

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from the Jihadist forums

The second half of April 2011

This report summarizes the most prominent events brought up in the Jihadist online forums in the second half of April 2011. Following are the main issues raised in this report:

- Surfers on various forums call upon Al-Qaeda to re-examine its strategy following the protests erupting throughout the Arab world.
- 500 Mujahideen escaped from a Kandahar prison during a Taliban operation.
- The Salafist-Jihadist movement in Morocco denied involvement in the terrorist attack in Marrakesh.
- The Jihadist forums support the uprising in Syria.

New Publications

Strategy

- A surfer on the "Hanein" Jihadist forum wrote that the non-violent popular protests in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Morocco and Algeria prove that the Arab nations are capable of instigating a revolution within days, not months and without the use of arms and violence. These events influence the armed Islamic organizations which believe only the use of force will bring about change. He believes these organizations, which in recent years have perpetrated many of terrorist attacks in Islamic countries, have failed in their endeavors. He, therefore, called upon Al-Qaeda to re-examine its ideology and the steps it took in the field.¹
- In another thread, a surfer wrote that Al-Qaeda must internalize the newly emerged situation and act according to the new reality it has created, so as to gain the people's support. He also wrote that freedom of speech, which is increasing in Arab and Muslim countries, will enable Al-Qaeda to better transfer its messages to the public. The writer calls for a non-violent Jihad, based on preaching Allah's religion, without the use of force and violence, but through the Mosques, schools, various institutions and every other possible venue.²

Instructional and Guidance Publications

- The military publications column of the "Al-Qabidun Ala Al-Jamr" Jihadist media institute published its first military instruction manual titled: "Weakening the Enemy by Remote Detonation" by Abu Safwan Al-Askari.³

¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

² <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

³ <http://ansar-dawlat-aliraq-alislamyah.net/vb>

Inter alia, the manual deals with concealing bombs, placing explosives, preparing car-bombs, etc.

- A surfer on the "Hanein" Jihadist forum published a correspondence explaining how to become a suicide bomber. The potential bomber must strongly believe in the Islamic religion and the path of the Prophet. He must also internalize the duty to carry out Jihad and to assist other Mujahideen and must also know how to drive a motorcycle or a car.⁴

Promoting the Myth of the Shahid

- "Sawt al-Islam", the Turkestan Islamic Party's (TIP) media center, published a video tape in Turkish entitled "The Lovers of Paradise (part 5)", in memory of the Mujahideen who died for Allah.⁵



Reports from the Field

Afghanistan – Pakistan

- The Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan published a detailed announcement regarding the escape of 541 Mujahideen from a Kandahar prison. The announcement states that on April 25th 2011, 541 Mujahideen succeeded in escaping from the main Kandahar prison, 106 of which are leaders of the

⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan. They escaped through a 360 meter tunnel, to where trucks awaited them on the other side.⁶

- An "Atahadi" Jihadist forum member uploaded photographs of the tunnel the 541 Taliban prisoners used to escape from the Kandahar prison after having dug it for several months.⁷



- The "Hanein" Jihadist forum reported that two Afghan soldiers were killed and seven others injured in the Taliban attack against the Afghan Ministry of Defense. According to the Taliban, the French Minister of Defense, who was there at that time, was the target of the attack.⁸
- The "Hanein" Jihadist forum reported that eight American soldiers were killed in Afghanistan during an attack on the Kabul airport.⁹

Iraq

- The "Al-Furqan" Jihadist media institute, operating on behalf of the "Islamic State of Iraq", published a video tape of the attack carried out by two terrorists at the Salah Al-Din Regional Council offices.¹⁰ As a result of the

⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

⁷ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb>

⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

⁹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

¹⁰ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

attack, the council building was demolished and scores of Shiites who were inside were either killed or injured. The two terrorists who carried out the attack penetrated the council building disguised as soldiers and managed to take some of the employees hostage. Both were killed in the exchange of fire between them and Iraqi government and American forces.



The two terrorists

- The "Islamic State of Iraq" organization published a detailed list of 62 attacks which the organization had perpetrated in the Baghdad area.¹¹
- A member of the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadist forum formed a virtual workshop titled: "Where are the beloved ones of the Mujahid commander Abu Hamza Al-Muhajir? Hasten to us in order to assist his family".¹² The writer requested that members of the forum circulate on social networks such as "Facebook" and "Twitter", as well as on various forums, a message condemning the Iraqi regime's intention to execute Hasna Ali Yehia, the widow of Abu Hamza Al-Muhajir, the "Islamic State of Iraq's" Minister of War eliminated on April 2010; she is currently incarcerated in Iraq with her three children.

¹¹ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

¹² <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

The Arabian Peninsula

- The "Sanam Al-Islam" Jihadist forum reported that Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula operatives succeeded in killing and wounding scores of Yemenite soldiers in an ambush set in the Mareb Province, in the east of Yemen.¹³

The Maghreb

- Salah Abu Muhammad, responsible for Al-Qaeda's propaganda in the Islamic Maghreb, published an announcement regarding the interview which was held with Abd Al-Da'if, a senior propaganda officer in Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, published on April 16th 2011 in the "Al-Hayat" newspaper. According to the organization, statements falsely attributed to Al-Da'if appeared in the interview, *e.g.*- a statement as to the organization's success in establishing a number of Islamic Emirates in eastern Libya, that the organization is in possession of surface to air missiles, the sum demanded by the organization for the release of the French hostages, *etc.* According to the organization, these reports are fabrications and it wishes to clarify several points:¹⁴

1. Everything that was published in the newspaper does not reflect the organization's position.
2. The Algerian and Libyan intelligence forces are behind the fabricated interview.
3. The organization's position with regard to the revolutions is clear. The organization will help the revolutions being carried out by the Muslims, to the best of its ability.

¹³ <http://www.snam-s.net/vb>

¹⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>; <http://www.hanein.info/vb>



- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb published an audio tape entitled "A Plea Made by the French Prisoners to the French President Sarkozy".¹⁵ On the tape, the four hostages held by the organization since September 2010, request Sarkozy to withdraw the French troops from Afghanistan.
- The Islamic Research Center at the "Al-Yaqin" Jihadist media institute published a strategic research paper titled "Libya after Gaddafi: Reasons for Separation and Unification" (60 pages).



- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb published an announcement in which it claimed responsibility for an attack which it perpetrated on April 15th 2011 against an Algerian army stronghold. The attack began with a volley of mortar

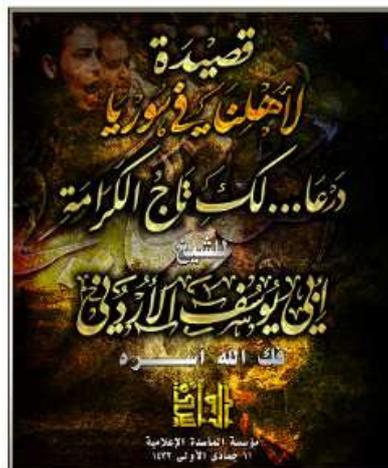
¹⁵ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb>

fire and continued with the Mujahideen's storming the stronghold. According to the organization, this terrorist attack was dedicated to the memory of one of the organization's shahids, Kamal Abu Hafs Al-Qadari, a member of the organization's Senate Council in charge of the organization's foreign relations, who was eliminated on February 2011.¹⁶

- The "Hanein" Jihadist forum reported that the Salafist-Jihadist movement in Morocco has denied any involvement in the terrorist attack carried out at a cafe in Marrakesh on April 29th 2011.¹⁷

The Al-Sham region

- The "Al-Ma'asada" Jihadist media institute published a Qasida titled "To our people in Syria – Daraa... you [deserve] the crown of honor" by Sheikh Abu Yusuf Al-Azdi.¹⁸



- The "Hanein" Jihadist forum published an announcement made by "Jaish Al-Ummah fi Bayt Al-Maqdis", a Salafist-Jihadist group in the Gaza Strip, supporting the demonstrators in Syria.¹⁹

¹⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

¹⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

¹⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

¹⁹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

- The "Al-Ma'asada" Jihadist media institute published a booklet including Sheikh Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi, Emir of the "Jama'at Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad – Bayt Al-Maqdisi's" biography. Al-Maqdisi is interned in a HAMAS prison since March 2011.²⁰



Egypt

- The Jihadist forums referred in an informative and laconic manner to the explosion at the gas pipe south of Al-Arish on April 27th 2011. The various forums reported the event based on publications in the Arab media. No organization claimed responsibility for the explosion.²¹

Africa

- The "Al-Kataib" media institute, operating on behalf of the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement, published a speech given by Sheikh Mukhtar Abu Al-Zubair, the movement's Emir, on April 19th 2011, translated into Arabic.²² In his speech Al-Zubair referred to the alliance made by the enemies of Islam

²⁰ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

²¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

²² <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

against the Muslims' lands and their residents. According to Al-Zubair, Jihad is the way to cope with the enemies' plots.

The West and the rest of the world

- Abu Ayman Omar Al-Fatih, an Al-Qaeda member in south-east Asia, published a message congratulating the suicide bomber who carried out the terrorist attack against the Indonesian regime's security forces on April 15th 2011. Al-Fatih justifies the attack and claims the Jihad carried out against the U.S. and its allies, including Muslim regimes, is a duty the entire Muslim nation is bound by.
- A group on the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadist forum posted a message titled "The Invasion of Aid to the Muslim Women of France: A message to Sarkozy and the French people and to our Muslim sisters".²³ The group asked forum members to distribute three messages on web sites, forums and on the pages of French social networks: a message to Sarkozy, a message to the French people and a message to the Muslim sisters, in Arabic and French, regarding the ban imposed by the French government on wearing a veil. Furthermore, the group added a banner depicting the Eiffel Tower ablaze, accompanied by Osama bin Laden's statements threatening to attack France.

²³ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>



- The "Hanein" Jihadist forum reported that Emir Mullah Abdullah, leader of the "Ansar Allah" organization in Tajikistan, has been killed.²⁴

General reports

- The "Sanam Al-Islam" Jihadist forum reported that a Chechen Mujahideen leader, Muhannad Abu Anas, was killed.²⁵ The "Hanein" Jihadist forum noted that Emir Abu Khalid was appointed as Abu Anas' replacement.²⁶

²⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

²⁵ <http://www.snam-s.net/vb>

²⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

The state of the forums in the past two weeks

- The "Atahadi" Jihadist forum announces the renewal of its online activities after a period of almost one month in which it was dormant.²⁷

Facebook

- A "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadist forum member posted a correspondence asking forum members and members of the "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" Jihadist forum to increase Jihadist propaganda on Facebook.²⁸
- "Al-Tawheed", a group identified with Al-Qaeda and Jihad organizations, currently has 18,300 members.²⁹



²⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

²⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>. For the surfer's Facebook page, see: <https://www.facebook.com/people/%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A-%D9%85%D9%88%D8%AD%D8%AF/100002045457802>

²⁹ <http://www.facebook.com/al.tawhid>

- A new Jihadist media institute named "Al-Qayrawan" was founded on May 1st 2011.³⁰



- Global Jihad organizations do not use "Facebook" exclusively. Alongside websites, forums, blogs, file sharing sites, etc. it also uses "Twitter". The "Jihadi Media Elite" media group recently opened a "Twitter" account.³¹



³⁰

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/%D9%85%D8%A4%D8%B3%D9%91%D8%B3%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D9%8E%D9%8A%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B9%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A%D9%91%D8%A9/116624498420570>

³¹ https://twitter.com/#!/al_nukhba