

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Forums

The Second Half of April 2012

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

- The leader of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) calls on the Algerian people to boycott the coming elections in Algeria.
- AQIM threatens to attack Britain following its decision to extradite Abu Qatada Al-Filastini to Jordan.
- The Front for the Defense of the Syrian People steps up terrorist activity against Syrian government forces.
- Abd Al-Ghnai Jawhar, an explosives expert for Fath Al-Islam, is killed in Syria.
- Senior Salafi-jihadists in Egypt increase their propagandizing in Tahrir Square.
- A new series on preparing poisonous substances is published.
- Fursan Al-Balagh, a new jihadist media outlet, appears.

New Publications

Ideology

- The jihadist public relations institution Nukhbat Al-Ilam Al-Jihadi [The Best of Jihadist Propaganda] published a 103-page book titled, "Essential Rulings and Manners When Traveling" by Sheikh Muhammad bin Mahmud Al-Bahtiti (also known as Abu-Dujanah Al-Basha).¹ The book is a codex of behavior for Muslims who are traveling, and is based on Islamic law. For example, the book discusses when a Muslim in transit may shorten his prayers.
- The jihadist media institution Al-Sahab published an audio statement by the Kuwaiti Salafi-jihadist cleric Sheikh Khalid Al-Husaynan titled, "Lessons for Ramadan: Learning to Keep Silent".²
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masadah published an article by Sheikh Abu Saad Al-Amili titled, "Wives of the Believers Contributed [to Jihad]".³ Al-Amili praised the important contribution of Muslim women to propaganda efforts for the mujahideen and jihad. Just as the wives of the Prophet helped spread the true faith, wrote Al-Amili, so Muslim women today aid the mujahideen.
- The jihadist media institution Al-Minbar published an article by Sheikh Abu Abd Al-Rahman Al-Butayri titled, "The Fighting Faith [Is] the Weapon of the Mujahid". The 45-page article covers the essential components of faith for the mujahid – including the unity of God, jihad, and the caliphate – which are meant to give him exalted spiritual powers.⁴
- The jihadist media institution Al-Masadah published an audio statement by Mamun bin Abd Al-Hamid Hatim titled "The Long-Awaited Change". The statement is part of a series of lectures titled, "Understandings that Must Be Amended (No. 3)".⁵
- The media production company Al-Malahem published an audio statement by Abu Zubayr Adel Al-Abab, with a transcript of his comments, titled, "A Message to Clerics". Al-Abab, who is the expert on Islamic law for Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), called on clerics in Yemen and elsewhere to join the jihadists. He explained that Islam's enemies distort its image and that of the mujahideen. Rather than defending the mujahideen when the enemy

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

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

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

⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

hurls false accusations at them, the clerics stand by ineffectually, issuing religious-legal rulings [fatwas] on topics they do not fully understand. Al-Abab warned that security forces had trained their eyes on these clerics and their fatwas, and exhorted the clerics to visit the mujahideen in Yemen, who would welcome them warmly and be willing to discuss the way to the true path. The mujahideen will heed any counsel, said Al-Abab. Three forces are fighting over Yemen, he explained: Russia and Iran, which represent socialism and Shiism, respectively; the government of Yemen, which is a satellite of the US; and the mujahideen. Al-Abab offered to pay the clerics' travel expenses, as he believes an encounter with the mujahideen will bring their positions into alignment and clarify issues directly and without interlocutors or the false claims of the media. In conclusion, Al-Abab said that the mujahideen were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the clerics, to update them on the situation and gain the benefit of their guidance.⁶

Strategy

- The jihadist media center Al-Fajr published an audio statement titled "Seeking and Gathering Information", which is No. 20 in a series of publications titled, "The Terrorism Industry: A Course in Security and Intelligence".⁷

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published a detailed and illustrated guide to making bullets at home.⁸



An illustrated guide to making home-made bullets

⁶ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam who calls himself Zaszas, and who is participating in the forum's online course in jihadist propaganda, published a 24-page Arabic translation of a guidebook on espionage, fleeing danger, and trailing someone by car. The guidebook was given pride of place by the forum's administrators.⁹
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published an extensive anthology of military training, which included a guide to snipers, to the use of light weapons, to roadside bomb assembly, to smuggling and concealing objects, and to battle tactics.¹⁰

Promoting the Myth of Martyrdom

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masadah published the fourth biography in a series titled, "Biographies of Martyrs from Greater Syria". This fourth installment dealt with the life of the martyr Darwish Hanjar.¹¹



The martyr [shahid] Darwish Hanjar with two young admirers

Magazines

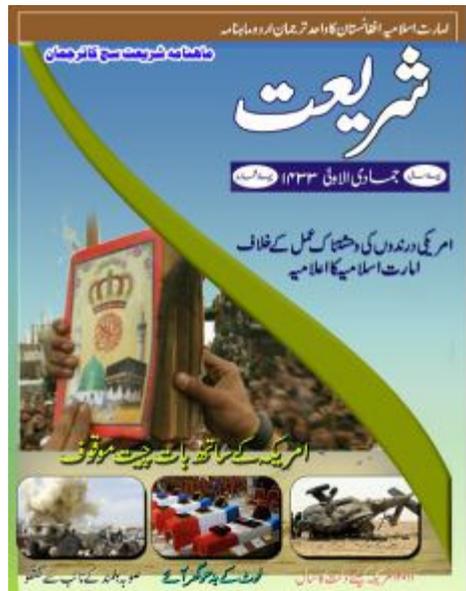
- The Cultural Committee of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has declared the launching of a new Urdu-language magazine titled *Shariat*. The magazine is aimed at Urdu-speakers in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and elsewhere.¹²

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

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

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

¹² <http://alsomod-iea.info> (Arabic).



The first issue of *Shariat*, an Urdu-language jihadist magazine

- Issue No. 10 of the jihadist magazine *Islamic Turkestan* was published by the Turkestan Islamic Party (TIP).¹³



The latest issue of the magazine of the Turkestan Islamic Party

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

- The jihadist media outlet Umar, which functions under the auspices of the Pakistani Taliban, published a videotaped interview titled, "From the Land of

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

Shari'a [Islamic Law]" with Hafiz Saeed Khan, the emir of the Orakzai Region of northwestern Pakistan.¹⁴

- The jihadist media outlet Umar, which functions under the auspices of the Pakistani Taliban, published a video clip titled, "The Zanjawat Massacre in Kandahar on April 19, 2012". The video clip, which Umar claims documents a massacre carried out by the Americans against citizens in Kandahar Province, includes the testimony of witnesses and the victims' families.¹⁵
- The jihadist media outlet Manba Al-Jihad published a video clip about the activities of the Taliban in Afghanistan, titled, "Stronghold of Jihaad".¹⁶

Iraq

- During the second half of April 2012, the Islamic State of Iraq announced the following:
 - It took responsibility for a series of terrorist attacks perpetrated on April 19 against command, security and administrative centers affiliated with "the Shiite government", in retaliation for its crimes against the Sunni population.¹⁷
 - It issued a detailed report of its military activities in the southern province between February 29, 2012 and March 3, 2012 (28 terrorist attacks);¹⁸ its military activities in the northern province between February 24, 2012 and March 23, 2012 (91 terrorist attacks);¹⁹ and its military activities in other areas of Iraq between November 12, 2012 and January 24, 2012 (20 terrorist attacks).²⁰
- Web surfers relayed that international press agencies and intra-Arab television channels reported on a series of 20 terrorist attacks perpetrated against the Iraqi establishment and Iranian citizens in 10 cities throughout Iraq. Other Web surfers protested, arguing that such sources deliberately exaggerate, distort and falsify information about the mujahideen so as to claim, in vain, that innocent civilians are being killed. In the subsequent debate over the relative reliability of these sources, still other Web surfers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

disagreed, and made the counter-claim that data on the events in question had been verified by Sunni Web sites, and that more civilians than military personnel had been killed. These Web surfers called for Divine revenge for the Muslim blood spilled in vain.²¹

- Following what it called the Shiite takeover of Iraq and Shiite crimes against Sunnis, "The Spear of Islam Brigades" was established. The Brigades promised to fight [the Shiites] to the death.²²
- A visitor to the Web forum Hanein warned the mujahideen in Iraq that Iraqi security forces were seeking a particular car, stopping anyone with a car of that make and model, and recording the license plate number.²³
- As testament to the slackening of jihad in the Iraqi arena, a visitor to the Web forum Hanein scolded the mujahideen that their sloughing off the religious-legal obligation to unite had weakened their cause. He added that if the many groups of mujahideen in Iraq were to unite, they could easily cope with developments there. Yet these groups have not heeded the repeated cries of their leaders, of clerics, and of the broader Muslim community to fulfill their obligation to establish a strong, united front of Sunnis against the aspirations of the Shiites and Crusaders. Woefully, few are the groups that have heeded the call, while many have remained divided, with each group preferring to go its own way. This has led many Muslims to despair, and those who had called for unity among the ranks to still their voices. The writer could not stress enough the pressing need for unity among the Sunni ranks, given the strengthening of the Shiites and their collaborators since the withdrawal of Crusader forces; only such unity would prevent the situation from deteriorating further. The writer refuted claims that unity would endanger the mujahideen. On the contrary, he wrote, the divisiveness among the Sunnis had led to disagreement and civil strife: for example, those who had thrown off the Crusaders, repented, and given their arms to one jihadist group had been killed by a rival jihadist group. The writer called for the establishment of one war room to coordinate action against the infidels and their allies, and for dialog that would seek common ground and remove the obstacles that now prevented unity. Only large, coordinated operations would level a crushing blow against the enemy and leave their mark on him. Only unity would bring

²¹ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

²² <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

²³ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

the masses to jihad, and secure the support of tribal leaders. Another visitor to Hanein chastised those groups that had not joined the Islamic State of Iraq, or at least reached an understanding with it. He claimed that such an accord would have been the most important event since the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and an immense victory for the mujahideen. He called on the leaders of the Islamic State of Iraq to redouble their efforts to engage other jihadist groups. Yet another Web surfer protested that jihadist groups *did* cooperate, as evidenced by recent, large terrorist attacks. Other Web surfers weighed in that unity was precluded by internecine fighting and killing, and by the varying opinions held by each group about the others.²⁴

The Arabian Peninsula

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted photographs of members of Ansar Al-Sharia in Lodar, Yemen.²⁵



Mujahideen from Ansar Al-Sharia on a tank looted from the Yemeni Army near Lodar

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam quoted an item that was published in the Saudi press according to which the Saudi deputy consul in Aden, Abdallah Al-Khalidi, had been kidnapped by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).²⁶
- The jihadist Madad Press Agency, which operates under the auspices of Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen, published additional video clips in the series "An Eye on Events", which covers recent developments in Yemen. Video Clip No. 10 focuses on the supply of electricity to several villages in Abyan Governorate, and Video Clip No. 11 focuses on the visit of two correspondents for the

²⁴ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

²⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

British newspaper *The Guardian* to soldiers who had been captured by Ansar Al-Shariya in Abyan Governorate.²⁷



Video Clip No. 11 from Madad Agency's "An Eye on Events" shows Yemeni soldiers who are being held captive by Ansar Al-Sharia

- During the latter half of April, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published the following:
 - An announcement about "the liberation of 73 soldiers of the regime's forces in Sana'a".²⁸
 - A warning that Britain and its citizens would suffer severe consequences for extraditing Abu Qatada to Jordan. Abu Qatada is thought to be the spiritual father of Al-Qaeda in Europe.²⁹
 - A eulogy for Gharib Al-Taizi, an AQAP field commander in Yemen.³⁰
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam reported that three Muslims with Swedish citizenship had joined the ranks of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), with the aim of fighting against Yemeni government forces in Abyan Governorate. The writer claimed that the three had officially entered Yemen as tourists, and later joined the mujahideen.³¹
- The jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published a video clip titled, "A Special Message to the Popular Committees in Yemen".³²
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published a recent photograph of the emir of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Sheikh Nasir Al-Wahishi Abu Basir.³³

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

²⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁰ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

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



Nasir Al-Wahishi Abu Basir, leader of AQAP

The Maghreb [North Africa]

- The Libyan Ummah Party [Party of the Muslim Nation], which identifies itself as a nationalist party with Islamic authority, has been established. The Party's goals include helping to establish a modern sovereign nation, preserve the people's right to elect their government, and strengthen the role of the mosque in Libya. Web surfers wondered whether the Ummah Party was nationalist or Islamist, given that its goals also included enriching political life, bolstering pluralism, respecting ethnic and cultural variety, and strengthening civil society's institutions. They noted that, in effect, the Party supports democracy; Islam's role in its platform remains hollow. Libyans are a Muslim people, and there is no multiculturalism in Libya – unless what the Party refers to is secular culture. Web surfers called on clerics to establish a pure Islamic regime that would accord with the law of Allah and consist of a council of luminaries, tribal leaders, religious scholars and military commanders that would chose an emir for Libya and swear allegiance to him. Additional Web surfers regretted that many political parties in the Arab world – such as those in Kuwait, Jordan and Algeria – displayed a façade of Islamism, when in fact they had a secular approach.³⁴
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masadah published a video clip of a "Special Meeting with Sheikh Umar Al-Hadushi", a Salafi-jihadist sheikh from Morocco who was recently released from prison. Al-Hadushi met with Sheikh

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

³⁴ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

reforms. Were France and NATO not shielding the regime, Algeria's leaders would be on The Hague's "wanted" list. Wadud claimed reforms were futile; a comprehensive revolution was called for, one that would generate real upheaval. The regime was liable to "fix" the elections to reign in Islamists, curtail their representation, and preclude them from coming to power. He warned Muslims to be wary of the regime's plans, and exhorted them to oppose its policies and doubt its promises, which really were lies. [The government] persisted in leading the people astray; the army and the intelligence services were the same as they had always been. The elections would change nothing; they would merely give the corrupt regime a "stamp of approval". Revolution was necessary, and should start with a boycott of the elections, to be followed by a popular uprising that would overthrow the regime. Oppression must be lifted and justice implemented throughout Algeria, according to the laws of Allah; this was the role of Muslims in the country. Wadud regretted that revolution was slower in coming to Algeria than to Tunisia and Morocco, which had also preceded Algeria in securing independence. Wadud was certain that the end of the Algerian regime was nigh, and would mirror that of Tunisia and Libya. In conclusion, Wadud exhorted Algeria's religious scholars to fulfill their role by defending the true path and opposing injustice.³⁸



An exhortation to revolution from AQIM Emir Abu Musab Abdul Wadud

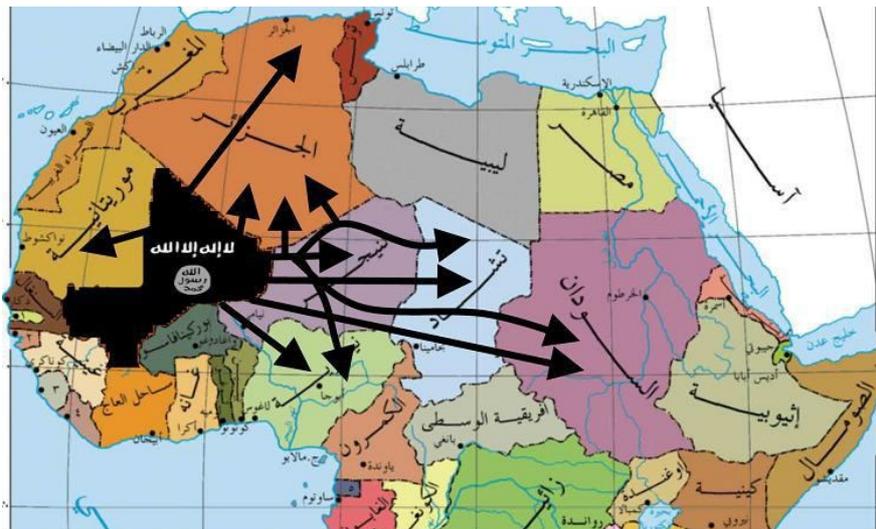
- The jihadist media institution Al-Andalus, which functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), criticized Britain for planning to extradite Sheikh Abu Qatada to the Jordanian authorities. AQIM suggested that the British government should instead release Abu Qatada to one of the "Arab Spring countries", or to a country of his choosing. In exchange for his release, AQIM promised to release Stephen Malcolm, a citizen of Britain and

³⁸ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

South Africa whom it had been holding hostage since kidnapping him in Timbuktu, northern Mali, in November 2011. AQIM warned that if the British government refused its initiative and insisted on extraditing Sheikh Abu Qatada, it would bear the consequences.³⁹

Mali

- A contributor to the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida analyzed the implications of the Tuareg and AQIM (Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb) takeover of the Azawad region. He also surveyed regional geopolitical forces that could help the mujahideen liberate the remaining areas of Mali and areas proximate to it. For example, the contributor suggested using Mali as a base for jihad in the region (see map below).⁴⁰



A map posted by a contributor to Al-Fida showing Mali as a springboard for mujahideen to other countries in the region

Al-Sham [Greater Syria]

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam cited the death of Abd Al-Ghnai Jawhar in Qusayr, Syria. Al-Ghnai Jawhar had been an expert on explosives for Fath Al-Islam, a Lebanese Salafi-jihadist group that heads the Lebanese Army's "wanted" list.⁴¹ According to various sources, Al-Ghnai Jawhar had led 30 Lebanese to Syria to take part in the fighting against Syrian security forces. It is interesting to note that Al-Ghnai Jawhar had been a member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam under the name

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

⁴⁰ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

Mafariq Al-Ahibbah [Pathways of the Lovers]. His last thread on the forum, posted on January 1, 2012, covered the popular uprising in Syria.⁴²



Abd Al-Ghnai Jawhar

- Jihadist activists from Arab countries continue to join the struggle in Syria; five mujahideen from Tunisia recently died in the fighting there. Web surfers referred readers to the Facebook page of one of those killed: <http://www.facebook.com/people/Boulbaba-Bouklech/100000408365385>.⁴³
- A new organization called Ahl Al-Sunnah was recently established in Lattakiya, Syria, with the aim of combating that country's heretical regime.⁴⁴
- During the latter half of April, the jihadist media outlet of the Front for the Defense of the Syrian People, Al-Manara Al-Baydha, issued the following:
 - A video clip titled, "Vengeful Invasion of the People of Homs". In it, the Front takes responsibility for two suicide attacks against Syrian government forces committed by Front members Abu Malik Al-Shami and Abu Sayyaf Al-Shami.⁴⁵



Suicide bomber Abu Malik Al-Shami

⁴² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴³ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁴ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

- A claim of responsibility for the April 24th terrorist attack against Syrian security installations. The group reported that it had attached an explosive device to the car of a Syrian military official that was en route to a structure where the Iranian intelligence services house their delegation. When the car entered the plaza in front of the building, the group detonated the explosive device, killing two people. The Front cited this as an example of its ability to reach any target, and to evade the surveillance of the Syrian regime and its allies.⁴⁶
- A claim of responsibility for the April 27th suicide attack against some 150 Syrian security personnel in the Al-Maydan neighborhood of Damascus. The attack was perpetrated by a Front member calling himself Abu Amer Al-Shami during Friday prayers. However, contrary to what had been reported by the media, the attack was not carried out near the Zain Al-Abideen Mosque, where people were praying.⁴⁷
- Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, who is serving time in a Jordanian prison, sent a message to another Salafi-jihadist leader in Jordan, Sheikh Omar Mahdi Abu Al-Mundhir Al-Mahdi. The message was published in response to Al-Mahdi's criticism of Al-Maqdisi for having given his blessing to the establishment by local Salafist leaders of a committee to liberate Salafist prisoners. Al-Maqdisi asked Al-Mahdi not to make a premature judgment that might later prove mistaken. He asked him to support unity, rather than fostering phalanxes.⁴⁸
- The jihadist Ibn Taymiyyah Center, which focuses on Palestinian issues, published a press release titled, "Prisoners in Zionist Prisons Expect a 'Prisoner Invasion' to Liberate Them". According to the press release, the Palestinian leadership was idly ignoring the deterioration in the Palestinians' prison conditions. It warned that things could not continue as they had been, and that action must be taken to free the prisoners – through jihad, through a prisoner exchange, or by buying their freedom. The press release urged Muslim youth, especially in Jerusalem and environs, to press the (Palestinian) leadership, political parties, and (other) governments to embark on jihad to release Muslim prisoners.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁴⁸ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- A Web surfer, apparently a Palestinian, asked that news of the hunger strike of Palestinians in Israeli prisons be broadly disseminated. He asked that the topic be taken as seriously as are other topics aired on Web forums. Other Web surfers identified with his comments and posted words of support.⁵⁰

Egypt

- The Salafi-jihadist media institution Al-Faruq, which focuses on the Egyptian arena, published the following during the latter half of April:
 - Advice sent from Sheikh Ahmad Ashush, a senior Salafi-jihadist in Egypt, to Sheikh Hazem Salah Abu Ismail, the Salafist candidate for president of Egypt. Ashush claimed that the attempted use of the Egyptian constitution, parliament, and direct elections to establish an Islamic state and implement Islamic law had failed, as evidenced by the revocation of the candidacy of several Islamist candidates for president. He therefore concluded that participation in the political sphere was ineffective, exhausting, and a drain on energy. Ashush recommended that Abu Ismail work to overthrow the constitution, impose shari'a [Islamic law] and "convert" the ruling regime to Islam. Ashush promised the assistance of Salafi-jihadists in these efforts.⁵¹
 - Another appeal from Ahmad Ashush to Abu Ismail, issued on April 30, 2012. Ashush again asked Abu Ismail to wake up and realize that even if he were to correct the Egyptian constitution by establishing shari'a as the source of law, the constitution – and the regime – would nevertheless remain in place. He therefore demanded that Abu Ismail stop such efforts. "Very many Muslims are willing to promote shari'a and make sacrifices for it...if Sheikh Hazem does not heed this call, I advise the brothers who wish to promote shari'a to do so far from Sheikh Hazem and his banner, to continue to urge the masses to Islamic revolution, and to engage in
 - da'wa [proselytizing] for shari'a
 - overthrowing the regime and the ignorant [jahili] laws that impede shari'a and faith in Islam
 - removing any individual or institution that objects to shari'a and would sever it from the regime and the government". In the words

⁵⁰ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (arabic).

of Ashush, "...I do not ask to overthrow one institution but to overthrow all institutions, like the secular court system, that oppose the way of Allah and shari'a".⁵²

- An audio statement by Sheikh Ahmad Ashush titled, "Ways of Succeeding among the People of the Truth and the People of Hypocrisy".⁵³ Ashush vindicated the path of Sheikh Osama bin Laden and Dr. Ayman Al-Zawahiri, which he claimed had proved a justified and efficient tool for Islam. The Muslim peoples in Libya, Syria and Yemen, who were forced to turn to jihad, have understood that jihad is the only solution to the tyrants' reign. Ashush quoted Al-Zawahiri, who long ago emphasized that da'wa [missionary work] must be used to spread the truth throughout Egypt, and to fight whomsoever must be fought.⁵⁴



"Ways of Succeeding among the People of the Truth and the People of Hypocrisy"

- Video clips of a series of encounters in Tahrir Square with senior Salafi-jihadists, including Sheikh Muhammad Al-Zawahiri, Sheikh Ahmad Ashush, Sheikh Mirjan Salem (Abd Al-Hakim Hasan), Sheikh Adel Al-Jazzarm, Sheikh Jalal Al-Din Abu Al-Fatuh, Sheikh Umar Rifai Sarur and Sheikh Ahmad Ushry.⁵⁵



⁵² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

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

A sermon by Muhammad Al-Zawahiri (right) and Sheikh Ahmad Ashush and Sheikh Marjan Salem (left) in Tahrir Square, Cairo

- Egyptian Salafi-jihadists announced that they would demonstrate on Friday, April 20, 2012, on behalf of shari'a, the unity of God, Islamicization of the Middle East, the end of the constitution, and Islamicization of the revolution.⁵⁶



The opening page of an Egyptian Salafi-jihadist blog calling for an Islamist regime

- The Salafi-jihadist Ibn Taymiyyah Center published a video clip reviewing "the demonstration held by the heroes of Sinai in support of their oppressed brethren in Syria".⁵⁷



Residents of the Sinai Peninsula ride in a convoy under Al-Qaeda's banner

- Abdallah Muhammad Mahmud, who writes for the jihadist research institute Dawat Al-Haqq for Education and Research, reported that the revolution in Egypt had yet to be completed, despite the fall of Mubarak's regime. The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF), which currently holds power in Egypt, was inseparable from that regime; all of the country's institutions had

⁵⁶ <http://ansarsharia.blogspot.com> (Arabic).

⁵⁷ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

remained as they were. Mahmoud claimed that the revolution had yet to achieve its aims; he feared that the Egyptian dream of a an honorable life would be "stolen". He claimed that the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafists were not working hard enough against SCAF, which continued to harass the revolutionaries undisturbed. The Egyptian people must again rise up in revolution, and must sustain their revolt until all members of the previous regime have been routed.⁵⁸

Africa

Somalia

- During the latter half of April, the media outlet of the Somali jihadist group Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Kataeb, published a video clip titled, "The Group in 1433 (hijri)".⁵⁹



A banner for a video clip about Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in hijri year 1433

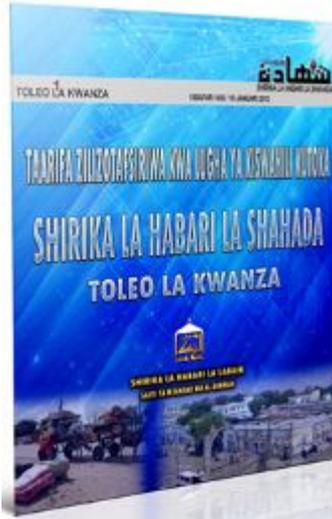
- The jihadist media outlet Shaadah, which functions under the auspices of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published its eponymous newsletter No. 7, which covers recent events in the Somali arena.⁶⁰ This newsletter was translated into Swahili by another jihadist media outlet, Labayka, which is an arm of the Somali jihadist Web forum Al-Qimmah.⁶¹

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

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

⁶⁰ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



An issue of Shaadah's eponymous newsletter, translated into Swahili

- The jihadist media outlet Labayka, an affiliate of the Somali jihadist Web forum Al-Qimmah, translated into Arabic a speech by Sheikh Mukhtar Abu Al-Zubayr, the emir of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. In it, Al-Zubayr discussed the London Conference on Somalia; battles with the Crusader forces of AMISOM; the relationship of Somalia's mujahideen to Al-Qaeda and its leadership; and the oath of loyalty taken by the former to the latter.⁶²
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein noted that several Internet sites had announced the assassination of Abu Mansour the American, a leader of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. In March 2012, Abu Mansour had warned that his life was in danger because of a disagreement he had with Al-Shabab. The visitor solicited readers' comments. In response, Web surfers urged him not to spread such news, whose aim was to impede the mujahideen and Al-Shabab. Forced to intervene, the supervisor of Hanein reported Al-Shabab's claim that it had no disagreement with Abu Mansour. Since nothing else on the matter had been published, one should be wary of posting baseless rumors. Web surfers asked that this thread be removed, lest it serve the enemy.⁶³ Al-Shabab denied that Abu Mansour had been assassinated, adding that he was alive and well and living in Somalia.⁶⁴

The Caucasus

⁶² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶³ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁴ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

- According to the leadership of the Islamic Republic of the Caucasus (also known as the Caucasus Emirate), Emir Abu Khalid, who was recently appointed a judge for the Caucasus Emirate's province of Chechnya, had been captured by Russian forces. The leadership of the Emirate claimed that Abu Khalid had been trying to cross the border to receive medical treatment for serious wounds when he was captured. Abu Khalid's condition was reportedly deteriorating because of the severe torture he was undergoing. Abu Khalid is an Arab volunteer who has been active in arenas of jihad for 24 years.⁶⁵



Emir Abu Khalid

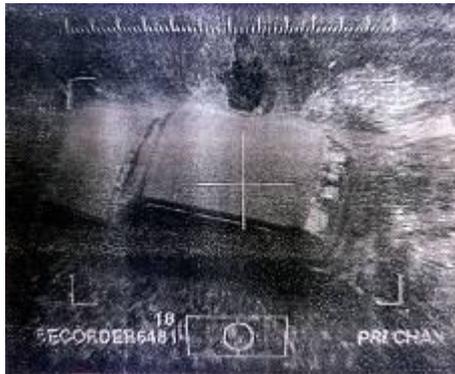
- The Web site Valiat Dagestan reported extensively on the unexpected death of the emir of Khasavyurt Province, Yusup Magomedov, also known as Abd Al-Rahman, on the night of April 25, 2012. The emir was killed after information about his whereabouts was leaked to the Russian authorities. The Russians had laid an ambush for Abd Al-Rahman's car, and opened fire on it, killing him and two additional passengers: Bulat Akavov, age 25, and Abd Al-Gamid Abd Al-Gamidoc, age 34. Abd Al-Rahman himself was only 26 years old. The announcement drew calls for catching the informants – but not (openly) for revenge.⁶⁶
- The Web site UmmaNews summarized the activities of the mujahideen in the Caucasus arena in April. According to the summary, the mujahideen perpetrated a total of 37 jihadist actions, killing 28 enemies of Allah and wounding 18. Twelve mujahideen were martyred.⁶⁷
- The blog Kavkaz Jihad extensively commemorated the killing of Dudayev, the first leader and president of the Republic of Chechnya. Dudayev was assassinated when the Russian Army scored a direct rocket hit on his car on

⁶⁵ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁶ <http://vdagestan.com> (Russian).

⁶⁷ <http://ummanews.com> (Russian).

April 21, 1996. According to the blog, the copious documentation of both the Russians and the Americans had yet to be properly analyzed. It is known, however, that Dudayev was targeted through close surveillance by the US National Security Agency (NSA) of his conversations via INMERSAT satellite device. Most of this information was culled from the Kavkaz Center Web site, which claimed that the fog surrounding the event was meant to obscure the active participation in it of the US.⁶⁸



Dudayev's last moments

- The Web site IslamDin published an op-ed penned by an anonymous member of the site, who criticized the unbridled support of the Caucasus mujahideen for the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia. The writer claimed that Allah's original commandment to every Muslim was to first evict the enemies of Islam from their own country, and only then to fight the enemy overseas. The writer opined that the current surge of support for jihadist activities beyond the Caucasus was a waste of time and energy. He claimed that first the local enemy must be vanquished, and only then should fighters be sent abroad.⁶⁹
- Recent photographs of Emir Dokku Abu-Uthman were posted on the Twitter page of the Kavkaz Center.⁷⁰

⁶⁸ <http://kavkaz-jihad.blogspot.com> (English).

⁶⁹ <http://www.islamdin.com> (Russian).

⁷⁰ <http://twitter.com/#%21/kavkazcenter> (Russian).



Emir Dokku Abu-Uthman

The West and Elsewhere

- During the latter half of April, the jihadist media outlet Sawt Al-Islam, which functions under the auspices of the Turkestan Islamic Party (TIP), published the following:
 - An announcement in the name of TIP Emir Sheikh Abdallah Mansur, concerning the Chinese government's declaration on April 6, 2012 that it had compiled a list of terrorists, members of the TIP, for the third time; the Chinese government asked that foreign countries immediately extradite them to China. The TIP decried the designation of its members as "terrorists", stating that jihad in Turkestan was a legitimate and binding obligation. Moreover, the TIP noted that China's desire "to get its hands on these 'terrorists'" was doomed to fail now, as it had in the past.⁷¹
 - A video clip by Sheikh Abd Al-Aziz in Uighur titled, "The Commitment of the Group and the Commandment of Personal Jihad".⁷²
- The German Salafi-jihadist Web portal Millat Ibrahim reported the release from a German prison of Umm Sayf Allah Al-Ansariyyah. Umm Sayf had been incarcerated since March 2011 for abetting terrorism. The German court forbid Umm Sayf Allah Al-Ansariyyah from contacting Abu Usama Al-Gharib or Abu Talha Al-Almani, two prominent Salafi-jihadist sheikhs active in Germany. The site expressed the hope that additional Muslim women would be released from Crusader prisons.⁷³

General Reports

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

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

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

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted photographs of Sheikh Abu Qatada Al-Filastini taken in February 2012 when Abu Qatada was being transferred from prison to restrictive house arrest.⁷⁴ After having lost a protracted legal battle in British and European courts, Abu Qatada, the spiritual leader of Al-Qaeda in Europe, is slated to be extradited by the British authorities to Jordan, where he is wanted for his involvement in terrorism.



Abu Qatada Al-Filastini leaves prison for restrictive house arrest

- A chat room on the chat site PalTalk, called "The Room of Minbar Al-Ansar Al-Islamiyya", announced that it would be hosting Sheikh Hani Al-Sibai, the Egyptian exile who heads London's Al-Maqrizi Center for Historical Research. Al-Sibai, who is also a member of the Front for the Salvation of Egypt, was hosted in the chat room on May 5, 2012 at 22:00, and offered his interpretation of recent events.⁷⁵



⁷⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

The announcement that Hani Al-Sibai would visit Minbar Al-Ansar Al-Islamiyya's chat room to discuss current events

Miscellaneous

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein called the attention of "supporters of jihad and the mujahideen in every place and on every site" to the opening of a Twitter account called "News of Jihad". The Twitter account, to which the writer did not provide a link, tweets news of jihad and the mujahideen around the world, pithy statements by jihadist leaders, Qur'anic verses, snippets of hadiths, and quotes from respected religious scholars. The Twitter tidbits can also be read on a smartphone. The writer explained, step by step, how to register for and follow this Twitter feed.⁷⁶
- The jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam announced the martyrdom of a forum member who called himself Abu Al-Baraa Muhammad bin Salim Al-Sudani, also known as Khalid Al-Farisi. Al-Farisi was known for posting hymns praising the mujahideen and jihad. Al-Farisi had immigrated to Yemen, where he fought with Ansar Al-Sharia. He was killed in Lodar on April 12, 2012, during fighting with Yemeni government forces.⁷⁷

رَفَقَ لَأَمَّةِ التَّوْحِيدِ عَائِدَةً، وَأَعْضَاءَ شَبَكَةِ شَبَوَخِ الْإِسْلَامِ خَاصَّةً، نَبَأَ اسْتِشْهَادِ الْفَارِسِيِّ الْأَسَدِ الصَّرْعَامِ الْأَخِ الْمُجَاهِدِ مُنْتَدَى الشَّبَوَخِ أَبِي الْبَرَاءِ مُحَمَّدَ بْنَ سَالِمِ السُّودَانِيِّ، صَاحِبِ الْمَعْرِفَةِ "كَلِيدَ الْفَارِسِيِّ" تَقْبَلَهُ اللهُ فِي الشَّهَادَةِ وَأَسْكَنَهُ الْقَرْدُوسَ الْأَعْلَى.



وَالَّذِي ارْتَقَى رَحِمَهُ اللهُ شَهِيدًا - كَمَا لَحَسَهُ - بَعْدَ أَنْ مَنَّ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ بِالْهَجْرَةِ إِلَى بَيْتِ الْإِيمَانِ وَالْحِكْمَةِ لِيُقَاتِلَ مَعَ إِخْوَانِهِ فِي أَنْصَارِ الشَّرِيعَةِ حُدَّ الطَّغَاوُتِ الَّذِي حَشَّعَ الدِّينَ وَالْمَسَدَ الدُّنْيَا فِي مَعَارِكِ لُودَرِ الْأَخِيرَةِ يَوْمَ الْخَمِيسِ الْمَاضِي 20 جُمَادَى الْأُولَى 1433 هـ.

The item on Shumukh Al-Islam announcing the death of Khalid Al-Farisi

- A visitor to the Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen discussed the upcoming presidential elections in the US. He explained that each candidate had promised to strengthen the military and return the US to its former glory. Today, as he vies for a second term of office, Obama claims to have uncovered secret documents in Osama bin Laden's home in Afghanistan [sic], which supposedly reveal that Al-Qaeda had weathered several disasters, which had all but "finished off" its leadership role, leaving only its branch affiliates. The writer noted that "such nonsense" was no surprise, as the US persisted in leading the world astray. He clarified that the US was using

⁷⁶ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁷ <http://www.shamkuh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

psychological warfare, spreading lies to cover its losses. The writer insisted that all branches [of Al-Qaeda] were affiliated with the central leadership headed by Ayman Al-Zawahiri. He reiterated that the US was not to be trusted. Where are these disasters that Al-Qaeda has supposedly weathered? How can it be that Al-Qaeda's central leadership is "finished", if it expands by the day? Obama, he wrote, is using misleading election propaganda to lead his people to the abyss into which his predecessor, George W. Bush, fell.⁷⁸

- Various jihadist Web forums announced the launching of a new jihadist media institution named Fursan Al-Balagh, which will engage in da'wa [proselytizing] for the mujahideen and jihad.⁷⁹ Fursan Al-Balagh's first publication was a poem [qasida] titled, "O Prisoner Behind Bars: A Letter of Encouragement from the Heart. Sheikh Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi", by Sheikh Shaybah Al-Hamd.⁸⁰ Its subsequent publications have consisted of transcripts of sermons by Salafi-jihadist sheikhs, superimposed on video clips and audio statements.



The logo of the new jihadist media center, Fursan Al-Balagh

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida advised the commanders of jihad how to guide the Muslim nation [ummah], in light of the revolutions in several Arab countries, which he claimed herald [the Arabs'] awakening from a deep slumber. He also claimed that the Arab revolutions were possible thanks largely to jihad and the mujahideen. The current momentum should be exploited, and effort concentrated on guiding the Muslims, correcting their

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

⁷⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

ways, and Islamicizing terms and symbols. In his opinion, sermons and publications should be divided into two types:

- Sermons about the path, or that correct misperceptions and guide the Muslim nation. The comments of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri regarding Egypt are a good example of this. Similar guidance is still needed in Libya, Tunisia, Al-Sham [Greater Syria], Yemen and Mali. The writer added that jihadist leaders and the religious scholars [ulama'a] who support them must exploit the situation in countries on the verge of revolution, such as Sudan and Saudi Arabia. He cited several religious scholars who could do this: Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri, Sheikh Abu Yaha Al-Libi and Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Rubaysh.
- Sermons and guidebooks for the mujahideen, for example on public relations and battle tactics. These should address Islamic rulings governing captivity, injury, and travel.

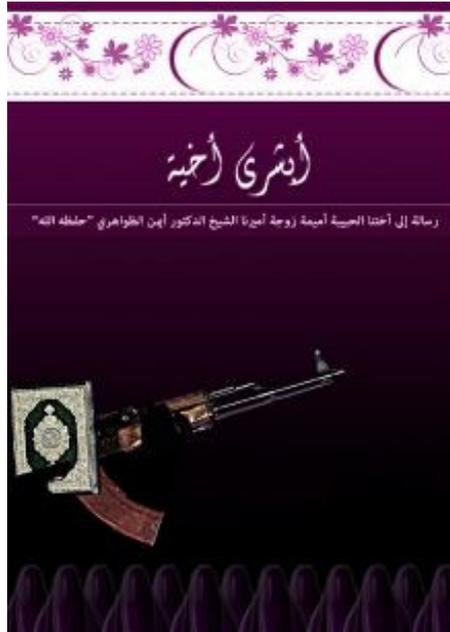
The writer also suggested that jihadist Web forums open special sections devoted to ulama'a [religious scholars] identified with jihad, where the mujahideen and their supporters could ask questions on points of religious law.⁸¹

- After visiting multiple jihadist Web forums, a Web surfer declared that these sites shared the following faults: their supervisors and surfers do not pay sufficient attention to the contributors' threads, and even erase well-argued threads without explanation; supervisors (write) ill of surfers in the private rooms and falsely accuse them; secret details are exposed, and caution is lacking; surfers engage in pointless arguments about the relative merit of mujahideen on the battlefield versus mujahideen engaged in propaganda (the surfer used Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi as an example); responsibility for terrorist attacks is too hastily ascribed, when it would be better to wait for the official announcement; some forums support certain jihadist elements but ignore others, even though the latter are no less a target of the Crusaders and the apostates; and, conversely, some forums support anyone who claims to be a follower of the mujahideen, even if he is a traitor and a heretic.⁸²
- A virtual jihadist workshop for women titled, "Hafidat Al-Safiyah" [Granddaughters of Safiyah] sent a letter of support and encouragement to

⁸¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸² <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

Omayma, the wife of Al-Qaeda Emir Ayman Al-Zawahiri, and to all Muslim women to continue to adhere to the Muslim faith. The women's workshop also stressed the importance of women's support of their husbands and of the mujahideen on the path of jihad.⁸³



A letter of support from a women's jihadist virtual workshop to the wife of Ayman Al-Zawahiri

The virtual jihadist workshop also praised the public relations efforts of Muslim women on behalf of jihad and the mujahideen. Given the increasing contribution of Muslim women to da'wa [propaganda], the workshop saw fit to publish five virtual cards for every cyber mujaheeda, which would list the rules of behavior on the Internet.⁸⁴

⁸³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



Rules of conduct for the cyber-savvy Muslim woman who supports jihad

- A visitor to the Global Jihad Web forum chastised Muslims for supporting soccer (football) teams such as Real Madrid and Barcelona, while the Syrian people were suffering mightily at the hands of the Alawite regime. He also blamed the Jews for supporting this sport, citing “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” as evidence. The surfer reminded Muslims that the Spanish government had participated in the invasion of Iraq, and had helped the coalition forces in Afghanistan. Spain is in effect Occupied Andalus, he wrote, and the Muslim nation must work to liberate it.⁸⁵
- The Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF) published a number of important clarifications about the situation in Somalia; means of security; and its own connections with other jihadist media institutions. Thus, according to the GIMF:
 - Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen is a jihadist movement headed by renowned mujahideen. Its words and deeds are meant to promote the implementation of Allah’s law. The Somali people stand behind it as one.
 - The spokesman of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen is authorized to communicate on behalf of the movement; any information not issued by the movement is false. The mujahideen must not help the cyber-warriors of the US Foreign Ministry, whose aim is to defame Islam and Muslims wherever they are.

⁸⁵ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The GIMF is working to disseminate a version of the computer program Asrar Al-Mujahideen that cannot be forged.
- The GIMF receives copious items about individual actions but does not publish them because that is the province of other media outlets, with which the GIMF cooperates. Anyone who wishes to help with public relations may contact the GIMF at: <http://gimfmail.blogspot.com/>.⁸⁶
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein advised Web surfers to threaten the West, such that it would waste resources on increasing its security and preparedness. He suggested registering for jihadist Web forums, choosing an odd name, and then threatening to attack the Eiffel Tower in Paris, for example, or any other Western target. He also suggested posting maps and target dates to aid those who wished to perpetrate an attack.⁸⁷
- On April 30, 2012, the jihadist media institution Al-Qabidhun Ala Al-Jamr, which is affiliated with the jihadist Web forum Sinam Al-Islam, published the responses to surfers' questions of Sheikh Abu Humam Al-Athari, a member of the Shura Council of the Jordanian Salafi-jihadist Web portal Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad. The portal had held an "open discussion" with the Sheikh.⁸⁸
- A Web surfer wondered whether the banner of Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen was the same as that of the Islamic State of Iraq. He also asked what the banner of the mujahideen in Afghanistan looked like, and whether it was a white background bearing the legend "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger" [the shahada, or profession of faith]. He also asked about the banners of the mujahideen in Algeria, in the Maghreb and in Somalia. Another Web surfer responded that the banner of the mujahideen in Afghanistan shows the text of the shahada in black on a white background, while the banner of the other jihadist groups is identical to that of the Islamic State of Iraq – that is, it bears the words of the shahada in white lettering on a black background.⁸⁹

⁸⁶ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁷ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁸ <http://snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁹ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).