

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Web Forums

The Second Half of February 2012

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

- A new video clip was issued, in which Ayman Al-Zawahiri calls for the revolution in Egypt to continue until the representatives of the previous regime have been eliminated, ties to the US have been severed, and the peace treaty with Israel has been nullified.
- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan encouraged Afghans serving proximate to Western security forces to attack them, and cited the Afghani chef who poisoned American soldiers as an example.
- Propaganda has increased against the Syrian regime, as have appeals to assist the Syrian people in their struggle against the regime.
- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) took responsibility for an attack on the presidential palace in Yemen on the eve of the transfer of power from Yemen's former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, to its former vice president, Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.
- Two new jihadist media institutions have been established: Al-Tahadi, and Inform Foundation for Media Production.
- A new jihadist Web forum called Al-Qital has been established.

New Publications

Ideology

- The jihadist Web forum Al-Fida published an article by Abu Dujannah Al-Basha titled, "Reflections on the Term 'Salafiyya-Jihadiyya'". In it, Al-Basha suggests that the mujahideen seek an alternative to the term 'Salafiyya-jihadiyya', in part because it has been used narrowly to refer only to Muslims who fulfill the commandment of fighting actual jihad, and not Muslims who promote [jihad] in other ways. According to Al-Basha, this has led to divisiveness among Muslims. Moreover, he claims, the enemies of Islam have distorted the term to undermine the image of the mujahideen. He opines that the Arab revolutions must rethink their use of the term – especially as their aim is to draw people closer, not to arouse antagonism – and suggests an alternative term like "the victorious faction" [Al-Taifah Al-Mansurah].¹



Reconsidering the use of "Salafiyya-jihadiyya"

- The jihadist media institution Al-Masadah, which functions under the auspices of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, published an additional chapter of the book, "Doubts and Responses: O Brother Who Has Recanted, Beware of What's Behind You!" by Sheikh Abu Umar Muhammad bin Ibrahim Al-Nufayi.² Previous chapters of the book were published during the first half of November 2011.
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published an audio recording of Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri titled, "Why Did We Rebel against Him?". Al-Zawahiri's is

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

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

the sole voice in the recording, which is part of a series of publications titled "A Message of Hope and a Herald to Our Residents of Egypt: Part Nine". According to Al-Zawahiri, the US is rapidly losing its hold on world power. This, he claims, is indicated by its dwindling defense budget and its negotiating with the Taliban in Afghanistan. Furthermore, according to Al-Zawahiri, thanks to the Arab revolutions, the US is losing its allies in the region, and the spirit of Islam is becoming stronger.

Al-Zawahiri goes on to demand the release of Muslims imprisoned in the US, chiefly Umar Abd Al-Rahman. He praises attacks on the natural gas pipeline from Egypt to Israel, and lauds the resolute spirit of jihad against Israel. In discussing jihad in Egypt, Al-Zawahiri states that it is necessary to focus on attaining three key aims:

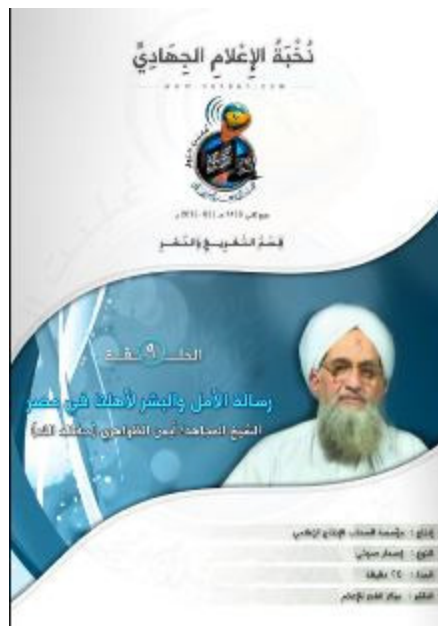
- a. To impose shari'a [Islamic law] in Egypt.
- b. To break free of foreign control. Egypt can take steps in this direction by ceasing to cooperate with the American war on terrorism (for example, by no longer engaging in joint military exercises); removing all American military bases from Egyptian soil; and halting the flow of arms, equipment and personnel through the Suez Canal and overland to those fighting the Muslims in Afghanistan and Iraq. Al-Zawahiri also demands that information on the identity and health of Muslims incarcerated in secret prisons be revealed.

Al-Zawahiri calls for a purge of Egyptian security agencies that have oppressed the people. For example, Al-Zawahiri suggests compiling a "black list" of the names, positions, and location of members of the Egyptian security forces, who should be brought to justice. He also demands that the Egyptian regime immediately cease undermining Islamic movements, and free all prisoners.

Al-Zawahiri stresses the importance of invalidating the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. He claims it is a mistake to view this treaty as a "cease fire agreement", when in fact it recognizes Israel's existence on Palestinian land, and adds that it is essential to wage jihad against Israel and expel the Jews. Israel's eradication will not only liberate Arab land, but will also rid the Arab Islamic world of the military bases jammed in its heart, which are meant to protect Western Crusaders' regional interests. As a first step, Al-Zawahiri recommends that Egypt sever diplomatic

- relations with Israel, or at least freeze them; evict the Israeli Embassy from Egypt; renew the economic embargo against Israel; allow all anti-Israel jihadist movements to open official offices in Egypt; end the enclosure of the Gaza Strip; forbid Israelis from entering Egypt, as tourists or in any other capacity; and forbid Egyptians from visiting Israel.
- c. To oppose societal exploitation and poverty.

In closing, Al-Zawahiri emphasizes that he and the members of Al-Qaeda gladly welcome any "Islamic movement" that works to achieve these aims.³



Ayman Al-Zawahiri outlines his goals for the Middle East

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- A member of the Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam who is participating in the forum's online course in jihadist propaganda published a comprehensive anthology of guidelines and video clips on self-defense.⁴
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted a link to a comprehensive guide on constructing missiles.⁵
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published an instructional video titled "Tactical Shooting Techniques for the Sniper".⁶

³ <https://190.123.202.130/~shamikh/vb/> (Arabic).

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

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

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

Promoting the Myth of Martyrdom

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Malahem, which functions under the aegis of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published a video clip titled, "Convoy of Martyrs 1".⁷



The opening page of "Convoy of Martyrs 1"

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masadah published a biography of the martyr Muhammad Qadur (Abu Anas Al-Jazairi). It is the third in a series of similar publications titled, "Biographies of Martyrs from Greater Syria [Al-Sham]".⁸



The cover of the biography of Abu Anas Al-Jazairi, one in a series on martyrs from Greater Syria

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

- The jihadist media outlet Omar, which functions under the auspices of the Pakistani Taliban, published a video clip titled, "Then We Put Thee on the

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

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

(Right) Way of Religion” by Fadlallah, the emir of the Taliban in Pakistan’s Swat Valley. In the video, Fadlallah appeals to Muslim women not to marry Pakistani soldiers, whom he deems “Muslims who have lost their way”. Fadlallah also uses the video to praise jihad and express his support for polygamy, which is permissible under Islamic law.⁹



Pakistani Taliban leader Fadlallah expounds on the virtues of jihad – and polygamy

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published an announcement about an Afghani chef formerly employed at a US Army base in Afghanistan, who had poisoned the food there, killing five American soldiers. According to the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the poisoning was an “heroic act of revenge” for the burning of a Qur’an at an Air Force base in Bajram. The chef later fled the base and joined the mujahideen, who welcomed him with open arms and secreted him to safety. Later in the same announcement, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan appealed to all Afghans who work with the “foreign invader” to avenge the Qur’an burning and the enemy’s ridicule of Islamic values, adding that the mujahideen would help anyone who wished to take revenge, including ensuring a secure escape route.¹⁰

Iraq

- The Islamic State of Iraq published a report documenting the number of its military activities in Diyala Province (32),¹¹ Salah Al-Din Province (33),¹² and northern Baghdad (134).¹³

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

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

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

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

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

- The jihadist media institution Al-Ansar, which functions under the auspices of Ansar Al-Islam, published the third article in a series titled, "American Prisons". The current article surveys the experience of Muslims held in American prisons in Iraq, including methods of torture and interrogation.¹⁴



Al-Ansar's understanding of what Muslims endure in American prisons

- Following the Iraqi government's refusal to meet the demands of the Islamic State of Iraq that it cease to torture men and women incarcerated in Baghdad's prisons, the Islamic State of Iraq heralded a new wave of precise, synchronized attacks against security installations and personnel, judges, and government workers. According to the Islamic State of Iraq, this wave of attacks was meant to help Sunni prisoners, and avenge the crimes of Shiite security organizations.¹⁵
- Following the murder by the Islamic State of Iraq of Shiite civilians in Al-Nukhayb, Al-Anbar Province, in late 2011, a Web surfer inveighed against "the Internet sheikhs" who rule that Islamic law permits the killing of Shiites simply because they are Shiites. According to this contributor, the Shiites are simple, uneducated people whom it is forbidden to kill or unjustly accuse of apostasy. He expressed hope that the specific Shiites killed in Al-Nakhib had received their just desserts. However, if they were the innocent victims of a political scam, vengeance should be exacted from their murderers. Other Web surfers protested these comments and endorsed the murder of Shiites,

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

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

clarifying that the Qur'an stipulates that [the Shiites] are infidels and traitors to the religion of Allah.¹⁶

- The leadership of Ansar Al-Islam expressed its condolences to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq on the death of Abu Talha Al-Ansari, one of the first of the Islamic State of Iraq's senior members to be hanged by the Iraqi government, on February 7, 2012.¹⁷



Abu Talha Al-Ansari

- A contributor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein posted a list of 21 jihadist movements active in Iraq, including Shiite groups, and asked his fellow Web surfers which of them they supported. He iterated that his aim was not to arouse dissent, but to foster an exchange of advice and ideas about the most appropriate choice, under Islamic religious law. Some Web surfers recommended that he remove his post, since his question concerned whether one belonged to one of the movements listed, and not only whether one supported it. Other Web surfers cooperated, asserting their support for the Islamic State of Iraq or for another of the Sunni organizations. The majority of respondents seemed to favor the Islamic State of Iraq, especially because it was the first to fight the conquerors of Iraq. The "secretary" of Hanein insisted that the topic remain on the forum despite differences of opinion, and that debate proceed in a civilized manner.¹⁸
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Furqan published an audio recording of Abu Muhammad Al-Adnani, the official spokesman of the Islamic State of Iraq,

¹⁶ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

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

¹⁸ <http://hanein.info/vb/> (Arabic).

titled, "Oh Sunnis! Iraq, Iraq". In it, Al-Adnani states that the Islamic State of Iraq has worked tirelessly to impel all people to embrace the idea of tawhid [the Oneness of God] and impose the laws of Allah, so that the Muslims may become one nation [ummah]. He adds that, since its founding, the Islamic State of Iraq has engaged in conflict with the infidel, who persists in mercilessly killing and tormenting Muslims.

Al-Adnani states that Shiites are the bitterest enemy of the [Sunni] Muslims, and claims that Shiites have been plotting conspiracies against the Islamic State of Iraq since its establishment. According to him, the Shiites are now trying to encircle Saudi Arabia and take control of all Muslim lands, so that they can divert the pilgrimage [hajj] from Mecca to Karbala, their holy city. He warns Sunnis throughout the world, and especially in Iraq and Syria, to beware of Shiites, who are preparing for a comprehensive war, whose first rumblings may be heard in the Alawites' severe torment of Sunnis in Syria. No longer content with its crimes in Lebanon, Hezbollah has sent snipers and criminals to Syria to spill the blood of the helpless. So, too, have tens of the Mahdi Army and Basij militias from Iran crossed into Syria to help the Alawite regime.

Al-Adnani adds that Shiites have raised their heads in other countries, too: Yemen, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Lebanon, Iran (in Ahwaz) and Iraq. He stresses their opposition to Sunnis, citing the Shiite political, economic, social and religious "conquest" of Iraq. He attacks Sunni Iraqi forces that collaborate with the Shiite government.

Al-Adnani appeals to Sunnis to stem the influx of Shiites into Iraq: "Behead this Shiite snake whose tail now slithers in your garden! Know that a time of war is coming, a time of real conflict with these despicable Shiites, whether you wish it or not. The war of Sunnis against Shiites is not an ethnic war...no, it is a holy, religious-ideological war. A war of faith against heresy. A war of the Oneness of God against heresy. A war from which there is no escape..." as Shiites will not cease fighting and killing Sunnis, even if they wave a white flag in surrender. According to Al-Adnani, the only reason Shiites have not yet actually declared war against Sunnis is their fear that doing so would cause all Sunnis to mass on the side of the Islamic State of Iraq. He also denounces Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maleki.

Al-Adnani reminds Sunnis that the Islamic State of Iraq was founded to protect them and their rights from their enemies. He states that the Islamic State of Iraq knows the tribes are being pressured to abandon the idea of an Islamic state, and reminds them that this struggle has been forced upon them. He adds that the Islamic State of Iraq will welcome all those who return to the faith, who lay down their arms, who do not oppose it. Al-Adnani expresses his certainty that the Islamic State of Iraq will soon retake the areas from which it retreated; he asks Sunnis to join the mujahideen in halting the spread of Shiism. He exhorts Sunnis languishing in Shiite prisons to stay strong, and assures them that the Islamic State of Iraq is doing all it can to free them: constantly attacking Shiites, and attacking judges, interrogators and security guards. Al-Adnani iterates that there will be no peace and quiet in Iraq or the region, and that the Islamic State of Iraq will not bargain or negotiate. The law of Allah can be imposed only by the sword. It must be based on might and power. The Islamic State of Iraq will not change its ways or its faith. It is strong, and will not assent to any government that does not implement Islamic religious law, since Islam must be imposed throughout the world. He asks Allah to protect and keep the Emir of the Islamic State of Iraq Abu Baker Al-Husieni, and its ministers, governors and soldiers.¹⁹

The Arabian Peninsula

- Asir Al-Shawq, the supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, posted photographs of a spy who was publicly hanged in Jaar, Yemen, by Ansar Al-Sharia. According to Al-Shawq, the punishment meted out by Ansar Al-Sharia accorded with shari'a [Islamic religious law].²⁰

¹⁹ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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



The body of a spy hanged by Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) expressed condolences on the death of Emir [of Ansar Al-Sharia] Tariq Al-Dhahab, who was killed along with two of his colleagues by Yemeni security forces on February 16, 2012. In the same communication, AQAP stated that its members had avenged Al-Dhahab's death by detonating a car bomb in the midst of a group of Yemeni security personnel. AQAP appealed to tribal elders and sheikhs in Yemen to help impose shari'a in all of Yemen.²¹ According to a correspondent for Al-Arabia TV in Yemen, Tariq Al-Dhahab had been shot to death by his brother, Hazam Al-Dhahab, near Rada.
- The jihadist Madad Media Center, which functions under the auspices of Ansar Al-Sharia, published News Bulletin Number 9,²² which focuses on recent developments in Yemen.

²¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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



Madad's News Bulletin No. 9

- A contributor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein asked why members of Ansar Al-Sharia had returned to Rada after having retreated from the city. Had they not broken their promise by doing so? Another contributor wrote the ironic response that Ansar Al-Sharia had indeed broken its promise, since Islamic law means nothing to it, just as local residents had broken *their* promise to Ansar Al-Sharia to implement Islamic religious law. The writer of this response then attacked the contributor who asked the question, and accused him of spreading poison and denigrating the mujahideen. Other contributors continued in this vein, noting that Rada's leaders had broken their promise. The mujahideen had thus been betrayed, and Ansar Al-Sharia had attacked their betrayers – specifically, the traitorous brother of the emir of Ansar Al-Sharia, who had killed the emir in exchange for a host of promises from the Yemeni regime.²³
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published an English translation of an interview conducted on February 22, 2012 by the Yemeni news portal Mareb Press with Sheikh Fahd Al-Qusu, the commander of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).²⁴

²³ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁴ <http://ansar1.info/> (English); for the full interview, see: <http://marebpress.net/articles.php?id=13985&lng=arabic> (Arabic).



Sheikh Fahd Al-Qusu, who was interviewed by Mareb Press

- On February 28, 2012, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published an announcement in which it took responsibility for a February 25th suicide attack against the Palace of the Republic in Al-Mukala, Yemen. According to the announcement, a suicide attacker drove a booby-trapped car into a crowd of Republican Guards at the Palace of the Republic in Al-Mukala and then detonated the car. The explosion killed close to 30 people, among them officers and soldiers, and wounded more than 50. Also according to the announcement, the attack was carried out concurrent with the ceremony of the transfer of power in Yemen, and was meant to hurt the US, which is trying to steal the fruits of the revolution. Specifically, the attack was timed to occur after the US Ambassador in Sana'a had declared that the US would deepen its involvement in Yemen as part of its war on terrorism. According to the announcement, "this welcome act of martyrdom carries a clear message" to the following:
 - The American ambassador, who claimed that the US is rebuilding Yemeni military infrastructure.
 - The military forces, which are not satisfied with merely killing citizens protesting in Sana'a, Ta'az, Aden, Hadramaut and Al-Bisa'a, and so now have become a tool of the US, which uses them as it pleases.
 Lastly, the announcement stated that the attack was meant to demonstrate that American plans for Yemen are doomed to failure.²⁵

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

The Maghreb [North Africa]

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Hanein posted photographs of a supply convoy sent by Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia to Haydra in the Kasserine Governorate in Tunisia.²⁶



Supplies sent by Ansar Al-Sharia to Haydra, Kasserine Governorate, Tunisia

Al-Sham [Greater Syria]

- The Political Council of Fath Al-Islam reported the formation of a Salafi-jihadist brigade named Bara Ibn Malik, which functions as part of the Free Syrian Army. It is worth noting that the group bears the same name as an Al-Qaeda brigade established in Iraq in 2005.²⁷
- Sheikh Hamed Al-Ali, a Salafi from Kuwait, was asked about the Iraqi government's claim that terrorists and weapons are traversing the border between Iraq and Syria. The Sheikh responded that there is a conspiracy to

²⁶ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

let anarchist militias enter Syria in the service of the Syrian regime's propaganda that terrorists have infiltrated the non-violent popular revolution, thus serving as a cover for the regime's wholesale attack on the Syrian people. Thus, it is essential that the revolution against the illegitimate regime that controls this oppressed nation remain non-violent. At present, the Free Syrian Army is the one defending the Syrian people; one should support its efforts to foil the regime's conspiracy to accuse the revolutionaries of terrorism. Other Web surfers expressed dissatisfaction at what they saw as a trick question, divorced from reality. According to some of them, Shiites in Iraq, Iran and Lebanon are the ones assisting the Alawite regime in Syria, and this is how the question should have been posed. These contributors stressed that it was incumbent on every Muslim, and not only those in Syria, to aid the mujahideen in their struggle against the Alawites. Another contributor doubted the wisdom of Al-Qaeda's entering Syria, lest this give the Assad regime an excuse to kill more Syrians. Others quelled his reservations by insisting that the Syrian regime didn't need any excuses of this type. As proof, one writer recalled the massacre in Hamat in the 1980s, before Al-Qaeda's establishment. This writer added that the Alawite regime was an enemy of Islam, and wanted to prevent Al-Qaeda from infiltrating [Syria]. If Al-Qaeda were to enter Syria, it would not kill Sunnis who joined its ranks.²⁸



Sheikh Hamed Al-Ali

- A Web surfer named Abu Al-Fadhli Madhi analyzed a speech by Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri, who urged Muslims to wage jihad on behalf of

²⁸ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

their brothers in Syria. He noted that both non-violent and armed jihadists had been participating in the Arab revolutions, and shared the feelings of the broader public. The leaders of jihad did not make their support for the rebels conditional upon the rebels' support for a caliphate or an Islamic state; neither did they ask that rebels wave the banner of Al-Qaeda or any other jihadist group. Nevertheless, Al-Zawahiri noted, jihadists should remind the rebels of their obligation as Muslims to impose the law of Allah. So far, the strategy of the jihadists had proved itself. Abu Al-Fadhl Madhi felt that Al-Zawahiri's speech was balanced, moderate, and very pragmatic. His appeal to "every Muslim and every free, honorable person in Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon to help their brethren in Syria in any way he can – psychologically, financially, with words of encouragement, with his opinions and knowledge" was a test of Islamic law, and a call to all Muslims bordering Syria to join jihad. Given the influx of aid to the Syrian regime, the burden on the residents of Syria is becoming too heavy to bear, and the conflict is becoming a global one. Thus, according to Madhi, Al-Zawahiri's appeal was made to all Muslims, and not only to the mujahideen.²⁹

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted photographs of rallies held by Salafi-jihadists in Rafah, Gaza Strip, in support of the Syrian people in their struggle against the regime of Bashar Al-Assad.³⁰



Salafi-jihadists march in Rafah, Gaza Strip, in support of the Syrian people

- The jihadist media outlet Ibn Taymiyyah, which is affiliated with the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group Army of Islam, published a video clip titled, "Bloodletting in Syria".³¹

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

³⁰ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



The opening of the video clip, "Bloodletting in Syria"

- The jihadist media institution Al-Manarah Al-Baydha, which functions under the auspices of the "The Front for the Protection of the Syrian People", published a video clip titled, "The Retaliatory Invasion of the Free People of Al-Sham". The video focuses on the The Front for the Protection of the Syrian People's aid to the Syrian people in their protest against the Assad regime. It cites a series of terrorist attacks conducted by the group's members, chiefly one perpetrated against military and security personnel in Homs. The video also covers the legacy of a martyr named Abu Al-Bara'a Al-Shami; the care taken by the mujahideen not to harm civilians during an attack; the training of Assistance Front members; and the addition of Syrian citizens to the group's ranks.³²



"The Retaliatory Invasion of the Free People of Al-Sham"

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

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

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masadah published an article titled, "Fundamental Guidelines for the Residents of Al-Sham to Achieve Victory" by Sheikh Abu Uqbah Al-Muhajir.³³
- A Web surfer identifying himself as a Syrian urged the residents of Syria to bear arms since "...waving banners and gathering in the streets are not preventing the regime's snipers from shooting. Now is the time for action. An eye for an eye, destruction for destruction, blood for blood...!" The writer cautioned that the struggle of the Syrian people must not be appropriated by secular elements or a despotic secular ruler. He asked the Syrian people to fight for implementation of Islamic law by attacking the headquarters and meeting places of the regime, by instilling fear in the hearts of Alawites, and by helping the mujahideen. He warned the young people of Syria not to emigrate to other countries for material gain, and demanded that they join Jihad and Assistance Fronts Brigades. He also appealed to all Muslims to fulfill their obligation to aid the residents of Syria financially, with words of encouragement, and by acts of martyrdom. The supervisor of Hanein, the jihadist Web forum on which these comments were posted, called attention to this post and asked visitors to the site to heed its content and disseminate it to other [jihadist] forums.³⁴
- The supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, who goes by the name Abu Al-Ayna Al-Khurasani, appealed to forum visitors to donate money to the revolutionaries in Syria, or, alternatively, to join them physically in their fight against the Syrian regime.³⁵
- Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi was asked for his opinion regarding the establishment of The Front for the Protection of the Syrian People. He explained that he did not know of the group or its leaders, but saw no harm in establishing such a group if its members were honest, devoted mujahideen. He noted that he had seen their video clip on YouTube, and did not approve of the members of the Front concealing their faces, as this does not suit those who have accepted responsibility for aiding the persecuted people of Syria. One oppressed person should not aid another; and since the residents of Syria have overcome their fear, and now protest and fight with their faces uncovered, so, too, should their supporters. At the same time, the Syrian

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

³⁴ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

people should trust this or any other group of jihadist fighters. Al-Tartusi asked the members of the Front to show themselves so that people could embrace them. Any jihadist group that aspires to succeed, he noted, must have popular support. Moreover, this is how the Free Syrian Army behaves. Al-Tartusi expressed regret that the Front was belligerent toward the entire world, since what the Syrian people need now is friends, not more enmity. One contributor disagreed with Sheikh Al-Tartusi, and wrote that it was not the faces of Front members that were important, but their deeds.³⁶

Egypt

- Salafi-jihadists in Egypt appealed to the populace to attend a protest rally in front of the Syrian Embassy in Cairo on February 2, 2012 in support of the Syrian people and in protest against their brutal massacre.³⁷
- Sheikh Hani Al-Sibai (an Egyptian exile in London who heads the Al-Maqrizi Center for Historical Studies), Sheikh Ahmad Ashush,³⁸ and Sheikh Muhammad Al-Zawahiri³⁹ expressed condolences on the death of Rifai Suroon,⁴⁰ an Egyptian Salafi-jihadist sheikh and a prominent opponent of the Egyptian regime during the 1960s. Suroon had been imprisoned multiple times for his subversive acts against Egypt's security. After his final release from prison he was placed under restrictive house arrest, and spent his time writing anti-secularist and da'wa books and propaganda. Sheikh Hani Al-Sibai devoted a lecture to him, in which he reviewed the highlights of his life and his contribution to Islamic thought and faith.⁴¹ Abu Al-Zynab, a supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida, devoted a special chat room to threads and correspondence dedicated to the memory of Sheikh Rifai Suroon.⁴²

³⁶ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

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

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

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

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



"May Allah have mercy on you, O Sheikh Rifai"

- The jihadist propaganda outlet Nukhbat Al-Jihad published an article by Abu Ubaydah Abdallah Khalid Al-'Adam titled, "Egypt and the Revolution against the Military". In it, Al-'Adam claims the revolution in Egypt has not ended, because remnants of the previous regime are still in power. Revolutions in Europe, he writes, such as the French Revolution and the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, uprooted despotic regimes, leaving nary a trace of them in power. So, too, must the Egyptian people rout anyone affiliated with the old guard, especially General Tantawi and the others in the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF). According to Al-'Adam, to ensure freedom from oppression and pave the way for implementation of shari'a, it is necessary to restrict the influence of members of the previous regime. This worthy aspiration is held not only by the revolutionaries in Egypt, but also by the revolutionaries in other Arab lands such as Tunisia, Libya, Yemen and Syria.⁴³

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



"Egypt and the Revolution against the Military"

- Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi appealed to the Egyptians to bar the passage through the Suez Canal of Syria-bound Iranian ships laden with weapons and other aid to the dictatorial regime there. Al-Tartusi called on the Egyptians to demand that their government close the Iranian Embassy in Cairo. Web surfers responded to Al-Tartusi's suggestions with support.⁴⁴

Africa

- The Al-Kataib Foundation for Media Production, which functions under the auspices of the Somali group Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published a video clip in English and Bantu Swahili (the *lingua franca* of Kenya) titled, "The War Front. El-Wak: Blocking Kenyan Agents".⁴⁵
- On February 12, 2012, the Zakat [Charitable Donations] Office of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen distributed monetary aid to two villages, Bay and Bakool, and promised to make regular monthly donations to needy families. It also began renovating the home of one such family, and sent a religious teacher to the family.⁴⁶
- In honor of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen's taking an oath of loyalty to Al-Qaeda in early February, the Al-Kataib Foundation for Media Production, which is

⁴⁴ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

affiliated with the Somali group, published two letters of thanks to jihadist Web forums and two jihadist media institutions, Al-Sahab and the Global Islamic Media Foundation (GIMF), for helping to promote jihad. The letters reiterated Al-Shabab's commitment to obeying Ayman Al-Zawahiri and aiding fellow mujahideen.⁴⁷



Two letters published on the occasion of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen's oath of loyalty to Ayman Al-Zawahiri and Al-Qaeda

- The Al-Kataib Foundation for Media Production published a video clip titled, "Video Message from One of the Kenyan Prisoners".⁴⁸

كلمة مرئية لأحد الأسرى الكينيين
a Video Message from One of the Kenyan Prisoners



A video clip published by the Al-Kataib Foundation for Media Production

- During the latter half of February, 2012, the Al-Kataib Foundation for Media Production, affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, announced the following:
 - The Explosives Unit of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen detonated a bomb north of Mogadishu, killing six members of the Somali security forces and one member of the African security forces.
 - On February 23, 2012, the mujahideen assassinated a senior member of the Somali establishment, who had been responsible for four areas of Mogadishu.⁴⁹
 - On February 23, 2012, the mujahideen pushed back the Ethiopian forces that had invaded the village of Yurkud. The latter left 21 corpses on the battlefield.

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

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

⁴⁹ <http://hanein.info/vb> (arabic).

- On February 24, 2012, mujahideen laid an ambush in Yurkud, killing seven Ethiopians.
- On February 24, 2012, brigades of mujahideen attacked military outposts in Gogani city, killing five Kenyans and Somalis.
- On February 25, 2012, an Ethiopian officer was assassinated in Baydhao, in southern Somalia.
- In honor of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen's oath of loyalty to Al-Qaeda and the unification of the two movements, 20 prisoners were freed.⁵⁰
- A graduation ceremony was held for the third class of over 130 clerics trained at the Abdallah Azzam Institute, which is affiliated with the Da'wa Ministry of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.⁵¹
- Senior members of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen attended the opening ceremony of Al-Ihsan, a charitable organization affiliated with the movement, in Lower Shabili Province.⁵²



The inaugural ceremony of Al-Ihsan Charitable Organization

- "More than 150 Somali tribal leaders heralded Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen's newly-declared loyalty to Al-Qaeda in early February 2012."⁵³
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Shahadah, which is affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published its eponymous Newsletter Number 4, which reports recent developments in the Somali arena of jihad.⁵⁴

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

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

⁵² <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

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



Al-Shahadah's newsletter, issue number 4

- A jihadist group calling itself "Golis Mountains", which is active in Puntland in eastern Somalia, declared it joined Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen on February 25, 2012. The emir of the group, Yasin Kilwe, swore an oath of loyalty to the emir of Al-Shabab, Sheikh Mukhtar Abu Al-Zubair.⁵⁵
- The English-language jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen posted a thread titled, "The Banner of Jihad in Nigeria: I Wish You 'Good Luck' Mister Badluck Jonathan". The thread dealt with the development of jihad in Nigeria, and addressed the American presence and methods there, part of its war on global jihad. The thread discussed Christian missionary activity and efforts to convert Nigeria's Muslim population – which purportedly gave rise to the group officially named Ahl Al-Sunna wal-Jama'ah and more widely known as Boku Haram [literally, "Western education is forbidden"]. Boku Haram was headed by Muhammad Yusef until his death, when leadership passed to Sheikh Abubakar Shekau. According to the thread, Boku Haram is now deploying a defensive rather than an offensive strategy; its activities are meant to protect the citizens of Nigeria from the conqueror, to preserve their honor and faith, and to achieve justice for the Nigerian people. Toward the end of the thread, three main activities are cited as imminent. First, a comprehensive attack is planned on the local police force, with the aim of weakening its presence in the north and facilitating intensive recruitment of mujahideen. Second, a focused attack is planned on military bases, with the aim of taking their weapons arsenals. Third, a focused attack

⁵⁵ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

is planned on intelligence agents and (virtual and actual) installations that serve the enemy's intelligence community.⁵⁶

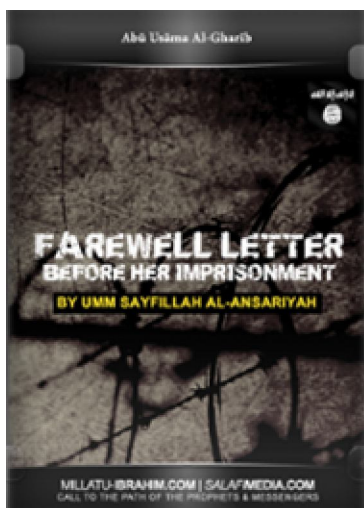
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam quoted an item from a press agency, according to which the Nigerian group Ahl Al-Sunna wal-Jama'ah, more widely known as Boku Haram, had taken responsibility for a February 26th attack on a church plaza in the city of Jos. Abu Al-Qaqa, Boku Haram's spokesman, told journalists by telephone: "We attacked the church in Jos today. We did this because we are dedicated to avenging the humiliation and killing of Muslims in Jos for the past ten years". He added that this was the beginning of a wave of attacks against similar targets.⁵⁷

The West and Elsewhere

- The jihadist media institution Sawt Al-Islam, which functions under the auspices of the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), published a hymn titled, "Lions of Turkistan".⁵⁸

General Reports

- The German-language Salafi-jihadist Web forum Millat Ibrahim published a video clip prepared by Abu Usama Al-Gharib and Abu Talha Al-Almani titled, "Farewell Letter Before Her Imprisonment, by Umm Sayfillah Al-Ansariyyah".⁵⁹



A farewell written by a Muslim woman on the eve of her incarceration

⁵⁶ <http://ansar1.info/vb> (English).

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

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

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

- The jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam announced an “open session”, to be held between February 27 and March 19, 2012, during which its members and the members of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida would be able to address questions to Sheikh Abu `Abd Al-Illah Ahmad, who is in charge of political and foreign affairs for Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Also according to the announcement, Shumukh Al-Islam and the jihadist media institution Al-Fajr had decided to arrange the open session following recent developments in the Arab world – specifically, the outbreak of rebellion, and the increasing alliance between the mujahideen and the people.⁶⁰

Miscellaneous

- The supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, Abu Ayna Al-Khurasani, published an announcement cautioning forum members about inactive links.⁶¹
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam opened a virtual workshop to which he uploaded video clips, articles, banners and other materials meant to aid in propaganda promoting the release from prison of Afiya Siddiqui, a Pakistani brain scientist who is thought to belong to an Al-Qaeda sleeper cell. Siddiqui was extradited to the US in 2008 to stand trial for the attempted murder of American agents and military officers during interrogation in Afghanistan. In the video clip, demonstrators are shown waving Al-Qaeda banners. It is worth noting that propaganda advocating Siddiqui’s release has become more prevalent on jihadist Web forums in recent months.⁶²

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

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

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



A call to step up advocacy of the release of Afiya Saddiqui

- Members of Al-Tahadi, a prominent jihadist Web forum, noted that they had lost contact with the forum's administrator, Salman bin Muhind, some two months previous; in fact, the forum has been dormant for several months. Forum supervisors and members of its Shura Council, who met to discuss how to continue advocating for the mujahideen, decided found a new jihadist media institution, also named Al-Tahadi. The renewed Al-Tahadi will publish jihadist materials through the Web forums Al-Jahad Al-Alami and Al-Luyuth Al-Islamiyyah.⁶³



An announcement concerning the future of the jihadist Web forum Al-Tahadi

- The jihadist workshop Hafidat Safiyyah appealed to members of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam to support the people and mujahideen of Syria, especially Homs. To this end, Hafidat Safiyyah posted banners, a video clip,⁶⁴ and an online anthology titled, Al-Muslimah Al-Shamikha [The Muslim Woman Who Aspires to Higher Things]. The anthology contains articles, speeches,

⁶³ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

verses from the Qur'an, fatwas [religious legal rulings], and stories concerning Muslim women and their involvement in jihad.⁶⁵



The cover of a CD on women participants in jihad (left), and a banner extolling the mujahideen in Syria (right)

- Abu 'Abd Al-Qadir Al-Qamari, a member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida who is variously defined as an historian of Islam or of the mujahideen, published separate biographies of three of the wives of Ayman Al-Zawahiri, current emir of Al-Qaeda.⁶⁶
- The establishment was announced of a new jihadist Web forum, Al-Qital, whose url is <http://www.alqital.net>. The forum is published in Urdu and English.⁶⁷



The logo of the new jihadist Web forum Al-Qital

- The jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen announced the establishment of a new jihadist media institution named Inform Foundation for Media Production, which will focus on translating jihadist propaganda into various languages. According to the announcement, the Inform Foundation is "...an international institution that strives to teach Muslim youth what is unique about jihad and the muhjahideen".⁶⁸

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

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

⁶⁷ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁸ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



The logo of the new Inform Foundation for Media Production, which incorporates the banner of Al-Qaeda

Facebook

- On November 23, 2011, a Facebook page was dedicated to Abu Usama Al-Gharib, a Salafi-jihadist sheikh from Vienna and a key member of the Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF).⁶⁹



The logo of the Facebook page dedicated to Abu Usama Al-Gharib

- A new Facebook page was recently dedicated to Sheikh Hani Al-Sibai (1,886 "likes"),⁷⁰ an Egyptian exile living in London who heads the Al-Maqrizi Center for Historical Research. Al-Sibai recently established a new Salafist group known as Followers of the Sunna for the Salvation of Egypt, whose aim is to see shari'a [Islamic law] imposed in Egypt. Two more Facebook pages were also dedicated to the sheikh, one called "Lovers of Dr. Hani Al-Sibai" (415

⁶⁹ <http://www.facebook.com/AbuUsamaAlGharib>.

⁷⁰ <http://www.facebook.com/DrHaniSibai>.

"likes"), ⁷¹and one called "Followers of the Sunna for the Salvation of Egypt [for] Hani Al-Sibai" (560 "likes").⁷²



Images from the three Facebook pages dedicated to Hani Al-Sibai

Twitter

- On February 13, 2012, a new official Twitter page was dedicated to tweets about Abu 'Abd Al-Qadir Al-Qamri (Ismail Jad Ismail), a member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida who is variously defined as an historian of Islam or of the mujahideen.⁷³ The Jordanian Salafi-jihadist portal Minbar Al-tawhid wal Jihad has also dedicated a page to articles by Al-Qamari.⁷⁴



A Twitter feed dedicated to Abu 'Abd Al-Qadir Al-Qamari

⁷¹ <http://www.facebook.com/mohibidrhani>.

⁷² <https://www.facebook.com/TayarSunni>.

⁷³ <https://twitter.com/#%21/abdalqad>.

⁷⁴ <http://w.alsunnah.info/a?a=abdalqdr> (Arabic).