselves are massacred just as the Syrian people are now being massacred. The Political Council called on the Muslims to prepare themselves by purchasing arms and using them to stem the onrush of fascist states and Shiites.³⁹

- The Monitoring Department of the Kavkaz Center Web site noted with satisfaction two attacks that took place in Syria in early February 2012, in which more than 250 Alawites were killed. The Kavkaz Center also noted US concern that Al-Qaeda would be strengthened by these attacks, which, according to US intelligence, had been ordered directly by Al-Qaeda head Ayman Al-Zawahiri. Moreover, Al-Zawahiri had purportedly declared that Iraqi

³⁹ <http://aljahad.com/vb/> (Arabic).

mujahideen should prepare operative plans for the Syrian arena, and send their best fighters there.⁴⁰

- Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi, a Syrian Salafi-jihadist living in exile in London, was asked whether he saw the involvement of Arab mujahideen in the jihad on behalf of the Syrian people in a positive light. The Sheikh responded that the Syrian people did not lack men, but rather lacked money and arms. He called on anyone who supported the jihad of the Syrian people against the tyrant and his regime to send money, arms – and physicians. At the same time, he asked that Arab mujahideen who had the opportunity and capability to join the Syrian jihad should coordinate this with the Free Syrian Army and other Syrian mujahideen, to preclude errors and their becoming easy prey for the enemy, especially as war in city streets and neighborhoods is much more dangerous than “classic” war in isolated arenas. Sheikh Al-Tartusi was also asked about comments made on jihadist forums as to the lack of a religious-legal sanction for the jihad being fought by the Free Syrian Army, which, despite its efforts on behalf of the Syrian people, had no banner. The Sheikh clarified that those who made this claim were mistaken in thinking that a banner was merely a piece of white or black cloth bearing a certain text. In pointing out their error, he reminded them that the Free Syrian Army’s brigade names, and its announcements, were distinctly Islamic, and that its fighters were defending their religion, their mosques, their honor, their children, and the Muslim people against a tyrant and his army. The banner of the Free Syrian Army was that of the fight for Allah – in other words, a jihad anchored in Islamic religious law. Thus, they were fighting under an Islamic banner, and this disproved the detractors’ claims. According to Sheikh Al-Tartusi, the problem that would confront this “Islamic effort” once the Syrian regime had been overthrown would come not from the Free Syrian Army, but from its secular collaborators, and from liberal Islamic elements. He urged the Free Syrian Army and other Syrian mujahideen to continue their jihad against the Syrian tyrant.⁴¹
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen in Arabic calling himself Abu Hafs Al-Sunni Al-Sunni appealed to forum members to wage a broad electronic campaign against Syrian, Chinese and Russian Web sites, in

⁴⁰ <http://kavkazcenter.com/> (Russian).

⁴¹ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

retaliation against the brutal massacre being perpetrated by Bashar Al-Assad against his people. For example, he suggested collecting US\$300.00 and paying a hacker to accomplish this task. Al-Sunni also suggested making people everywhere aware of the plight of the Syrian people; to this end, he proposed a detailed propaganda program which would involve propagating banners and video clips on Web forums and sites.⁴²

Egypt

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida invited forum members to participate in a recently-opened chat room on the popular site Pal Talk, titled, "Supporters of Jihad in the Sinai Peninsula".⁴³
- Followers of the Sunna for the Salvation of Egypt [Al-Tayyar Al-Sunni li-Naqdh Misr], a new group of Salafi jihadists in Egypt,⁴⁴ published an announcement titled, "The Popular Rebellion...The Latest Medicine". In it, the group expressed support for the popular revolution in Egypt, and regretted that "supporters of the army and their cronies in parliament", and the sheikhs of Al-Azhar, were trying to interfere with it. The group also protested the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF)'s efforts to maintain power by forming alliances with various power blocs in parliament, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, and for letting these interest groups write Egypt's constitution. According to the group, the popular rebellion should continue until the implementation of shari'a [Islamic religious law] in Egypt.⁴⁵
- The Salafi-jihadist media outlet Al-Faroq, which is located in Egypt, published a 98-page book titled, "On the Involvement in Politics of Islamists" by Sheikh Ihab Oweidat. In it, Oweidat criticizes the participation of the Muslim Brotherhood, certain Salafists, and other Islamists in the process of democratization, and disavows their religious-legal justifications for entering parliament.⁴⁶

⁴² <http://www.as-ansar.com.vb/> (Arabic).

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

⁴⁴ See: *Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Web Forums. The Second Half of January 2012*, p.22.
www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=vD9fBsu6Kw0%3d&tabid=344.

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

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

Africa

- A third installment has been issued of the news report Shadah, which focuses on recent developments in the Somali jihad arena. This installment covers Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen's having sworn allegiance to Ayman Al-Zawahiri and joined the ranks of Al-Qaeda, and its attack against the regional headquarters of the Ethiopian Army in Beledweyne.⁴⁷



The third installment of the newsletter Shadah

- The Somali movement Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen published the following announcements during the first half of February, 2012:
 - Members of Al-Shabab repeatedly attacked the city of Doble, on the Somalia-Kenya border, and even took control of it for several hours. At least three Kenyan soldiers were killed during these attacks. Ultimately, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen withdrew from the city.⁴⁸
 - The Ministry of Education of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen held a meeting with senior representatives of education institutions to discuss how to improve education in Somalia. At the meeting, Al-Shabab spokesman Al-Diri discussed "anti-Islamic cultural infiltration" against the Muslim nation, in general, and Somalia, in particular, and stressed that education is also a locus of the struggle between Somalia and its

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

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

Crusader enemies. He stressed that the mujahideen understood the importance of education, and had made it one of their top priorities.⁴⁹

- The Huber Tribe donated 80 weapons to the jihad.⁵⁰
- Two Ethiopian soldiers were killed when Al-Shabab's engineering brigade detonated an explosive device in Beledweyne.⁵¹
- On February 5, 2012, 21 Ethiopian soldiers and their allies were killed in a battle against the Tenth Army Brigades in the city of Luk; the Tenth Army Brigades returned unscathed, with loot.⁵²
- Extensive celebrations were held in Lower Shabili Province, and in the city of Makala, in honor of the oath of loyalty that members of Al-Shabab swore to Al-Qaeda under Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri.⁵³



Soldiers of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen celebrate having joined Al-Qaeda

The Caucasus

- In a video clip, emir of the Islamic Caucasus Emirate Doku Abu Usman announced a strategic change in the Emirate's approach to Russia's civilian population. Due to the population's desire to change the Putin regime, as expressed in a series of demonstrations, the Islamic Caucasus Emirate would cease its terrorist attacks against civilians.⁵⁴
- Abu Hanifah Shatt Al-Arab, the supervisor of the Voice of the Caucasus section of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, noted that the Kavkaz Center, a Chechen jihadist media institution, had reported that hundreds of Chechen young men had joined the mujahideen in the mountains during

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

⁵⁰ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

⁵¹ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

⁵² <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

⁵⁴ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8AiEfdCW2Lc&feature=youtu.be> (Russian and Arabic).

autumn 2011 and winter 2012. Kavkaz Center cited sources close to Islamic Caucasus Emir Doku.⁵⁵

The West and Elsewhere

- The Sawt Al-Islam Media Center, which functions under the auspices of the Turkistan Islamic Party, published a video clip titled, "Tourism of the Believers – Part 3".⁵⁶
- A contributor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein posted a series of YouTube video clips of Jamaah Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, an Islamist group from the Philippines. After watching the clips, the contributor reported concluding that this group differed from the group known as Abu Sayyaf. Abu 'Abdallah Al-Faris Al-Mulatham, the emir of Jamaah Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, appears in the video clips, as does a Philippino calling himself Abu Jihad, along with other mujahideen. Another contributor commented that the mujahideen in the Philippines need knowledge and advice about military production.⁵⁷
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida published a video clip created by a group of Salafists in France calling themselves Forsane Al-Izza [The Brave Horseman]. The video clip, which was filmed in Paris and is in French, decries French Islamophobia and what Forsane Al-Izza calls "the campaign of incitement and persecution" being waged by French public figures, led by President Sarkozy, against France's Muslim population and against the group. In the clip, Forsane Al-Izza declares that it does not recognize France's secular democratic regime, and is working to see shari'a [Islamic religious law] implemented in France. The forum member who posted the clip praised the efforts of Forsane Al-Izza to protect the downtrodden Muslims in infidel lands; he noted that the group was composed of young people raised in France, Belgium, and other countries.⁵⁸

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

⁵⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

⁵⁷ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

⁵⁸ <http://www.forsane-alizza.com/toute-lactualite/le-gouvernement-sen-prend-a-forsane-alizza-notre-action-a-paris-video-23811> (French); <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).



A spokesman for the Salafist group Forsane Al-Izza speaking in Paris

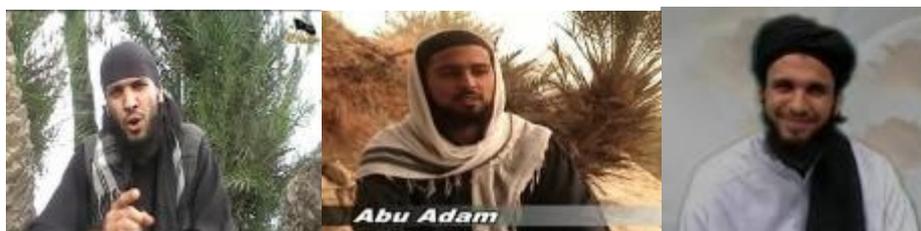
- The jihadist media institution Jundallah Studio, which functions under the auspices of the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), published a video clip in German titled, "Evil Homeland", by Abu Adam Al-Almani, a German citizen who is considered to be one of the senior commanders of the IMU. In it, Al-Almani urges the Muslims to carry out terrorist attacks on German territory. He claims that although the German government openly criticizes the US government, it secretly supports the assassination of Al-Qaeda activists, and its military forces kill Muslims in Afghanistan. Abu Adam Al-Almani notes that it is just a matter of time before a terrorist attack is perpetrated on German soil, and claims that German politicians are the primary targets for assassination.⁵⁹



Abu Adam Al-Almani

⁵⁹ <http://www.ansar1.info/> (English, Arabic and German).

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Hanein reported that three mujahideen, all of whom are German citizens – Abu Adam Al-Almani, Abu Ibrahim Al-Almani, and Mevlut Kar – had been added to the US list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists, apparently because of their considerable influence in Europe, in general, and in Germany, in particular. Abu Ibrahim once visited Sheikh Anwar Al-Awlaki in Yemen. Both he and Abu Adam are members of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU). Mevlut Kar was sentenced in absentia to prison time by a Lebanese court for trying to establish an Al-Qaeda cell in Lebanon. Contributors to Hanein wrote that it would be an honor to be on such a list.⁶⁰



From left to right: Mevlut Kar, Abu Adam Al-Almani, and Abu Ibrahim Al-Almani

- Abu Abd Al-Qadir Al-Qamari, who is defined as a researcher of the mujahideen, published a biography of Abu Sayyaf Abd Al-Razzaq Al-Filibini, the leader of the Islamic Movement in the Philippines, more commonly known as the Abu Sayyaf Group, which has ties to Al-Qaeda.⁶¹



Abu Sayyaf Abd Al-Razzaq Al-Filibini

- The Monitoring Department of the Kavkaz Center Web site discussed the terrorist attacks against Zionist diplomats on February 13, 2012, in New Delhi, India and Tbilisi, Georgia. The Kavkaz Center Web site reported Israeli reactions to the attacks, including that Iran was the primary suspect behind them, and detailed how the attacks were carried out – by using a motorcycle

⁶⁰ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

to attach a bomb to a moving car. As this was also the method used to assassinate Iranian nuclear scientists, Kavkaz Center administrators deduced that both attacks were Iranian retaliation.⁶²

General Reports

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masadah published an article by Sheikh Abu Mariyyah Al-Shami titled, "Prisoner, When in Distress Remember the Prophet Muhammad". In it, Al-Shami tries to shore up the spirits of Muslim prisoners.⁶³
- The Web site Imarat Kavkaz highlighted and expanded on an item published in the *Washington Post*, which had cited the concern of US security services with the cessation of publication of the periodical *Inspire*, identified with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). The last volume of the periodical, published some six months ago, marked the tenth anniversary of the attacks of September 11th. According to the article, US security services complained that the periodical's absence severely impeded their ability to gather information about Al-Qaeda's intentions and capabilities.⁶⁴

Miscellaneous

- The supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen in Arabic announced two winners of its competition to design banners related to jihad. The winners had won the chance to choose a nickname, which would appear on the forum alongside their name for an entire month, and a special prize, whose details would be communicated to them by email.⁶⁵

⁶² <http://kavkazcenter.com/> (Russian).

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

⁶⁴ www.shamilonline.org/ru (Russian).

⁶⁵ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/> (Arabic).



Prizes are announced for the winners of Ansar Al-Mujahideen's jihad banner design competition

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Qabidhun Ala Al-Jamr, which functions under the auspices of the jihadist Web forum Sawt Sinam Al-Islam, appealed to forum members to contribute to a campaign advocating the defense of Muslim women prisoners, especially `Afia Al-Sadiqi, a Pakistani brain scientist who is thought to be a member of an Al-Qaeda sleeper cell. In 2008 she was extradited to the US to stand trial for attempted murder of US agents and army officers during interrogation in Afghanistan. Since then, she has been serving time in an American prison. As part of the propaganda campaign, forum members were asked to design banners and film video clips.⁶⁶
- A contributor to the Web forum of the Global Jihad Network calling himself Abu Hafs Al-Sunni Al-Sunni was interviewed by another contributor, who calls herself "a Muslim woman from the Islamic Maghreb". In the interview, Al-Sunni stressed the importance of electronic jihad as a complement to physical jihad. As proof, he cited the attack of the Saudi hacker against Israel, which caused the latter significant damage. Al-Sunni noted the successes of electronic jihad against the enemies of Islam, who have so far been completely unable to shut down jihadist Web sites or apprehend their administrators. Al-Sunni recommended further developing electronic jihad and, at the same time, organizing campaigns advocating jihad, especially to counteract enemy propaganda. He stressed the necessity of issuing more jihadist publications to generate enthusiasm, and of establishing new media outlets. Al-Sunni recommended that, before setting out on jihad, the mujaheed should be well-versed in the religion and the faith, follow the rules

⁶⁶ <http://snam-s.net/vb/> (Arabic).

of safety, be in good physical shape, and have a thorough understanding of technology and technical matters. Al-Sunni expressed his belief in the importance of killing the enemy and apostates by beheading, as is permitted by the Qur'an and the Sunna of the Prophet. Lastly, he stressed the value of assassinations, kidnappings, and suicide missions.⁶⁷

- A member of the forum Al-Fida invited other forum members to discuss who was responsible for the violent clashes that erupted during an Egyptian soccer (football) game. At half-time, the fans of one team had stormed the playing field, leading to mass rioting and a skirmish between the crowd and security forces. More than 70 people were killed and some 1,000 injured in the melee. The discussion was highlighted prominently by the forum's administrators. Most of the contributors blamed the military and state security forces for the bloody events.⁶⁸
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published a video clip in Pashto titled, "Thus Has the Dawn Been Born of the Blood of a Hundred Thousand Stars".⁶⁹
- The supervisor of the Morals Section of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, who calls himself Abu Bakr Al-Qahtani, published a video clip titled, "What Do You Know about the Yasak?", a book of rules written for the Mongols on the instructions of military leader Genghis Khan in the 13th century A.D. According to Al-Qahtani, the video clip was produced by Abu Hamza Munasir to help the Muslims and clarify the principle of tawhid [the Oneness of God].⁷⁰

[[ماذا تعرف عن الياسق ... ???]]



"What Do You Know about the Yasak?"

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam who is participating in the forum's online course on jihadist propaganda, published a detailed explanation of how to safely and securely post video clips on the well-known

⁶⁷ <http://www.aljihad.net/vb>

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

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

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

video-sharing site YouTube. His post was highlighted by the forum's administrators.⁷¹

- The supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida, who calls himself Yusuf, announced to forum visitors, members and administrators that it would now be possible to view the forum in multiple colors.⁷²

Facebook

- In early February, 2012, the Somali movement Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen launched a new page on the social networking site Facebook, which serves as a platform for disseminating ideas and messages in French. As of this writing, the page had received 86 "likes".⁷³
- A new page, titled "Ansar Al-Haqq", was launched on Facebook in early February 2012. The page, which contains jihadist video clips and news items in French, constitutes an additional channel of propaganda and information for the French jihadist Web forum of the same name.⁷⁴ As of this writing, 135 friends had "liked" the page.⁷⁵ Another new French-language Facebook page with identical content was launched in early January 2011. It is titled "Black Flags", in reference to the flag of Al-Qaeda (which is black with white lettering).⁷⁶

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

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

⁷³ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Harakat-ash-Shabaab-alMujahideen/355036927848415> (French and English).

⁷⁴ <http://ansar-alhaqq.net/forum> (French).

⁷⁵ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ansar-al-Haqq/180216842087152> (French).

⁷⁶ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Black-flags-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%AF/345726802104826> (French).



The logo of Ansar Al-Haqq

- A new Facebook page titled "Who's Gonna Free Aafia Siddiqui?" was launched on February 10, 2012. The page advocates the release of 'Aafia Siddiqi, a Pakistani brain scientist who, as noted, is thought to be a member of an Al-Qaeda sleeper cell, and who has been serving a prison sentence in the US, to which she was extradited, since 2008. As of this writing, 87 people have indicated they "like" this page.⁷⁷

⁷⁷ <http://www.facebook.com/freedom.from.Aafia.Siddiqui>.



The logo of the Facebook page advocating the release of 'Aafia Siddiqui

- At the end of January 2012, a new page was launched on Facebook titled "Masakar Al-Murasilun". The page contains detailed explanations, video clips, and illustrations of operative topics such as how to use various weapons and how to build an explosive device. The page itself is affiliated with the jihadist propaganda group Al-Murasilun, which has previously launched other pages, such as one devoted to women's issues. To date, the new page has received 286 "likes".⁷⁸

⁷⁸ <http://www.facebook.com/Mo3askar.Almourassiloun>; see also *Periodical Review: Summary of Information from the Jihadi Forums. The First Half of March 2011*, p.23. http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_March_2011_No_1.pdf.



The logo of the Facebook page Masakar Al-Murasilun

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Faroq, which concentrates on the Egyptian arena, launched a new Facebook page on February 7, 2012. The page, which contains publications of Al-Faroq, has so far earned 43 "likes".⁷⁹



The logo of Al-Faroq Media

⁷⁹ <http://www.facebook.com/AlFaroqMedia> (Arabic).