



Bi-monthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Web Sites

The Second Half of March 2013

Highlights

This report summarizes notable events discussed on jihadist Web forums during the second half of March 2013. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- The Pakistan-Taliban urges the Pakistani people to wage a violent revolution against the oppressive Pakistani regime, like that in Syria or Libya.
- On March 14, the Islamic State of Iraq perpetrates a massive terrorist attack against the Iraqi Ministry of Justice to avenge the regime's oppression of Sunni citizens.
- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb calls on Muslims in North Africa, and especially in Tunisia, to concentrate on jihad and the implementation of Islamic law in North Africa – and not elsewhere.
- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb exhorts the French, especially the families of French hostages, to pressure Hollande's government to withdraw its army from northern Mali, lest they all suffer the consequences.
- A new Islamist-jihadist umbrella organization is established in Syria: Jaysh Al-Mujahideen wal-Ansar. The new group amalgamates local and foreign jihadists who had been fighting under the command of Chechen Abu 'Umar al-Shishani.
- A second issue appears of the jihadist periodical *Al-Balagh*.

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New Publications

Ideology

- The jihadist propaganda organ Nukhbat Al-'Ilam published a 63-page booklet by Abu al-Hasan al-Waili titled, "Eternal Love". A foreword to the booklet was written by Sheikh Abu Yahya al-Libi, a former senior leader of Al-Qaeda who was killed in a US drone strike in June 2012.¹ The booklet is devoted to the love of God, and love among the mujahideen.
- The jihadist media institution Fursan Al-Balagh published an article by a woman whose *nom de plume* is Umm Hussam, titled, "Between Rachel Corrie and Anwar al-'Awlaki: The McCarthyism of Murder".² Rachel Corrie (1979-2003) was an American pro-Palestinian activist and member of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), who was accidentally killed by an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) tractor while trying to physically block the IDF's demolition of homes and trees that had served to conceal terrorists along the Gaza Strip Border. Anwar al-'Awlaki (1971-2011), an Islamic scholar and charismatic promoter of global jihad, was an American citizen of Yemeni extraction who left the US to join Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). According to Umm Hussam, the two were similar in their criticism of the arrogance and tyranny of the US and Israel, which persecuted them both.



The late Anwar al-'Awlaki

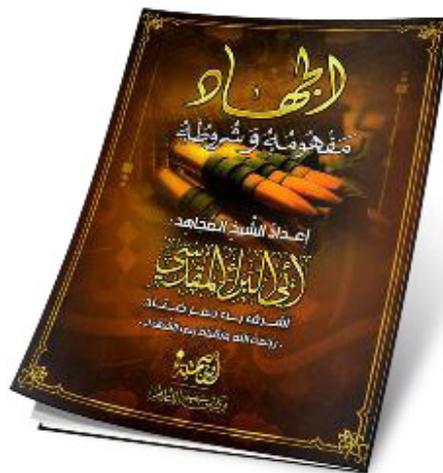
- The Salafi-jihadist portal Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad published "The Amman Letter: Correcting Misunderstandings" by Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a prominent Jordanian Salafi-jihadist. The letter, written from the Jordanian prison where al-Maqdisi is being held, criticizes a program that is the brainchild of King Abdullah II of Jordan. Introduced on November 9, 2004, the "Amman Message" preached tolerance and

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

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

cohesion among Muslims everywhere. The Amman Message, backed by 200 Muslim legal scholars from 50 countries, examined the issue of who is a Muslim, who can pronounce takfir [determine that another Muslim is a heretic] and other issues of importance to the Muslim Nation. Quoting from the Qur'an, Al-Maqqdisi criticized the program for representing an attempt to create a "counterfeit" model of Islam, which does not hew to the original, true Islam. The Amman Message was devised by Crusaders, Zionists and Freemasons, he wrote.³ In a different opinion piece, titled "A Kilogram of Guavas", al-Maqqdisi urged Muslims not to remember and strive to liberate imprisoned mujahideen.⁴

- The jihadist media institute Al-Masada published an article by Sheikh Wahid Abdallah Abu al-Fada titled, "Toward a Kinetic Islamic Consciousness: Introduction". The article, whose foreword was written by prominent contributor to jihadist Web forums Sheikh Abu Sa'ad al-'Amili, addresses plans to implement Islamic law in Tunisia.⁵
- The Ibn Taymiyya Media Center published a 59-page book titled, "Jihad: Significance and Circumstances" by Sheikh Abu al-Bara Ashraf Sabah, a prominent Palestinian Salafi-jihadist from the Gaza Strip. On October 13, 2012, Sabah was killed along with Hisham Sa'idani (aka Abu Walid al-Maqqdisi), a founder of the Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem, in an Israeli drone strike.⁶



"Jihad: Meaning and Circumstances"

- In late March 2013, a position paper was posted on the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen, which contained an acerbic criticism of the Saudi Arabian regime. The paper

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

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

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

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

was written by Abd Allah ibn Muhammed, whom the forum presented as “a jihadist writer and analyst”. Interestingly, Ibn Muhammed calls himself a strategist, and frequently writes about strategy on Facebook and Twitter. Ibn Muhammed responded to a recent fatwa issued by an acclaimed scholarly institution in Saudi Arabia, according to which the jihad in Syria is a crime. According to Ibn Muhammed, this is but the “tip of the iceberg”, one of many serious infractions by the Saudi secret service. However, Ibn Muhammed asked to leave a discussion of Saudi Arabia’s “general intelligence presidency” to other analysts focus, preferring to focus on the actions of the Saudi regime itself. His principal claim was that the Saudi regime, like all other regimes, guards its strategic interests. For example, where oil is a strategic interest for the US, for Saudi Arabia, religion is a strategic interest, perceived as a mechanism of national security. It is for this reason that the Saudi regime guards religion jealously, and attacks any other regime that does not follow the Saudi model of religious law. According to Ibn Muhammed, Saudi history is full of attempts to intervene, overthrow other regimes, even collaborate with the enemies of Islam to this end. For example, during the 1994 civil war between northern and southern Yemen, the Saudi regime backed the Communists even though Yemeni Islamic scholars had determined explicitly that to do so was to commit an act of heresy. Also, Saudi Arabia had invested effort in blocking certain “Islamist projects” that had arisen during the so-called “Arab Spring”. For example, Saudi Arabia collaborated with the US to thwart the efforts of Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen, an affiliate of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), to establish an emirate in Abyan Governorate. Saudi Arabia continues to support regimes in the Muslim world that are in danger of falling into Islamist hands.⁷

- A recent Twitter “conversation” originating with the account of Assad al-Jihad2, a prominent jihadist analyst and strategist, concerned the strengths and weaknesses of world economic blocs and their political implications for arenas of jihad. The economies of the US, Canada and Europe were identified as one entity (the Western bloc), and the economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) as another. As part of this exchange, a link was uploaded to an article titled, “The Keys to Economic Strength and Weakness of the BRIC Countries and Their Opponents from the ‘West’, and Their Influence on Changes in the Map of World Power”. As its title indicated, the article surveyed the difference between these two economic entities. Assad al-Jihad2 explained that while BRIC was composed of a coalition of states with different religions, the “Western” bloc was Christian, and this “unity of heart” gave it a notable advantage.

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

Nevertheless, he wrote, the balance of power was shifting, to the detriment of the West, politically as well as economically – as indicated by North Korea’s explicit threats against the US. Without BRIC, North Korea could not have acted as it had. This in turn had had a salubrious effect on the revolution in Syria, which continues to rage, in part because the BRIC bloc continues to get stronger.⁸

- Assad al-Jihad2 also uploaded to his Twitter feed a position paper by the strategist Abd Allah ibn Muhammad, concerning the situation in Russia. In response to the question of why Ahmad Mu’adh al-Khatib had attacked the head of the Syrian coalition, Ibn Muhammed claimed that there were two principle players in the Syrian arena, the US and Russia, which were fighting for hegemony there. Ibn Muhammed reported that al-Khatib had warned states that allow the passage of “terrorists” into Syria (because they themselves wish to evict them), and this proved that he was the unofficial spokesman of the White House. The region’s regimes did not realize that Muslims were joining jihad in Syria not because they loved jihad, but rather because they were massing against an enemy – as had been the case in Afghanistan. Al-Khatib was also accused of abetting the US by lashing out against jihadist brigades and accusing them of heresy, despite their immense contribution to the fight against the regime of Bashar al-Assad. According to Ibn Muhammed, the West had succeeded in creating a political-military coalition in Syria *in absentia*, deflecting Russia and its political allies. Now, however, the West had agreed with the Syrian coalition that the mujahideen were an obstacle and a threat to regional instability – primarily because they refused to be ruled by East or West.⁹
- A post on the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen in late March 2013 discussed the secret of the success of the Taliban and the jihadist movements, thanks to their uncompromising adherence to Islamic law [shari’a]. The members of these movements, the post said, would not waver from even one principle, and had expressed their willingness to sacrifice whole governments and regimes for it. The West’s attempts to annihilate them were being stymied by their refusal to capitulate. In fact, the post claimed, it was jihad and resistance that were keeping Islam from capitulating to the Western democratic, liberal principles that had been rammed down its throat since the West’s invasion of Muslim lands. The writer of the post disparaged the West, which it said was forcing democracy on Islamic states to divide them. The pluralism of Islamic practice, he wrote, played into the West’s hands, like chinks in the armor of the Muslim

⁸ <https://twitter.com/AsadAljehad2> (Arabic).

⁹ <https://twitter.com/AsadAljehad2> (Arabic).

Nation. The post concluded by calling on all “free Muslims” to join the paragon jihadist movements.¹⁰

- In late March 2013, a visitor to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen uploaded a letter that was originally disseminated on the jihadist Web forum Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad in West Africa [Shabakat Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad fi Gharb Ifriqya].¹¹ Ostensibly meant to recruit the Muslim Nation to jihad, the letter also contained a subliminal admonition. Islamic jihadist, said the letter, is under attack. The media, for example, would discourage the Muslim public from engaging in jihad “for the sake of Allah, may He be praised”, and besmirch the honor of the “righteous” mujahideen. Fortunately, there are those who combat this trend: the mujahideen in the Islamic Maghreb. Although the jihadist project is shared by many groups, some sacrifice more than others, and some – especially the mujahideen of the Maghreb – express a certain degree of unity and pride. Although jihad is essential, the letter continued, the Muslim Nation does not lend its support. The letter then urged its readers to take part in the struggle by writing speeches or singing hymns of praise, donating money or physically joining the fight. Lastly, it criticized those young people who were not doing enough to promote jihad.¹²

Strategy

- The jihadist media institution Al-Fajr published an audio statement titled, “Introduction to a War of Nerves” by Abu Obeida Abdallah al-Adnan, a prominent Al-Qaeda sheikh. The statement is part 32 in a series titled, “The Terrorism Industry: A Course in Security and Intelligence”.¹³
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam urged Web surfers to open a virtual workshop, where contributors could suggest how to combat the threat posed by drones. Several Web surfers took up the gauntlet. One Web suggested using special clothing that the drone’s sensors could not penetrate. Another recommended employing engineers, programmers, and electronics experts to construct installations that would use sound waves to jam the signals between the drones and the people manipulating them.¹⁴

¹⁰ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹ <http://almwurabten.org/cc/> (Arabic).

¹² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹³ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- A prominent contributor to the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published video clips explaining how to build a gas mask impervious to chemical weapons.¹⁵
- A prominent member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted an 80-page guidebook titled "A Course in Security and Intelligence", by Sayf al-'Adl, a prominent Egyptian member of Al-Qaeda. The book explains field security, surveillance, safe hiding places, planning special operations, and intelligence activities.¹⁶



A guide to security and intelligence

- A prominent member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published a 303-page guidebook titled, "A Course in Anti-Tank Weapons". The book is a compendium of guides previous published on Shumukh Al-Islam, which describe the tanks used by the Israel Defense Forces, such as the Merkava, and missiles that can penetrate armored vehicles, such as rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs).¹⁷

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

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

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



The cover of a guidebook on anti-tank weapons

- A prominent member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam suggested that the Al-Nusra Front in Syria use birds, especially canaries, to detect the presence of chemical weapons.¹⁸

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published a biography of Abu Hureira al-Ansari, who was martyred in East Africa.¹⁹



Abu Hureira al-Ansari

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam uploaded photos and details of foreign Arab mujahideen who had been killed fighting the Syrian regime in late March 2013.²⁰

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

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

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



Abd al-Razaq al-Maslati, from Tripoli, Libya, who was killed in Syria on March 22, 2013

- A visitor to the forum Al-Jihad Al-'Alami published a biography of Sheikh Aboud Rogo (1968-2012), the third in a series of unofficial biographies of martyrs killed in East Africa.²¹ Rogo, a scholar of Islamic law from Kenya, maintained close ties with the Somali group Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, and participated in planning the 1998 attacks on the US Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar Al-Salam, Tanzania, and other attacks in Kenya.



The shahid Aboud Rogo

- The Ansar Al-Mujahideen Web forum praised an unnamed member of the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, who was killed by the shabiha [government-backed militia forces]. The site claimed he was a Saudi Arabian who had come to fight jihad in Syria. Additional evidence of the presence in Syria of Saudi mujahideen was given by a video clip that appeared on YouTube in late March 2013, which lauded Saudi members of the Al-Nusra Front for their martyrdom. Similarly, a post on the Al-Jihad Al-'Alami Web forum claimed that Muslim residents of Great Britain had also joined the Al-Nusra Front.²²

²¹ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

²² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



A Saudi Arabian who joined the Al-Nusra Front and died fighting the Syrian regime in March this year

- Ahrar Al-Sham published a video clip eulogizing Muhammad Ahmad al-'Abdouli (aka Abu Musab al-Emirati), one of its senior commanders, who was responsible for training members of the group in Deir al-Zour. Al-Emirati was killed on March 3, 2013, during the battle to liberate Al-Raqqah.²³



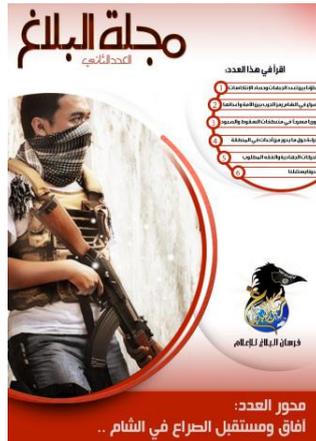
The martyr Abu Musab al-Emirati

Magazines

- Fursan Al-Balagh, a jihadist media institution, published the second issue of its jihadist magazine, *Al-Balagh* (58 pp.). This issue contains a eulogy of Sheikh Khalid bin Abd al-Rahman al-Husaunan, a Kuwaiti member of Al-Qaeda who was killed in a US drone strike in Afghanistan in December 2012; a survey of arenas of jihad, principally that in Syria; and a biography of Al-Qaeda leader Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri.²⁴

²³ <http://vb.beit-almaqdes.net> (Arabic).

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



The cover of Issue No. 2 of Al-Balagh

Reports from the Field

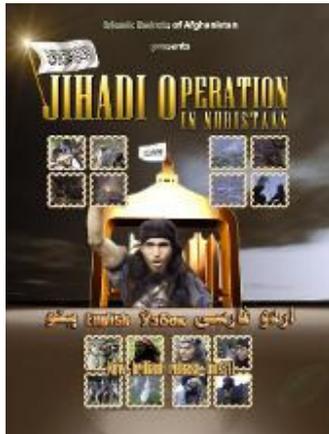
Afghanistan-Pakistan

International intervention has not stemmed attacks in either Afghanistan or Pakistan. On the contrary, sectarian violence has grown in Pakistan, with more than 250 Shiites killed since the beginning of the year by radical Sunni groups such as Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ), which is the military arm of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi.

The increasing daring of jihadist groups is also illustrated by the Pakistan-Taliban's threats to assassinate former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf. The strong man behind this threat and a growing army of highly trained fighters is Adnan Rasheed, who may be expected to play an important role in future operations.

- On March 20, 2013, the Al-Emarah Jihadi Studio, which functions under the auspices of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, published a video clip in English, Farsi, Urdi, Uzbek and Pashto titled, "Jihadi Operation in Nouristaan".²⁵

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



An overview of jihad in five languages

- In late March 2013, the jihadist media institution Umar, which is affiliated with the Pakistan-Taliban, published the following:
 - Announcement No. 6, concerning the imminent election in Pakistan. The announcement labeled the outgoing government an oppressive dictatorship. While Pakistan had broken the bonds of British colonialism, it was still cognitively, educationally and culturally subservient, largely because its statesmen and generals continue to be subject to British colonialism and the American enemy. According to the Taliban, the Pakistani people should learn from the Libyans and Syrians, and forcefully begin breaking the bonds of their servitude, persecution and oppression. The five years of rule of the previous Pakistani regime had only worsened the situation for the Pakistani people. Poverty had increased because of the rising costs of electricity and fuel; industry had been destroyed; the citizens were prey to the US drones that the Pakistani government allowed to hover in its skies; and the tribes were on the verge of extinction because of efforts to annihilate them. It was thus urgent that the Pakistani people wage a revolution against the reigning government. The Taliban further counseled the Pakistanis to cease all work related to the existing secular regime and avoid places of congregation and demonstration, as well as government agencies. The Taliban iterated their promise to establish an Islamic regime in Pakistan.²⁶
 - Announcement No. 7, taking responsibility for a sophisticated attack against NATO and Afghani army and police forces committed jointly by the Pakistan-Taliban and the Afghanistan-Taliban on March 5, 2013.²⁷

²⁶ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

- A video clip showing the preparations of a special martyrs' brigade which was plotting to assassinate former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf. The video includes a sermon in which Pakistan-Taliban spokesman Sheikh Ihsanuallah denounces Musharraf and the Pakistani regime.²⁸



Taliban fighters train to assassinate Pervez Musharraf

Iraq

A recent surge in bombings by the Islamic State of Iraq (Al-Qaeda in Iraq) against the Shi'ite-dominated government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is starting to look like an extension of the Sunni-led war in neighboring Syria against the regime of Iranian ally Bashar al-Assad.

Al-Qaeda's persistent interest in pursuing radical change in war-torn Iraq is evidenced by the postings on the new Facebook page of Egyptian Salafi-jihadist Muhammad al-Zawahiri, which encourage would-be jihadists to support the mujahideen of the Islamic State of Iraq, as well as in Mali and Syria.

- During the latter half of March 2013, the Islamic State of Iraq published the following:
 - An announcement taking responsibility for an attack on the Ministry of Justice on March 14, 2013 to avenge the imprisonment and execution of Sunnis. According to the announcement, 60 security personnel, investigators and judges were killed and tens of others were wounded.²⁹ In response to the Minister of Justice's promise to retaliate against the perpetrators of the attack, the Islamic State of Iraq published another announcement on March 19, reiterating that the attack had been an act of vengeance.³⁰
 - An announcement taking responsibility for 32 military actions in Kirkuk Province during January 2013.³¹

²⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

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

- An announcement taking responsibility for 72 military actions in Salah Al-Din Province and northern Baghdad in January 2013.³²
- An announcement taking responsibility for 278 military actions in Nineveh Province between mid-December 2012 and the end of January 2013.³³
- On March 19, 2013, a visitor to the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted a thread that was given prominence by the forum’s administrators. The person who posted the thread urged Muslims to assassinate a general in the Iraqi Army who was responsible for torturing Muslims in Abu Ghaib prison. He asked visitors to the site to add information about the general’s precise identity and other details that would facilitate his murder.³⁴



“Wanted: A criminal who tortures Muslims in Abu Ghaib Prison. Help us to knock off his head and punish him.”

The Arabian Peninsula

- The jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam re-issued the original, full-length version of a video clip titled, “The Jihad of the Muslim Nation”, which was created by the Al-Malahem Media Institution, an affiliate of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).³⁵
- A news item that was posted on the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen reported the arrest by AQAP of a spy who had been working for US intelligence. According to the item, the spy admitted to killing seven members of AQAP under interrogation; he was sentenced to be executed under Islamic law [shari’a]. The item further claimed that this was not the first time AQAP had uncovered such agents in Yemen, as the US and Saudi Arabia were constantly deploying their spies.³⁶

Al-Sham [The Levant]

- During the first half of March 2013, the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda’s branch in Syria, published the following:

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

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

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

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

³⁶ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Announcements 274-284 taking responsibility for attacks against Syrian regime forces.
- A video clip documenting the group's storming of the Al-Bekaa Checkpoint in Deraa, together with the Islamic Huran Brigade of Foreigners.³⁷ The video is part 11 in a series titled, "The Beginning of the End".
- The Islamic Al-Anbaa Press Agency interviewed Abu Hamza al-Muhajir, the propaganda representative of the Al-Muhajireen Brigades, a Salafi-jihadist group founded in 2012 in Latakia, Syria. Al-Muhajir expressed the desire to establish an Islamic theocracy along the Syrian coast and in the environs of Latakia, where the group has been fighting Syrian regime forces. Al-Muhajir also discussed the nature of the group, its manifesto, and its establishment by Libyan immigrants.³⁸



The Al-Muhajireen Brigades in training

- An item posted on the jihadist Web forum Hanein related that the Jaish Muhammad [Muhammad's Army] Brigades and the Al-Khatib Brigades had joined the Al-Muhajireen Brigades; the amalgamated group was now calling itself Jaish Al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar. The group announced its intention of establishing a state ruled by shari'a [Islamic law] after the fall of the Assad regime. The post included a link to a video clip showing tens of the group's members, armed and carrying the banner of Salfism. The leader of Jaish Al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar is Abu 'Umar al-Shishani.³⁹

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

³⁸ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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



The logo of the new umbrella group Jaish Al-Muhjireen wal-Ansar

- A news item quoted on the jihadist Web forum Hanein reported that, at a summit meeting of the Arab League in Doha, Qatar, the head of the Syrian coalition, Ahmad Mu'adh al-Khatib, told Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki that hundreds of Tunisians were participating in the fighting against the forces of Bashar al-Assad. Al-Khatib and Marzouki agreed to compile a list of the names of the Tunisian fighters in Syria, to protect the security of Tunisians and of Syria itself once the fighting had ended. In response to this item, forum visitors cursed the Tunisian government and the Syrian opposition. One visitor wrote that both were pandering to the Jews and Christians who were "having the last laugh". Another forum visitor averred the legitimacy of jihad, especially for young people who are not obligated to work, a wife and children.⁴⁰
- During the latter half of March 2013, the Twitter feed of the prominent jihadist strategist Assad al-Jihad2 featured a poster commemorating two years of civil war in Syria. After the poster had been on the Internet for more than one week, the Twitter feed noted that, in effect, it was the US and the West that had drawn out the civil war – so as to decimate Syria.⁴¹

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

⁴¹ <https://twitter.com/AsadAljihad2> (Arabic).



A poster marking two years of “the blessed Syrian civil war”

- In response to claims by the Syrian regime that the Free Syrian Army had used chemical weapons during the civil war, visitors to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen made the counter-claim that the Syrian regime’s accusations were baseless, and that the use of chemical weapons required knowledge and resources that were unavailable to the rebels. The discussion that developed among forum visitors revealed their palpable fear of chemical weapons. Despite differences of opinion among the various groups of rebels, the discussion did not devolve into an exchange of accusations, reinforcing the sense that, at least to date, the rebels see Assad as their common enemy.⁴²
- Recent reports have surfaced that Sheikh Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a prominent Jordanian Salafi-jihadist convicted of abetting terrorism, has been tortured in prison by Jordanian intelligence services. In response, Sheikh Abu Sa’ad al-’Amili, a prominent contributor to jihadist Web forums, used his Twitter account to severely criticize Jordanian intelligence. If the rumor were true, he wrote, it would prove the enormity of the Jordanian regime’s defeat, and its inability to convince the Sheikh to issue a fatwa prohibiting participation in jihad in Syria. Al-Maqdisi continued to show courage and determination in the face of this torture, by refusing to acquiesce to Jordan’s demand that he denounce the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda’s branch in Syria.⁴³

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

The Salafist group Ansar Beit Al-Maqdis castigated US President Barack Obama for visiting Israel, and accused the US and Israel of plotting to harm Muslims.⁴⁴ These

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

⁴³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁴ http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2013/03/ansar_jerusalem_slams_obamas_v.php (English).

comments came after two rockets were fired at southern Israel from the Gaza Strip during Obama's visit, damaging a house and a field. The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem (MSC), an Al-Qaeda affiliate, took responsibility for the rocket fire,⁴⁵ which it said was meant to demonstrate that Israel's anti-missile defense systems were powerless.⁴⁶ Mohamed Jamal al-Kashef, a veteran Egyptian jihadist who has fought alongside Egyptian Islamic Jihad, and Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri reportedly called the Sinai Peninsula "the next frontier of conflict with the Zionists and Americans".⁴⁷

Meanwhile, Egyptian security forces arrested 25 Hamas and Al-Qaeda terrorists who were crossing from the northern to the southern Sinai Peninsula.⁴⁸ The terrorists reportedly were in possession of weapons, maps and photos of strategic sites in the Sinai.

- On March 18, 2013, the Field Monitoring Department of the Ibn Taymiyya Media Center published an announcement titled, "The Internal Security of Hamas Injured and Kidnapped a Salafist Brother in an Ambush in Rafah".⁴⁹
- The Mujahideen Shura Council took responsibility for firing several missiles at the Israeli town of Sderot on March 21, 2013. It claimed to have done so in retaliation for the visit of US President Barack Hussein Obama to Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and to send a message that jihad against the enemies of Islam would continue.⁵⁰
- During the visit of US President Obama to Israel, Ansar Beit Al-Maqdis published an article titled, "You Are Not Welcome Obama". The article criticized America's Middle East policy.⁵¹
- At the end of March 2013, a post was uploaded to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen that warned Salafist activists against attack and imprisonment by Hamas. The post claimed that Hamas was seeking anyone suspected of visiting Egypt or the Sinai Peninsula, or of having ties to Salafi-jihadist groups in Jerusalem. This suggests that there may be a somewhat greater presence of Salafists in the Gaza Strip.⁵²
- An item published by the Al-Haq Press Agency in late March 2013 reported that the Salafi-jihadist Mujahideen Shura Council had launched rockets at Sdeort, Israel, to reflect its dissatisfaction with US President Barack Obama's visit to "occupied Palestine", and with the subsequent arrest of Salafists by the Hamas government. The Salafi-

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/21/us-israel-palestinians-obama-gaza-idUSBRE92K0TS20130321> (English).

⁴⁷ <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/03/egypt-salafists-anaius-consulate-benghazi.html> (English).

⁴⁸ <http://www.timesofisrael.com/egypt-arrests-25-hamas-and-al-qaeda-operatives-in-sinai/> (English).

⁴⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁵¹ <https://shamikh1.info.vb> (Arabic).

⁵² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

jihadists in the Gaza Strip often warn that they will not cease their activities under the current political circumstances, despite the efforts of Hamas to thwart them. The item also cited the number of rocket launchings from the Gaza Strip during Operation Pillar of Defense: the Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, had fired 1,573 rockets; the Al-Quds Brigades, the military wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, had fired 620 rockets; and Salafist groups had fired 200 rockets – 11% of all of the rockets launched.⁵³

The Maghreb [North Africa]

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) issued a new communiqué calling for recruits to wage jihad against local secular and government forces in Algeria, and French forces in Mali.⁵⁴ In the communiqué, AQIM asked jihadists not to travel abroad, but rather to fight "Crusader France" in Algeria and Mali.⁵⁵ According to analysts, this message was directed at young Tunisians who have flocked to Syria to participate in the uprising against the Assad regime.⁵⁶ Analysts also point out that the communiqué did not call on jihadists to attack, but rather to strengthen the "Islamist project" by establishing dawa organizations and spreading their ideology locally.⁵⁷ In Tunisia, the Salafi-jihadist movement focuses on media, politics and charitable work, and has avoided fighting locally. However, it does not hide its support for violent action.⁵⁸

Following confirmation of the death of AQIM leader Abou Zeid in Mali in February 2013, AQIM announced that Djamel Okacha, an Algerian national, had replaced Zeid as the its commander of operations in the Sahara.⁵⁹

General Carter Ham, head of the US Africa Command (AFRICOM), has recently warned that AQIM was attempting to set up a base in Tunisia. In response, the Tunisian government announced that it was forming "crisis units" to monitor and combat "terrorist activity" internally and along its borders.⁶⁰ According to Tunisia's interior ministry, these units would gather intelligence on jihadist networks that were recruiting young

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

⁵⁴ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/03/29/reportage-01 (English).

⁵⁵ http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gj2gsgk7JWkRTXI2YLfl_xd1aALg?docId=CNG_8b4b0f7f1d771c3ba8adbdb21e0203ce.201 (English).

⁵⁶ http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2013/03/25/Mali-Hard-pressed-al-Qaida-calls-for-aid/UPI-27421364234761/ (English).

⁵⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/03/29/reportage-01 (English).

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ <http://northafricapost.com/3136-algerian-djamel-okacha-takes-over-control-of-aqim-in-northern-mali.html>

⁶⁰ <http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/middle-east/230938-tunisia-sets-up-cells-to-combat-al-qaeda-threat.html> (English).

*Tunisians to fight in Syria. Tunisian authorities estimate that approximately 40% of the foreigners in Syria are from Tunisia. According to Tunisian media, Qatar has been financially supporting Tunisian NGOs that recruit and send Tunisian jihadists to Syria.*⁶¹

*In Libya, the government continues to struggle to form a united army and police force. The recent kidnapping of five British activists in Benghazi demonstrates the persistent inability of government forces to fight the powerful militias that control that city.*⁶² *It is unclear whether jihadist militias were behind the kidnapping; however, the Libyan Islamist group Ansar Al-Sharia, which was accused of killing the US ambassador in Benghazi last year, has returned to its headquarters in Benghazi, and continues to ignore the government's demand that it lay down its arms.*⁶³

- During the latter half of March 2013, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) published the following:
 - A call to Muslims in the Maghreb, and especially Tunisia, to fulfill the commandment of jihad in North Africa – for example in Mali, where a battle is being waged against the French Army – and to oppose North African regimes that collaborate [with the French]. AQIM urged local Muslims not to leave the Maghreb, rather to stay and struggle to implement shari'a [Islamic law].⁶⁴ This call is in part a response to reports of an increasing presence of Tunisians and other North Africans among the mujahideen in Syria. It appears there is a subliminal competition between the Al-Nusra Front, which needs more volunteers, and AQIM, which is having difficulty recruiting members.
 - An announcement supporting the angry protests of citizens of southern Algeria against the Algerian regime. The announcement was a reaction to the demonstrations of March 14, 2013, in which young Algerians protested the lack of employment. AQIM asked the Algerian people to support this protest and to fight the oppression of the Algerian regime, which had persisted since the country's independence in 1962. In essence, Algeria is being run like a military dictatorship that persecutes, arrests, imprisons and physically and psychologically tortures its citizens. No wonder, stated the announcement, the young people of the south are taking to the streets. The announcement then presented eight points that AQIM believes will bolster the demands of the protesters, including preparation of a unified, clear and comprehensible list of demands, which the

⁶¹ <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/03/tunisian-jihadists-syria.html> (English).

⁶² <http://news.sky.com/story/1071754/libya-aid-convoy-attack-victims-fly-home> (English).

⁶³ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/mar/28/britons-kidnapped-sexually-assaulted-libya>

⁶⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

regime will not be able to misconstrue, leading the people astray with lies and fabrications; and an appeal to military and security services not to shed the blood of innocents.⁶⁵

- An appeal to the French people, and especially to the families of French hostages, to pressure the French government to withdraw its forces from Mali. According to AQIM, by continuing its aggression against northern Mali and its plundering of Muslim resources, the French government is ignoring the group's threats to kill the hostages. AQIM has a mind to punish the French government. In fact, on March 10, 2013, it executed one of the hostages, Philippe Verdon, whom it claims was a French spy whom it captured two years ago. AQIM further claimed that it had been closely following the protests of the hostages' families in France and so wished to stress the following:
 - All of the remaining hostages were healthy and whole, except for the spy Verdon, who was executed to avenge the killing of Muslim women and children in northern Mali. AQIM cannot guarantee the continued well-being of the hostages, if France continues to attack the mujahideen.
 - Despite the French aggression against Mali, the mujahideen will continue to find a just solution to the hostage crisis.
 - The government of France continues to lie to the French people and unjustly accuse the mujahideen of breaking off contact with negotiators, while it is France that broke off contact and risked the lives of the hostages by attempting to free them by force.
 - The government of France is fully responsible for the lives of the hostages being held by AQIM.
 - AQIM reserves the right to punish the French if they harm Muslims in Mali, either through government policies or military action.
 - AQIM warns the French people, lest France's occupation of Mali and plunder of Muslim resources in Africa continue.
 - The hostages' families and compatriots should pressure the government of Francois Hollande to withdraw the army from Mali and leave the Muslims to manage their own affairs.
 - No one disputes the importance of world security. It would therefore be best that the French leave the Muslims to live their lives in security, lest the security of the French people be sacrificed.⁶⁶

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

In response to the above, the Al-Sabah News Web site quoted several Arabic-language sources, which reported that Muhammad Anis Chaieb, a senior Tunisian Salafi-jihadist leader was heeding AQIM's call to wage jihad against the secularists and the French forces in northern Mali.⁶⁷

Mali

Two months after French forces entered Mali to drive out Al-Qaeda-linked Islamist rebels, they have succeeded in confining the mujahideen of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and their allies to the country's northern mountains. The French government has confirmed the death of Abdelhamid Abou Zeid, AQIM's field commander, in a French operation in the Adrar des Ifoghas area of northern Mali in February.⁶⁸ Some 600 AQIM fighters have also been reported dead, including Abou Zeid's rival, Mokhtar Belmokhtar, although the French government has yet to confirm his death.⁶⁹ AQIM's emir, Abdelmalek Droukdel, who is believed to be in hiding in northern Algeria, has reportedly had difficulty communicating with AQIM fighters in Mali.⁷⁰ According to analysts, the loss of Abou Zeid and Belmokhtar is a major setback for AQIM, and may explain AQIM's March 17 communiqué calling on jihadists in the Maghreb to come to its aid in Mali rather than going to fight in Syria.⁷¹

Despite these hindrances, AQIM has vowed to continue fighting;⁷² indeed, clashes have persisted between Islamist rebels and French forces in northern Mali. While French troops have retaken Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal, these cities have not remained immune to insurgent attacks and suicide bombings.⁷³ Recent weeks have seen suicide attacks in Gao and Timbuktu, for which Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad in West Africa took responsibility.⁷⁴ AQIM is also reportedly holding several French hostages, whom it has threatened to kill if the French

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

⁶⁷ <http://www.assabahnews.tn/> (Arabic).

⁶⁸ <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/24/world/africa/france-confirms-death-of-abdelhamid-abu-zeid.html> (English).

⁶⁹ <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gBxelN6XyhvuiqLmcGQ6URFhViKg?docId=CNG.0077e59a44fac29c058fd71408558d92.501> (English).

⁷⁰ http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2013/03/25/Mali-Hard-pressed-al-Qaida-calls-for-aid/UPI-27421364234761/ (English).

⁷¹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/03/29/reportage-01;
http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2013/03/25/Mali-Hard-pressed-al-Qaida-calls-for-aid/UPI-27421364234761/ (both in English).

⁷² <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mali-extremist-group-fighters-leader-18824397#.UVc8SWbDIU> (English).

⁷³ <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/europe/france/130328/france-cut-troops-mali> (English).

⁷⁴ <http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/76617-mali-jihadist-group-claims-deadly-timbuktu-attack> (English).

government does not end its military operation.⁷⁵ Western and African officials are growing increasingly concerned that the African soldiers to whom the French forces plan to hand the reins are not adequately trained or equipped to receive them.⁷⁶ French President Francois Hollande announced that French troops would stay in Mali at least until the end of 2013. However, the number of troops will be cut from more than 4,000 to about 1,000, and they will become part of a UN peacekeeping mission.⁷⁷ France is set to begin withdrawing its troops in April.

- The Al-Haq Press Agency, which is affiliated with global jihad, reported that AQIM has asked the French people to pressure their government to cease its attacks on Muslims in Mali in exchange for the release of the French citizens whom it has been holding hostage. According to Al-Haq, the mujahideen are willing to find a just solution to the hostage problem, but the French government has rejected their offers and evaded its responsibility. Moreover, it appears to be playing wantonly with the hostage's lives, as if this were all a lark. AQIM warned the French of the implications of keeping their army on Mali's soil and continuing to plunder Muslim resources in Africa. It warned that anyone who harmed their security, would be endangering his own.⁷⁸



Two of the French citizens being held hostage by AQIM

- A post uploaded to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen presented part of a manifesto issued by the Salafi-jihadist group Ansar Dine, an offshoot of AQIM. The Al-Marsad News Corporation, which obtained and publicized the manifesto, reported that it would reveal secrets of the war in Mali, Ansar Dine's perspective on the circumstances of the French attack on Mali. However, it appears that the manifesto does not fulfill the promise of the Al-Marsad News Corporation. Instead, it deals primarily with Ansar Dine's

⁷⁵<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5juCI3weA-FxrLb8oI5ib2vCvRdg?docId=CNG.cf928f614db9a610e63e620e21777f10.6d1> (English).

⁷⁶ http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-03-18/rest-of-world/37813681_1_malian-islamic-maghreb-troops (English).

⁷⁷http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/29/mali-intervention-to-continue-end-of-2013_n_2978952.html?utm_hp_ref=world (English).

⁷⁸ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

attitude toward the war, the circumstances under which it began, and its ideological world view.

According to an analysis by Ansar Dine, France attacked northern Mali for two main reasons: (1) the "Tyrrhenian" secular regimes are waging a war against the devout Muslim Nation, because they want to destroy anyone or thing that strives to free the Muslim Nation from its subservience to secular regimes; (2) France fears anyone who opposes its people, even as its own soldiers continue their imperialistic rule, stealing countries and sealing the fates of other peoples.

As for Ansar Dine's motive to fight, in essence Ansar Dine was unaware it had committed any crime until France attacked it. Ansar Dine banded together to preserve its cultural foundations – part of a 50-year fight to remove the obstacles to fulfilling the dreams of their oppressed people.

The manifesto castigates "Crusader France" for its hatred and enmity toward Islam and the Muslim faithful, and lambastes the media for defaming Muslims. The manifesto addresses additional topics, but does not shed any new light on the fate of Ansar Dine's leader Iyad Ag Ghaly, whom it says is "alive and kicking" despite media reports to the contrary.⁷⁹

Egypt

- The jihadist media institution Al-Masada published an interview with a Salafi-jihadist, who discussed the philosophy, aspirations, and attitude toward President Morsi of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Egypt.⁸⁰
- During the latter half of March 2013, the Al-Bayyan media institution, which functions under the auspices of the vanguard Salafist group Ansar Al-Sharia, announced the publication of series on "Righteous People during a Time of Civil War – Ulamaa' Fighting Jaihiliyya [Scholars Fighting Pre-Islamic Ignorance]", by Muhammad Karam Ali. The first installment in the series (43 pp.) is a biography of Sheikh Dr. Abdallah al-Hussien al-Tidi, a scholar at Egypt's renowned seat of Islamic learning, Al-Azhar University. Dr. al-Tidi has fought the attempts of secular liberals to change Egypt's legal system to exclude Islamic law [shari'a].⁸¹

⁷⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>; <https://www.alhora.info/online> (both in Arabic).

⁸⁰ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸¹ <http://www.alfidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Sheikh Hani al-Sibai, an Egyptian Salafi-jihadist who heads the Al-Maqrizi Center for Historical Studies in London, gave a sermon denouncing the Egyptian regime's openness toward Iran – a policy that will lead to the infiltration of Shi'ism into Egypt.⁸²
- During the latter half of March 2013, a position paper was posted on Ansar Al-Mujahideen, a jihadist Web forum, which reflected increasing Sunni discomfort and concern at nascent Iranian influence in Egypt. The author of the position paper, which discussed the factors that he believes are stoking civil war, warned against Cairo-Teheran relations. In particular, he decried the agreement between Egypt's Minister of Tourism and his Iranian counterpart, which allows Iranian tourism to Egypt but requires Egyptians wishing to visit Teheran to obtain a visa. The writer voiced his anxiety over additional agreements between the two countries, which will pave the way for the establishment of a Shi'ite publishing house and television station. This, he claimed, would introduce Shi'ite values into Egyptian society, and would also open the door to economic dependence on Iran. Despite Egypt's dire state, this was a dangerous move, he wrote. Similar comments about the thaw in relations between Cairo and Teheran were made throughout the Sunni world. For example, Kuwaiti politician Dr. Abdullah al-Nafisi warned in a videotaped interview that Iran would attempt to seize control of Egypt and steal it from the Arabs.⁸³

Somalia

In one of the deadliest attacks in Mogadishu in recent months, a car bomb killed several people.⁸⁴ Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen took responsibility for the attack, saying it was an act of revenge against Mogadishu security chief Khalif Ahmed Illig.⁸⁵ The car bombing came a day after Al-Shabab fighters had recaptured the town of Hudur in southwestern Somalia, following the withdrawal of the Ethiopian troops that had been stationed there since 2011 – the first territorial victory for Al-Shabab in several months. According to observers, the car bomb and capture of Hudur are major victories for the group, which had been in retreat since 2011.⁸⁶ In addition, a large swath of rural Somalia is still controlled by the jihadist group, from which it continues to carry out guerilla attacks in government-

⁸² <http://www.alfidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸³ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>; <http://www.alawazm.com/vb> (both in Arabic).

⁸⁴ <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j85nXph3M8FtIgnzIW5uv3yfy4gg?docId=CN.G.b1ae2a4f412b2e0b70c454ad2cd10e5f.71> (English).

⁸⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/03/201331810237113708.html> (English).

⁸⁶ <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j85nXph3M8FtIgnzIW5uv3yfy4gg?docId=CN.G.b1ae2a4f412b2e0b70c454ad2cd10e5f.71> (English).

controlled areas. The events in Hudur have raised concern that when troops withdraw from other areas in Somalia, those areas will be "up for grabs" by Al-Shabab.⁸⁷

- On March 28, 2013, the Islamic World Issues Study Center, which focuses on jihad in Somalia, announced that the global jihad and Snam Al-Islam Web forums would be hosting an open session with Sheikh Abu Mansur al-Amriki, a former member of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen who had a falling out with its leadership during the past year.⁸⁸

The Caucasus

Caucasus commander Abu Omar al-Chechen, one of several Chechen jihadists fighting the Assad regime in Syria, recently formed Jaish Al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar [Army of the Emigrants and Helpers], to which several Syrian jihadist groups have reportedly pledged allegiance (see the section on Al-Sham, above).⁸⁹ According to the Kavkaz Center, Abu Omar's group, which comprises more than 1,000 mujahideen from the northern Caucasus and elsewhere, is fighting primarily in Aleppo.⁹⁰

- On March 16, 2013, the propaganda department of Dagestan reported that three mujahideen had attacked members of the Russian Interrogation Committees of the Dagestan Republic, wounding some of them. The report was based on Russian sources.⁹¹
- The supervisor of Hafidhat Aisha, the women's section of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen, asked visitors to the forum to raise Muslim awareness of events in Chechnya, and not relinquish it to the margins of jihadist discourse.⁹²
- The Islamic Caucasus Emirate published a video clip titled, "A Call to Those Who Work with Infidels or Non-Muslims" by Sheikh Abu Muhammad, a judge in the Emirate.⁹³

Iran

- In late March 2013, Jaish Al-'Adl, a Sunni-jihadist group that targets Iranian regime installations, notified the public of its activities and its intention to persist in opposing the regime in an effort to prevent the Shi'ite enemy from "abiding in the shade of

⁸⁷ <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130319/somali-islamists-eye-possible-ethiopia-pull-out> (English).

⁸⁸ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁹ <http://www.kavkazcenter.com/eng/content/2013/03/26/17520.shtml> (English).

⁹⁰ http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2013/03/chechen_jihadist_for.php (english).

⁹¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹³ <http://a;-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

barbaric incidents” against the Sunnis in Baluchistan, in particular, and in Iran, in general. The group also referred readers to its Facebook and Twitter accounts.⁹⁴



The logo of Jaish Al-'Adl

China

- During the latter half of March 2013, the jihadist media institution Sawt Al-Islam, which functions under the auspices of the Turkistan Islamic Party, published the following:
 - A video clip titled, “Tourism of the Believers – Part 3”.⁹⁵
 - A video clip of a speech in Kazakh, delivered on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha.⁹⁶

The West

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida quoted an item published in the Western press which stated that Turkish authorities had arrested Egyptian citizen of Austria Muhammad Mahmud Shawki Mahmud (aka Abu Usama Al-Gharib), a member of the German Salafi-jihadist group Millat Ibrahim, as he was en route to jihad in Syria. The arrest was made possible by cooperation with US intelligence agencies. On March 14, 2013, a video was published which showed al-Gharib burning his Austrian passport and declaring that he wanted no part of AIDS-ridden secular Austrian society.⁹⁷ Salafi-jihadist sheikhs and groups in England and elsewhere in Western Europe denounced al-Gharib’s arrest and expressed solidarity with him.⁹⁸

Miscellaneous

- The jihadist Web forums Ansar Al-Mujahideen and Shumukh Al-Islam announced a week-long open session with Sheikh Abu al-Waalid al-Ansari, a Palestinian Salafi-

⁹⁴ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁶ <http://www.alfidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁷ <http://www.alfidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁸ <http://www.alfidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

jihadist, during which visitors could question the sheikh, especially concerning jihad. At the end of the question period, the forums would publish the Sheikh's responses.⁹⁹



A banner advertising a question-and-answer session with Sheikh Abu al-Waalid al-Ansari

- The Hafidhat Safiyya [Safiyya's Descendants] virtual workshop of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, which gives voice to women supporters of jihad, published a 20-page document in Arabic and English titled, "The American Drones – Facts and Numbers". The document criticizes the use of drones by the US to assassinate Muslims.¹⁰⁰



From the virtual workshop Hafidhat Safiyya

- A woman visitor to the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam asked forum visitors to disseminate a series of banners concerning the incarceration of Sheikh Bishir al-Bishir, a radical Wahhabi Islamic-legal scholar who has been imprisoned in Saudi Arabia, without a trial, for the past seven years.¹⁰¹

⁹⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁰ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰¹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



A banner to raise consciousness about the lengthy imprisonment of Bishir al-Bishir

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida listed several of the ways in which Israeli intelligence recruits agents.¹⁰²

Facebook and Twitter

- On March 18, 2013, an official Facebook page was launched devoted to Sheikh Muhammad al-Zawahiri, a prominent Egyptian Salafi-jihadist and brother of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri. As of early April 2013, the page had received more than 3,000 “likes”.¹⁰³



A Facebook page devoted to Muhammad al-Zawahiri

- On March 19, 2013, a Facebook page was launched titled, “Convoy of Egyptian Martyrs”. The page is dedicated to Egyptians killed fighting jihad in Syria. As of early April 2013, the page had received some 400 “likes”.¹⁰⁴



All you need to know about Egyptians martyred in Syria – on Facebook

¹⁰² <http://alfidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰³ <https://www.facebook.com/engmZawahiri> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/shahid.egypt1> (Arabic).

- The jihadist media institution Al-Andalus, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, launched a Twitter feed at https://twitter.com/Andalus_Media.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).