

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Forums

The First Half of May 2012

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

- Ayman Al-Zawahiri calls on the Muslims of Afghanistan, Somalia and Yemen to fight Western forces in the lands of Islam and revolt against "collaborator" regimes.
- Al-Qaeda again threatens to execute American-Jewish hostage Warren Weinstein.
- The Shura Council of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan declares "open season" against occupation forces in Afghanistan.
- Sheikh Fahd Al-Quso Al-Awlaki, a senior military leader of Ansar Al-Sharia, has been assassinated.
- The English-language jihadist magazine *Inspire* resumes publication after a hiatus with two issues on individual jihad.
- A new jihadist magazine about efforts to free Muslim women prisoners has hit the cyber newsstand: *Majalat Al-Asirah [The Woman Prisoner]*.
- The second issue of the jihadist magazine *Al-Qaeda Airlines* appears.

New Publications

Ideology

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published a video clip titled, "A Message from the Prisoner Warren Weinstein to His President". In it, Weinstein implores President Obama to meet Al-Qaeda's demands, lest he be executed.¹ Weinstein was kidnapped in August 2011 in Lahore, Pakistan, when armed men slipped past his security guards and invaded his home. Weinstein had been responsible for the activities in Pakistan of J.E. Austin Associates, an American company that provides consultancy services to commercial and government concerns. After the kidnapping, J.E. Austin Associates warned that Weinstein was in poor health, and provided a list of his medications, most of them for cardiac illness. In a previous video clip, released in December 2011, Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri issued an ultimatum: Weinstein will be freed if the US ceases its air strikes against Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen, and if all imprisoned Al-Qaeda and Taliban activists are released.



The banner for a video clip in which Al-Qaeda hostage Warren Weinstein pleads for his life

- The jihadist media group Nakhbat Al-Ilam Al-Jihadi has published the book "Concepts that Must Be Corrected" by Sheikh Muhammad Qutb, an Islamic theorist and the younger brother of Hasan Al-Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood. The book, which was edited by Muhammad bin Muhammad Al-Bahtiti Abu Dujanah Al-Basha,² purports to appropriately elucidate five key concepts in Islam: bearing witness that there is no God but Allah [shahada, or profession of faith]; worship of the One God [monotheism]; fate and destiny; this world and the next; and civilization and settlement.

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

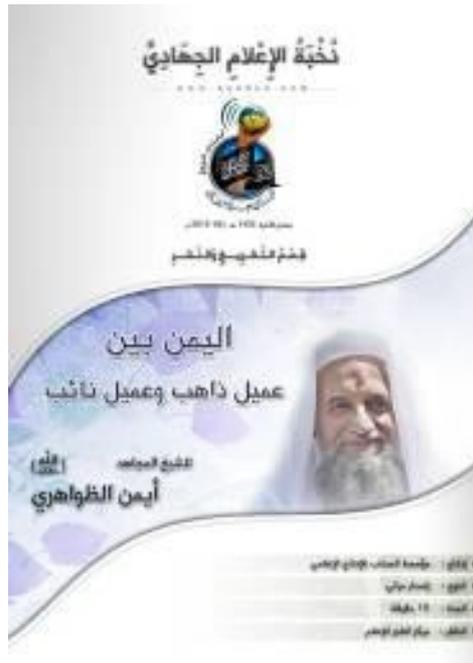
² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- During the first half of May 2012, the jihadist Web forum Al-Sahab issued three video clips, in which Ayman Al-Zawahiri addressed the Muslim nation in regard to the following three matters:
 - The burning of the Qur'an in Kabul. According to Al-Zawahiri, the Crusaders had again defiled the Qur'an, as indicated by their burning it in Kabul. Such a deed proves the hatred and enmity toward Islam of the American Crusaders and their allies, said Al-Zawahiri. He therefore called on Afghan Muslims and the Muslim nation in general to defend the honor of the Qur'an and the Prophet Muhammad and fight the conquerors of Islamic lands, who plunder them and desecrate the holiest of all that is holy to Islam. Al-Zawahiri asked the Afghan people to join the mujahideen under the banner of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan led by Mullah Muhammad Umar Mujahid, and support them in their efforts to drive the Crusaders out of Afghanistan.³
 - Lions of Somalia, fight the descendents of Abu-Raghal. In this video, Al-Zawahiri asks the mujahideen to use guerilla tactics in their jihad against the "Crusader Alliance" and its collaborators, drawing an analogy with Abu-Raghal, a legendary pre-Islamic traitor who led the army of Emperor Ibraha of Ethiopia toward Mecca with the aim of sacking it. Al-Zawahiri praised the staunch resistance of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen to enemies such as Kenya, Ethiopia and the African Union, which are supported by NATO and US President Obama. Al-Zawahiri likens the Somali government under Sheikh Sharif Ahmad to Abu-Raghal and the British to Emperor Ibraha, because the former are leading the latter to strike against those who proclaim the Oneness of God [tawhid]. Al-Zawahiri warns that Britain is not to be trusted because it breaches its obligations, as indicated by its having given the Land of Israel to the Jews and Syria to the French. Al-Zawahiri urges the Somali people not to fear the US despite its technological prowess, since the US is destined to lose in Somalia as it did in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, thanks to the will of Allah and the jihadist-Islamic awakening.⁴

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

⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Yemen between the collaborator who takes flight and the collaborator who stands in for him. In this video, Al-Zawahiri warns that the US and its allies in the Persian Gulf are plotting against the Yemeni people. By exploiting political corruption in Yemen, wielding money and bribery, the US has recruited Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi's regime to its interests. In Al-Zawahiri's eyes, Mansour Hadi is no different from Ali Saleh, the previous president of Yemen; both are criminals and traitors. It is obvious, states Al-Zawahiri, that the US and Yemen are united in persecuting the mujahideen, with the financial support of Saudi Arabia. Al-Zawahiri exhorts the Yemeni people to, through jihad, oppose corruption, rid Yemen of corrupt politicians, and end American arrogance, Iranian expansion, and the meddling of the Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia. He urges them to follow in the footsteps of role models like Osama bin Laden and Anwar Al-Awlaki.⁵



A series of videos in which Ayman Al-Zawahiri addresses problems of the day

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Malahem, which functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published an essay by Samir Khan, formerly an editor of the English-language jihadist magazine *Inspire*, who with cleric Anwar Al-Awlaki was assassinated in Yemen on September 30,

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

2011. The foreword to the essay, titled "Expectations Full" and written in English, states,

"For those Muslims coming from the West, this is a must read document as it includes an invaluable information [*sic*] which will enable them to appropriately understand the importance of their role in the scale of this battle and provide them with a visibility [*sic*] to aptly choose their next step."

In the essay, Khan discusses developments in jihad in Yemen, as he experienced them, and offers advice to those joining jihad. For example, Khan suggests that anyone intending to join jihad should check the weather report for the arena he plans to enter. He also urges Muslims living in the West to wage jihad in the countries "hosting" them, where jihad has the augmented impact of embarrassing (Western) governments, which never manage to foresee that an individual might commit a terrorist attack.⁶

EXPECTATIONS FULL

Introduction

Living amongst the heroes of Islam in the Arabian Peninsula has made me come to many realizations about how guerrilla warfare is conducted by the mujahidin. Before embarking upon the journey to the ummah's majahidin, I was always under the impression that fighting either directly or indirectly was what I would be doing most of the time. The reality is not quite like that. I have realized that living with the mujahidin will actually retransform one's life style and habits to something that is closer to Allah's pleasure. In this series of notes I have jotted down, I will be sharing these experiences.

Samir Z. Khan



Samir Khan shares his knowledge of the rigors of jihad

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published an audio statement by Sheikh Khalid Al-Husaynan, a Kuwaiti cleric who has joined Al-Qaeda, titled, "Lessons for Ramadan: Jihad Is a Virtue".⁷

⁶ <http://as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic and English).

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

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- Abu Yakin Al-Askari, a member of the jihadist web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, posted a detailed explanation of how to remotely detonate a bomb using a center lock and a timer.⁸



Remote bomb detonation in three easy steps

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published multiple of links to video clips explaining hand-to-hand combat [krav maga] tactics and how the mujahheed should function when fighting as part of a group.⁹
- The second issue of the jihadist periodical *Al-Qaeda Airlines* has appeared (206 pp.). The magazine is published by Abdallah Dhu Al-Bajadin, a self-styled expert in explosives known for his online posts on the topic. This issue of *Al-Qaeda Airlines* contains an analysis of ten terrorist attacks perpetrated during the past decade, and detailed explanations of how to make, and conceal, bombs, with links to nine video clips illustrating these explanations.¹⁰

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

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

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

How a printer becomes a bomb



1 Police confirmed the printer being mailed to a Chicago synagogue was actually a bomb. This part is a printed circuit board from a disassembled cellphone, allowing the bomb to be activated by phone. Wires lead from the board to the ink cartridge, where....

2 ... highly explosive pentaerythritol tetranitrate, or PETN, has been hidden. It takes just four ounces of PETN to destroy a car. It is the explosive used in the failed Christmas Day plot last year.

3 The package was resealed, and from the outside appeared to contain a typical computer printer.

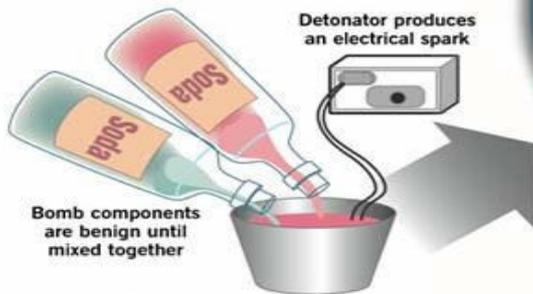
How to conceal a bomb in a printer

HIDDEN BOMB

The alleged plot to use disguised liquid explosives to take down an aircraft would probably have succeeded, because they can create a large explosion with very little material.

HOW DO THEY WORK?

Investigators say a peroxide-type of explosive would have been used. A prime candidate would be a triacetone triperoxide (TATP) mixture, used previously by terrorists in the London bombings of 2005.

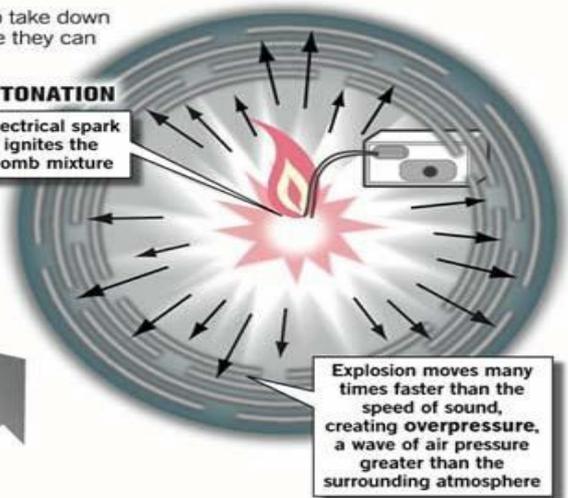


BOMB COMPONENTS

Two common raw ingredients of TATP, acetone and hydrogen peroxide, come in liquid form and could easily be mixed in the bathroom and detonated from a spark created by the battery of an electronic device.

DETONATION

Electrical spark ignites the bomb mixture



OVERPRESSURE AS A WEAPON

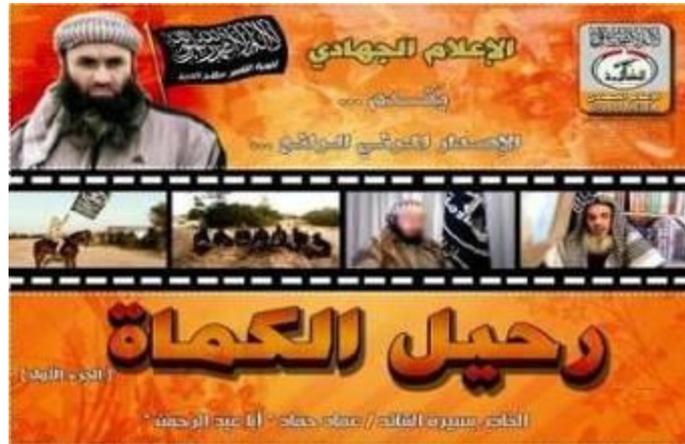
A huge amount of overpressure is not necessary to create damage. As little as 1% overpressure can break windows and an overpressure of 10% can harm or kill people and cause damage to buildings. Just 2% overpressure could break the window of an airplane and 10% could fatally damage the airplane and all aboard.

An explanation of the workings of liquid explosives

Promoting the Myth of Martyrdom

- A video clip titled "The Disappearance of the Brave: Part One" was dedicated to the memory of Imad Abd Al-Karim Hammad Abu Abd Al-Rahman, who led the Al-Naser Salah Al-Din Brigades in Palestine, the military arm of the Popular Resistance Front.¹¹

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



A video clip in memory of the commander of the Popular Resistance Front

- Madad, the press agency of Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen, posted a eulogy on Facebook for Abu Musab Al-Masri, an Egyptian who had fought with the group. Al-Masri was killed in a US bomb strike.¹²



Madad's eulogy for Abu Musab Al-Masri

- The Salafi-jihadist media outlet Al-Furqan published a biography of the shahid [martyr] Majid Issa Al-Anazi (aka Abu Talha Al-Hafrawi), the 51st in the series, "From the Biographies of Martyrs".¹³

¹² <https://www.facebook.com/pages/%D9%88%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A9-%D9%85%D8%AF%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9/363241207060412>.

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



“أبو طلحة الكفراوي”

ماجد عيسى الجبرين العنزي

From the biography of Abu Talha Al-Hafrawi

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masada published the fifth biography in the series, “Biographies of Martyrs from Al-Sham [Greater Syria]”. This installment was devoted to the life of martyr Sadam Muhammad Al-Hajj Dib.¹⁴



Sadam Muhammad Al-Hajj Dib, who was martyred in Al-Sham

- A Web surfer from Oman who is currently in Khorasan, Afghanistan, announced the death in a May 5th US bomb strike against an outpost of mujahideen there of an Omani mujaheed named Imran bin Abdullah bin Khamis Al-Blochi Abu Hamza Al-Omani, along with other mujahideen. Abu Hamza, the product of a humble home in Barka, Oman, had been in the bloom of youth. Trained at a technical college in Oman, Abu Hamza had gradually grown closer to Islam, finally leaving for jihad in Khorasan about one year ago, without waiting, as many do, for a religious ruling on the matter. A specialist in multiple martial arts, Abu Hamza had always fought at the front, and was previously wounded in a US bombing raid in January 2012.

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

The writer appealed to Omani youth to follow in Abu Hamza's footsteps, and extended comfort and condolences to the martyr's parents.¹⁵



Abu Hamza Al-Omani

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published new issues of its jihadist magazines in Arabic, English and Urdu, which focus on jihad in Afghanistan: Issue 72 for May 2012 of the magazine in Arabic *Al-Somood*;¹⁶ Issue 40 for May 2012 of the English-language magazine *In Fight*;¹⁷ and a new issue in Urdu for May 2012 of the magazine *Nawai Afghan Jihad*.¹⁸



The most recent issues of, from left to right, *Al-Somood*, *Nawai Afghan Jihad*, and *In Fight*

¹⁵ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

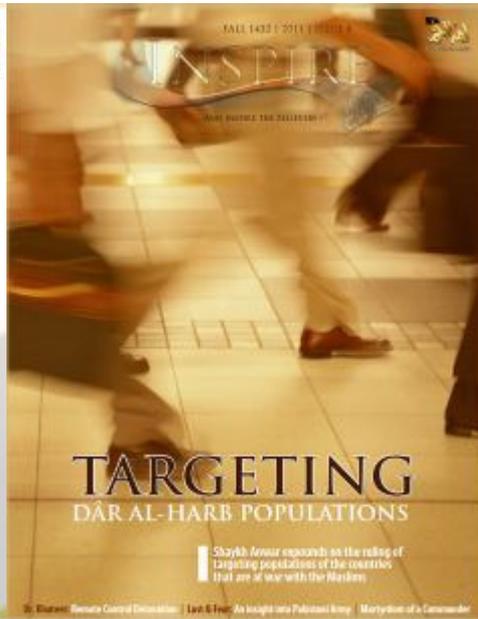
¹⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

¹⁸ <http://nawaiafghan.blogspot.com> (Urdu).

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Malahem, which functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published two additional issues of the English-language jihadist magazine *Inspire*. The continued publication of this magazine indicates that AQAP continues to see English-speaking Muslims around the world as a pool of potential recruits to jihad. Similarly, resumption of the magazine's publication indicates that AQAP has overcome the technical difficulties of issuing an English-language magazine, which arose when its English-speaking editors Anwar Al-Awlaki and Samir Khan were killed in a US drone strike in Yemen in late September 2011. In brief, these two issues cover the following:
 - Issue No. 8, 2011, 32 pages:
 - "Targeting the Populations of Countries that Are at War with the Muslims", by Sheikh Anwar Al-Awlaki
 - "Blended Duality: Muslim and American", by Sheikh Samir Khan
 - "The Jihadi Experience: The Main Arenas of Operation for Individual Jihad", by Sheikh Abu Musab Al-Suri
 - Praise for Aby Yahya Al-Libi's having fulfilled the commandment of jihad
 - News on the collaboration between the Pakistan Army and the Crusader forces
 - Biographies of martyrs from the Arabian Peninsula
 - Instructions for using a gun
 - Instructions for constructing a remote-detonator for explosive devices
 - Issue No. 9, 2012, 62 pages:¹⁹
 - Discussion of the character and legacy of Sheikh Anwar Al-Awlaki and Sheikh Samir Khan
 - Advocacy of individual jihad
 - Methods of individual jihad
 - Advocacy of "forest jihad" – that is, setting forest fires to cause the enemy financial damage and create deterrence; the materials needed to set a forest fire
 - How to assassinate someone in an urban area

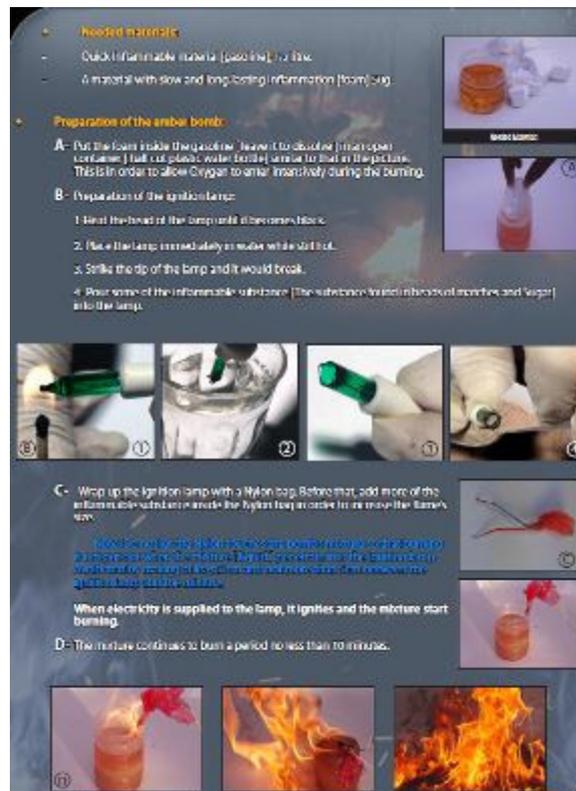
¹⁹ <http://www.al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



The covers of issues 8 and 9 of the English-language jihadist magazine *Inspire*

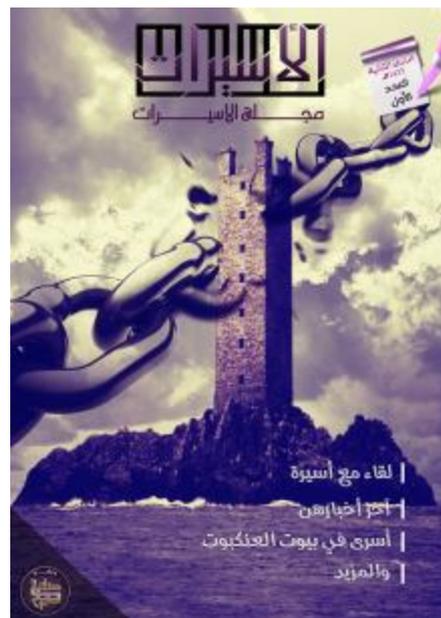


Illustrated instructions for using a gun, *Inspire* Issue 8



Instructions for making a firebomb to incite a forest fire, *Inspire Issue 9*

- A new jihadist magazine, *Majlat Al-Asirah [The Woman Prisoner]*, advocates efforts to free Muslim women prisoners.²⁰



The cover of the new magazine, *Majlat Al-Asirah [The Woman Prisoner]*

²⁰ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Issue No. 20 of the jihadist magazine *Talae Khorasan* (95 pp.) has been published by Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan.²¹



The cover of Issue 20 of *Talae Khorasan*

- Issue No. 37 of the jihadist magazine *Al-Waqi* contains items on all arenas of jihad, as well as international news. For example, this issue relates the following: Osama bin Laden's widows and two of his daughters were imprisoned for 45 days in a Pakistani jail; Syrian revolutionaries captured a group of Iranians; Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has reorganized its forces in Mali.²²

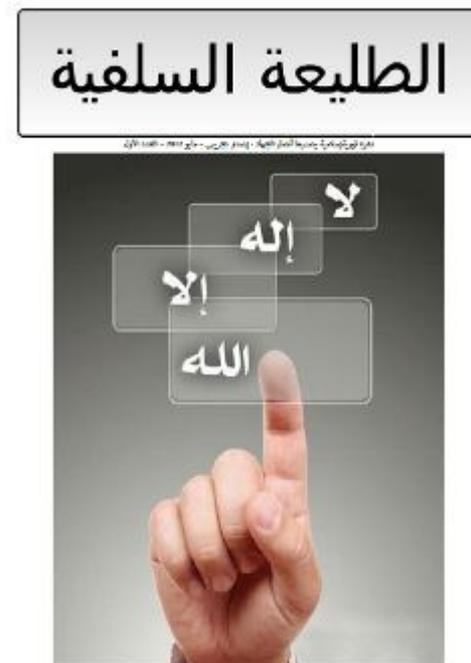
²¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



Issue 37 of *Al-Waqi*

- A new Egyptian jihadist magazine has been published by a Salafi-jihadist group calling itself A-Talia Al-Salafiyya. The first issue of this magazine covers the Salafi-jihadist camp in Egypt, and denounces "collaborators with the Egyptian regime, such as Sheikh Muhammad Hasan".²³



²³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

The magazine of A-Talia Al-Salafiyya

- During the first half of May, 2012, two online periodicals were issued by The Islamic Resistance to the Syrian Regime, a group affiliated with the Syrian Salafi-jihadist Sheikh Al-Tartusi, who is living in exile in London.²⁴



The covers of Issues 2 and 3 of the online periodical of The Islamic Resistance to the Syrian Regime

Reports from the Field

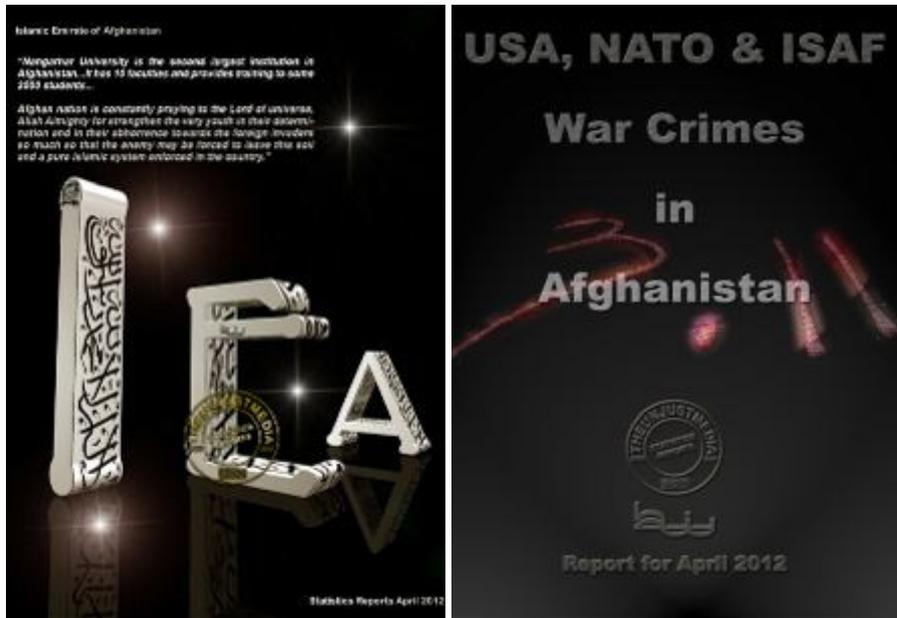
Afghanistan-Pakistan

- The Shura Council of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan declared its intention of greeting Spring with a new wave of attacks against the forces occupying Afghanistan, which it called "The Al-Farouq Attacks" – the name by which the second caliphate, that of Omar, was known. The first target of attack, according to the Shura Council, would be the foreign conquerors and their advisors, contractors, and any and all military or intelligence forces supporting them. Subsequent targets included senior members of the Karzai government, members of parliament, and anyone undermining or opposing the mujahideen and thereby contributing to the occupation of Afghanistan.²⁵
- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published a statistical abstract for April summarizing the activities conducted that month, as well as losses of life and property to the Emirate and to the enemy. The Abstract mapped the types of

²⁴ <http://tartosi.blogspot.com> (Arabic).

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

attack and where they were perpetrated.²⁶ The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan also published a report on the alleged war crimes of the US, NATO and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.²⁷



Two reports issued by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in April, 2012

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan launched a new Web site, where interested parties can find information about it: <http://www.alemara1.org>.²⁸

Iraq

- The Islamic State of Iraq published a detailed report of its military activities in Diyala Province between February 26 and March 23, 2012 (34 activities),²⁹ and between March 24 and April 20, 2012 (37 activities).³⁰
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Ansar, which is affiliated with Ansar Al-Islam, published a video clip titled, "Guardians of the Home No. 5". The video surveys the attacks of mujahideen against Muslims serving in Iraqi government security forces in Mosul.³¹

²⁶

http://theunjustmedia.com/Afghanistan/Mujahideen%20operations/April12/april_2012.pdf (English).

²⁷

http://theunjustmedia.com/Afghanistan/Mujahideen%20operations/April12/war_crimes_april_2012.pdf (Arabic).

²⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁰ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

The Arabian Peninsula

- Al-Malahem, the jihadist media outlet of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published an audio statement in which Sheikh Adel Al-Abab, AQAP's religious-legal authority, eulogized Sheikh Muhammad Al-Hanq. Al-Hanq had been a senior leader of AQAP in Arhab and Abyan Governorates.³²
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein described Al-Qaeda's achievements during the past 20 years, such as its victories over the Soviets and the Americans. However, according to the writer, these achievements had been rendered tragic by the infighting among mujahideen over control of Afghanistan and Somalia. He added that he was motivated to write by his desire that the mujahideen cease their internal squabbles, which have gotten out of hand – as evidenced by the killing of several members of Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen who disobeyed their commanders. The writer stated that although it is important to follow orders during wartime, there is no justification for murdering people who have refused to do so, even if it is a suicide mission that they have refused to carry out; after all, he added, they are still on the path of jihad. It would have been better for the leaders to have convinced them of the validity of their orders – or else given them a chance to convince *them* (the leaders) of the validity of their refusal. The contributor asked Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen not to spill the blood of Muslims – especially Muslims who had joined its ranks.³³
- The jihadist press agency Madad, which functions under the auspices of Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen, published additional video clips in the series "An Eye on Events", which shows recent developments in the Yemeni arena. Video Clip No. 12 shows representatives of Ansar Al-Sharia negotiating with a delegation of Yemeni government mediators, tribal leaders and prominent sheikhs over the release of Yemeni military personnel, who were being held hostage by the group.³⁴ The Madad Press Agency also published Nos. 16,³⁵ 17,³⁶ and 18³⁷ of its eponymous newsletter, which also focuses on events in Yemen.
- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published a eulogy of Sheikh Fahd Al-Quso Al-Awlaki, who was killed when the US bombed his farm in Shabwa

³² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³³ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

³⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁷ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Governorate, Yemen. Al-Quso had been a respected jihadist and had fought in Afghanistan. He had also led the escape from Al-Fateh Prison in Aden on April 11, 2003, taking with him an additional nine prisoners; however, he himself was recaptured. One of Al-Quso's greatest "achievements" was his having planned the attack on the USS Cole, a naval destroyer docked in the port of Aden, in 2000. The eulogy noted that a string of assassinations of members of the Al-Awaleq clan in Yemen was proof that the clan was hated and feared by the Crusaders, who had targeted it for its important role in fighting the British occupation of Southern Yemen.³⁸



A eulogy for Sheikh Fahd Al-Quso Al-Awlaki

- The jihadist public relations agency Nukhbat Al-Ilam Al-Jihadi [The Best of Jihadist Propaganda] published a Friday sermon by Sheikh Awad Muhammad Ba Nijar, titled, "Yemen: What Was It Like, How Has It Progressed, and What Dangers Threaten It?". Ba Nijar (b. 1946), a Yemenite known for his expertise in Islamic law, appears to be a new player in the Yemeni theater and an ally of Ansar Al-Sharia. In this Friday sermon, delivered to members of Ansar Al-Sharia, Ba Nijar discussed various stages in Yemen's development as a state: from the wave of communism that washed over it, through secular dictatorship, to the recent popular uprising. According to Ba Nijar, since Yemen is now under US occupation, jihad should be waged against all Americans in the country. Jihad must also be fought against the Houthis, a

³⁸ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

Shiite minority in Yemen, which is supported by Iran. Ba Nijar stressed the need to assist the mujahideen in Yemen.³⁹



Awad Muhammad Ba Nijar

The Maghreb [North Africa]

- The jihadist media outlet that functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) reported all of the attacks perpetrated by AQIM between the end of November 2011 and the beginning of May 2012, in which over 170 people were killed.⁴⁰
- The jihadist media outlets Al-Masada and Al-Qayrawan (the latter functions under the aegis of Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia) jointly published a video clip of a sermon by Sheikh Umar Hadushi, a Moroccan Salafi-jihadist recently freed from prison.⁴¹
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masada published an article by Sheikh Abu Saad Al-Amili titled, "The Men of Tawheed in Tunisia: Between Present Challenges and Future Horizons".⁴² Al-Amili described the situation in Tunisia prior to the revolution, noting that, under the previous regime, the Muslims had lacked even the most elementary rights and could not practice the simplest religious rituals. Earlier regimes had erased all traces of Islam; even to pray, a Muslim had needed the authorization of the security services. The revolution came to improve citizens' material situation and ease security pressures, especially on

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

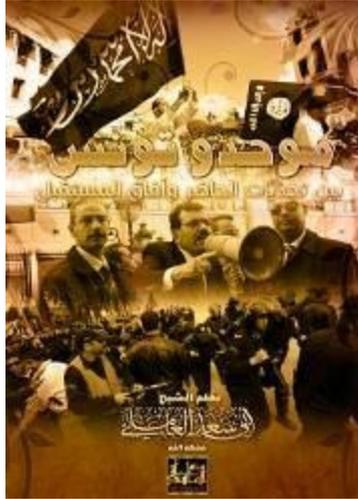
⁴⁰ <http://www.shmikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

those who believe in the Oneness of God, who had been subjected to the regime's iron fist. The revolution had changed the situation [for the better]. Indeed, as Al-Amili noted, believers in the Oneness of God [tawheed] in Tunisia may now act and express themselves more freely. After long years of persecution, they have begun to practice da'wa [proselytizing] and familiarize the public with their path. Nevertheless, challenges remained, among them a struggle against the eradication of Salafi-jihadists, who had been baselessly accused of favoring terrorism. Al-Amili cited the attempt by some in Tunisia, chiefly the Al-Nahdha Party, to obtain fast, tangible results. They want to grasp the reins of power before they have built the infrastructure necessary to do so, he wrote, adding "haste is the greatest danger facing this method of jihad". Al-Amili attacked the Al-Nahdha Party for not truly intending to implement Islamic law. He exhorted those who believe in the Oneness of God to recruit as many supporters as possible, as soon as possible. Tunisia faces external challenges – for example, it is a strategic target because of its historic role and geographic location. One should aspire to reveal the plots of those who foment evil such as the Crusaders, chief among them the French, who still have designs on Tunisia after ages of occupation; and such as the Americans, who wish to build a bridge between the governments of Tunisia and other Arab countries – and Israel. The Tunisian people must disengage from past ties and from the forces of imperialism; they must be ready to sacrifice. In conclusion, Al-Amili stressed the importance of disseminating tawheed, the Oneness of God. Those who follow the path of tawheed must guide and instruct others. They must extinguish the fire of civil war ignited by the enemy, and institute an independent method of da'wa and jihad, even if it differs from the mainstream. He warned them not to follow in the footsteps of the Egyptian Salafists, who spoke against democracy but who ultimately participated in it. Allah's path will win victory only through blood and sacrifice. One must be ready for this, and must not be led astray by the persuasive but false arguments of the enemy, who purports to be (re)building the homeland.⁴³

⁴³ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



A sermon by Abu Saad Al'Amili

Mali

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam quoted an interview conducted by the Mauritanian Press Agency Al-Akhbar with members of Ansar Al-Din in Timbuktu, northern Mali, who have succeeded in taking control of the Azwad region. The members of the group emphasized that they aspire to liberate Andalusia – that is, modern-day Spain – and bring it back into the Islamic fold: “We want to free Grenada, Valencia, Seville, and Cordoba. Our goal is to liberate the areas under colonialist occupation – areas that the Muslims once controlled in Andalusia”. According to one member of the group, the first step toward reaching this goal is to eject France from the region. Later in the interview, the group members praised the Muslims’ rising up against their tyrannical rulers, and stressed the imperative of implementing shari’a [Islamic law]. They dismissed any fear of military intervention in Mali by the African Union or neighboring countries such as Mauritania, Algeria and Nigeria, which had so far failed to reinstate order in Somalia or solve Sudan’s problems – such that it was not likely they would re-establish the previous regime in Mali.⁴⁴
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted photographs of Ansar Al-Din in Timbuktu.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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



Ansar Al-Din in Timbuktu, northern Mali

Al-Sham [Greater Syria]

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein complained that the Muslims had been ineffectual in helping the Syrian people cope with the persecution and destruction inflicted by the Assad regime. The contributor wondered: "Where is Saudi Arabia's council of senior religious scholars [ulama'a], where is Palestine's Hamas, where is the Muslim Brotherhood, where is the entire Muslim nation [in responding to] what is happening in Syria? Is not the blood of Muslims being shed?!" He called on the mujahideen in Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, Iran and other Muslim countries not to allow attacks against the Syrian people to be launched from their countries, but rather to send aid to the Syrian people. Mujahideen should be sent to Syria, and should attack Syrian targets – such as the embassy – in their home countries. The mujahideen in Chechnya should increase their activity against Russia, which supports the Syrian regime, and attack Syrian targets in Russia. In conclusion, he urged Muslims to send the mujahideen in Syria money, weapons, and men.⁴⁶
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masada published an opinion piece by Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Tahawi, a senior Salafi-jihadist, regarding the arrest by Hamas of Sheikh Abu Walid Al-Maqdisi, leader of the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad.⁴⁷
- During the first half of May, 2012, the Al-Nusra Front for the Syrian People published the following:

⁴⁶ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

- An article titled, "Have You Received Word of Kofi Annan's Cease Fire?".⁴⁸ The article criticizes the cease-fire agreement brokered by the UN with the Assad regime, adding that past experience with such agreements proves they are doomed to failure.
- An announcement taking responsibility for an April 20th terrorist attack, in which a suicide terrorist drove a car bomb into the command center of Syrian security forces that participated in a massacre in one of the villages in Syria.⁴⁹
- An announcement taking responsibility for planting improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on four cars belonging to security personnel on April 25 and April 27, 2012; several of the security personnel were killed.⁵⁰
- An announcement taking responsibility for five attempts to assassinate senior Syrian security staff.⁵¹
- An announcement taking responsibility for a double terrorist attack against a military installation in Damascus.⁵²
- Reports have been received that Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi has joined jihad in Syria. Web surfers blessed him for doing so and saw this as a correction of his having accused the mujahideen in Iraq for making mistakes that had led to the establishment of Sunni revolutionary councils that support the occupation, and for his having doubted the wisdom of establishing Jabhat Nusra Li-Ahl Al-Sham [Al-Nusrah Front for the Syrian People]. A discussion developed among forum contributors about Al-Tartusi's past comments. One contributor asked whether the errors of the mujahideen had indeed caused the establishment of Sunni groups that now opposed them, or whether the cause was a clash of ideologies between proponents of Islam and supporters of nationalism, Baathism and democracy. This contributor noted that mujahideen everywhere made mistakes, but that this did not lead to the rise of Sunni opposition groups in, say, Afghanistan. Other contributors justified Al-Tartusi's past comments – that is, that the mujahideen in Iraq had neglected the Sunni tribes and had reaped the fruits of jihad too hastily,

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

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

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

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

⁵² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

before they had ripened. They also concurred with Al-Tartusi's assessment that the enemy had been able to exploit the errors of the mujahideen, and use them as a source of denigration and ridicule. Other Web surfers defended the mujahideen, citing their fight against the infidel.⁵³

- The jihadist media institution Al-Masada published an article by Sheikh Abu Al-Zahraa' Al-Zubaydi titled, "The Islamic-legal Benefits of Establishing the Al-Nusra Front [Jabhat Al-Nusra] for the Syrian People".⁵⁴ "Sheikh Al-Zubaydi" is the *nom de guerre* of Usama Al-Shihabi, who became the leader of the Lebanese Fath Al-Islam in August 2012.⁵⁵ In this article, Al-Zubaydi writes of over 100 years of struggle against Syrian regimes, which had failed until the Syrian people rose up against the Alawite regime in March 2011 to decry the injustices done them. The uprising began as a series of demonstrations but quickly became an armed revolution, which in turn spawned the Al-Nusra Front [Jabhat Al-Nusra]. Al-Zubaydi notes that some oppose the Al-Nusra Front, claiming that it does Syria more harm than good. Al-Zubaydi himself cautions forbearance, and warns against judging the Al-Nusra Front in light of faulty models from other countries. Al-Zubaydi highlights the virtues of the Al-Nusra Front, and determines that its establishment was an Islamic-legal necessity, a vital and incontrovertible response to reality. The following are among the benefits accruing from the Front's establishment, according to Al-Zubaydi:

- Syria lacks an Islamist movement with a distinct ideology and methods. The establishment of the Al-Nusra Front was thus essential, as its Islamist ideology and Islamic-legal goals will prevent young Syrian Muslims from walking down the errant path of secularism and civil society. Moreover, the Al-Nusra Front illumines the nature and future of the conflict.
- The very establishment of the Al-Nusra Front prevents Syrians from wondering why no jihadist movement has arisen in a country whose residents are daily being slaughtered.

⁵³ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); see also a YouTube video of Al-Tartusi and activists on Syrian soil: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=MgihhPIECag (Arabic).

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

⁵⁵ <http://www.elaph.com/Web/NewsPapers/2010/8/589093.html> (Arabic).

- The Al-Nusrah Front will encourage young Muslims to gather under the banner of Islamic law; it will give them good foundations, hands-on military training, and goals worth fighting for.
- The Al-Nusrah Front is meant to prevent jihad from becoming the province of one elitist group; rather, as jihad belongs to all, the Al-Nusrah Front will enable them to fight under the banner of Islamic law.
- The Al-Nusrah Front carries out quality actions against the regime's key security, intelligence, military and financial installations.
- The Al-Nusrah Front is level-headed and cognizant of the need to receive the endorsement of the Muslim nation.
- The fight against the Syrian regime is the "dress rehearsal" for the real jihad against the Jews, which will commence after the fall of the regime, which has for years protected Israel.
- The Al-Nusrah Front understands that the Syrian people will support anyone who strives to eliminate the regime. The Front's establishment was an important tactic for proving that the people and the Front are one. The Front defends Islam, Syria, and honor, so that secular people will not reap the benefits of jihad.
- The Al-Nusrah Front knows it is time to make the transition from theory and books to practice in the field.
- Some claim that the establishment of the Al-Nusrah Front gives the West an excuse not to help the Syrian people or impose sanctions against the regime. Can the Muslim nation trust the Crusaders, who planted Israel in its midst, who imposed tyrannical rulers? The Al-Nusrah Front was established to teach the Syrian people to trust only their own God and His religion.

Sheikh Al-Zubaydi notes that the media and the regime are waging an aggressive assault against the Al-Nusrah Front, which they accuse of killing innocents. Al-Zubaydi calls on the Syrian people not to believe these lies, but rather only to trust the Front's official announcements. In closing, he exhorts Muslims to join the Front, contribute to it financially, or speak and write in its favor.



An article by Abu Al-Zahraa' Al-Zubaydi praising the virtues of the Al-Nusrah Front

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein suggested that on 1 Mahram 1434h – the first day of the new Muslim (hijri) year (which will fall on November 15, 2012) – the popular, revolutionary and jihadist camps and supporters of Islamic law declare Jerusalem the sole capital of the Islamic Caliphate. The visitor wrote that, to put this declaration into practice, institutions and personnel must gradually be moved to Jerusalem's environs. Al-Qaeda and its satellites will have to provide crushing strategic coverage, including weapons of mass destruction, to defend activities in and around Jerusalem. The visitor then suggested that by 1 Mahram 14436h – the new hijri year about two years hence (which will fall on October 25, 2014) – there will be enough forces, means and operational equipment around Jerusalem to capture and take control of the area.⁵⁶
- During the first half of May 2012, the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group Masadat Al-Mujahideen Al-Filastin [The Lion's Den in Palestine] used its media institution, Riyah, to take responsibility for two arson attacks:
 - The arson of a large Israeli military base in Ashkelon on May 8, 2012, when a significant number of army officers and explosives experts were present.⁵⁷
 - The arson of a military airplane factory in Haifa on May 10, 2012.⁵⁸
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Sinam Al-Islam posted the names and personal data of ten senior commanders in Hamas' security forces, who have abandoned the Sunnah in favor of Shiite theology. The writer promised to publish additional information about organizations and associations in the Gaza Strip that disseminate Shiite beliefs, not least in order to embarrass the Hamas leadership.⁵⁹

⁵⁶ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁵⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁹ <http://snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

- The Jordanian Salafi-jihadist portal Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad published an article by Abu Al-Mundhir Al-Shanqiti titled, "The Iron Tooth: Aiding Sheikh Abu Al-Walid". Al-Shanqiti, a member of the portal's Shura Council,⁶⁰ criticized the Hamas government for discriminating against Salafists in the Gaza Strip and for arresting Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi, leader of the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, and holding him in prison since early 2011. According to Al-Shanqiti, Al-Maqdisi's health has deteriorated since his incarceration, and action must be taken to speed his release. Al-Shanqiti called on Muslims, especially those in the Sinai Peninsula, to help free Al-Maqdisi. To this end, Al-Shanqiti recommended taking the following steps:
 - Contact ulama'a who have ties with the Muslim Brotherhood, of which Hamas is a part, and ask them to mitigate for Al-Maqdisi's release.
 - Demonstrate in front of the Muslim Brotherhood's institutions to demand Al-Maqdisi's release and protest Hamas' persecution of Salafi-jihadists.
 - If peaceful efforts do not succeed, halt all dialog.
- In a May 4th interview with the satellite television station Al-Arabiyya, Abu Muhammad Al-Tahawi, a senior Jordanian Salafi-jihadist, denied that Jordanian Salafists were involved in the fighting against Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. However, he averred that Assad had desecrated the sanctity of life and should be removed from power. Al-Tahawi also insisted that Salafi-jihadists should have the right to bear arms in Jordan.⁶¹

Egypt

- The Salafi-jihadist media outlet Al-Faroq published another video clip in a series on senior Salafi-jihadists in Tahrir Square. The present installment showed Sheikh Jalal Al-Din Abu Al-Fatuh, Sheikh Omar Rifai Surur and Sheikh Ahmad Ashri.⁶²

Africa

Somalia

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

⁶¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>;
<http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/05/04/212145.html> (both in Arabic).

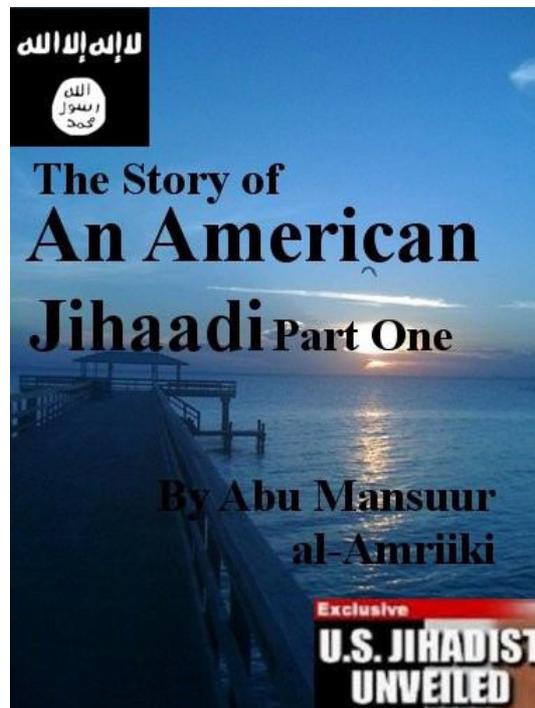
⁶² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The jihadist media outlet Shaadah, which functions under the auspices of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published its eponymous newsletter No. 8, which focuses on recent events in the Somali arena.⁶³
- Reports have been received of severe fighting in Galgudud Province between Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen and Ahl Al-Sunnah wa Jama'ah (a group composed primarily of Sufis, who are emerging as an opposition to Al-Shabab). Web surfers condemned in-fighting among Muslims, and appealed to Ahl Al-Sunnah wa Jama'ah to stop fighting Al-Shabab and to instead devote its efforts to defeating the forces occupying Somalia. Web surfers claimed that Ahl Al-Sunnah essentially represented the Somali government, and was receiving military aid from Ethiopia to fight Al-Shabab. Some added that the group's name – Ahl Al-Sunnah wa Jama'ah – was a sham, as the group does not represent the Sunnis.⁶⁴
- On May 14, 2012, an Internet user calling himself "somalimuhajirwarrior" posted the first part (127 pp.) of an autobiography in English of Sheikh Omar Hammami, aka Abu Mansur Al-Amriki, an American terrorist who joined Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen and progressed up the ladder to a senior leadership position. Abu Mansur closes the foreword to the book with the words, "still alive and in good health, Omar Hammami, Somalia".⁶⁵

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

⁶⁴ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁵ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAr2srINqks> (Arabic and English). ;
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/93732117/The-Story-of-an-American-Jihaadi> (English).



The autobiography of an American convert to radical Islam

Nigeria

- On May 1, 2012, the Nigerian group Boku Haram took responsibility for a suicide attack perpetrated on April 26th: one of its members drove a booby-trapped car into the building in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, housing the offices of *This Day*, a newspaper that the group claimed had defamed the Prophet Muhammad. Boku Haram also posted a video on YouTube from the scene of the attack. Boku Haram has been using violence since late 2009,⁶⁶ when it first clashed with Nigerian forces. The group conducted its first suicide attack on June 16, 2011, against a police station in Abuja.

The Caucasus

- The blog Kavkaz Jihad summarized the International Conference of the Caucasus, which was held on May 13, 2012 in Istanbul. The Turkish human rights organization Imkander organized the conference and hosted the many delegations and guests. The conference covered two main topics: the modern history of the northern Caucasus; and the Islamic heritage of the residents and their right to establish an independent Islamic state in the area. During the first part of the conference, representatives from Turkey, Finland,

⁶⁶ <http://hanein.info/vb/>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTMpoIruU10&feature=g-all-u> (both in Arabic).

Germany and the Caucasus lectured on the deep feeling Caucasian Muslims have for the independent nation they aspire to found. During the second part of the conference, speakers denounced Russia for mistreating the Muslim residents of the Caucasus and condemned the daily acts of cruelty there. The conference concluded with discussion of aspects of jihad and a brief ceremony honoring those who had died fighting to liberate the Caucasus.⁶⁷



A poster for the conference in Istanbul

- The Web site Kavkaz Center reported a two-pronged terrorist attack: within a short span of time, two car bombs were detonated in Shamilkal. These attacks differed from previous attacks in their nature and the number of fatalities they caused: more than 100 dead. No one took responsibility for these attacks – a seeming anomaly, given their success.⁶⁸



Fire and rescue workers respond to the attacks in Shamilkal

- The Web site Kavkaz Center reported the death of Sheikh Abu-Salaam, who came from Turkey to join jihad in the Caucasus. Abu-Salaam had taken part in local activities; prior to his death, he had led a military unit of mujahideen. Apparently, Abu-Salaam was killed during violent clashes with Russian forces

⁶⁷ <http://kavkaz-jihad.blogspot.com/2012/05/international-caucasus-congress-held-in.html> (English); the conference Web site can be accessed at <http://www.caucasiaconference.com> (Turkish).

⁶⁸ <http://www.kavkazcenter.com/russ/content/2012/05/03/90372.shtml> (Russian).

in Segokali District; however, the exact circumstances of his death are not known at this time.⁶⁹

- The Web site Kavkaz Center reported an escalation in the violence in Kizlyar District. During two days of violent fighting there, the district judge [qadi], Sheikh Muhammad Didoyskiy, was killed.⁷⁰ The Kavkaz Center Web site also boasted a video clip uploaded by the blog Kavkaz Jihad, in which Didoyskiy discusses the "commandment of jihad", which "beats in the heart of every true Muslim". Islam and jihad are one and the same, he said; one cannot be maintained without the other. Quoting from the Qur'an, Didoyskiy implored Muslims to relinquish on their material, financial and commercial goals in this life, and focus on jihad.⁷¹



Sheikh Muhammad Didoyskiy

The West and Elsewhere

- With the London Olympics imminent, a member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida found it appropriate to post a book (2003) of religious-legal rulings on the use of weapons of mass destruction against infidels, by Sheikh Nasir bin Hamad Al-Fahd, a prominent Salafi-jihadist. In May 2003, Al-Fahd issued a fatwa [Islamic legal ruling] permitting the use of weapons of mass destruction against the US. Most Web surfers were sympathetic to this post, with one exception: one contributor insisted that Islam does not sanction the killing of innocents, and urged that Islam's enemies be killed according to the strictures of shari'a [Islamic law].⁷²

⁶⁹ <http://www.kavkazcenter.com/russ/content/2012/05/12/90552.shtml> (Russian).

⁷⁰ <http://www.kavkazcenter.com/russ/content/2012/05/12/90535.shtml> (Russian).

⁷¹ <http://kavkaz-jihad.blogspot.com/2012/05/vdagestan-sheikh-muhammad-didoyskiy-ha.html> (Russian).

⁷² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- During the first half of May 2012, jihadist Web forums registered much discussion of a recent wave of demonstrations in Germany, and the tension ensuing from them between the Muslim community and Neo-Nazis who had defamed the Prophet Muhammad. Most of the posts were informative, and expressed support for Islamists in Germany. For example, a member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam calling himself Abu Osama posted a video clip titled, "The Time Has Come to Vent Our Rage [at the Violation] of Our Prophet". The video, which was highlighted by the forum's administrators, focused on a demonstration of Salafi-jihadists in Bonn, on May 5, 2012, at which Muslims protested the provocations of the radical right, e.g., defiling the Prophet Muhammad.⁷³ Similarly, a contributor to the Web forum Hanein posted photographs of Muslims in Germany demonstrating under the black-and-white banner of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Taliban. This contributor did not show that the demonstrators also waved the white Taliban flag. Another Web surfer protested that, in general, Muslims in Germany tended to favor the German mujahideen in the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), which publishes copious material in German; wouldn't it be wonderful, he opined, if Muslim demonstrators were to carry the IMU's banner! He regretted that the demonstrators seemed not to know or care what banners they carried. The contributor who had posted the photographs explained that he favors neither the Islamic State of Iraq nor the Taliban, and in fact feels it doesn't matter whose banner is raised, as long as it bears the legend of tawhid [the Oneness of God].⁷⁴

⁷³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁴ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



A demonstration of Salafi-jihadists in Bonn, Germany

- The Salafi-jihadist portal Millat Ibrahim published a lecture by Salafi-jihadist Sheikh Abu Talha Al-Almani titled, "Work for Allah and Do Not Waver". In it, Abu Talha Al-Almani discusses the discrimination and oppression against Muslims and Islam in Germany and elsewhere. He praises Muslims who use the Internet to disseminate the true and pure religion of Islam and to advocate for the mujahideen. According to Al-Almani, some ulama'a [religious scholars] focus on the trials of this world rather than defending Islam and its believers; such ulama'a, he feels, are superfluous. In closing, on behalf of his friends, Al-Almani dedicated a poem to the memory of Sheikh Osama bin Laden.⁷⁵

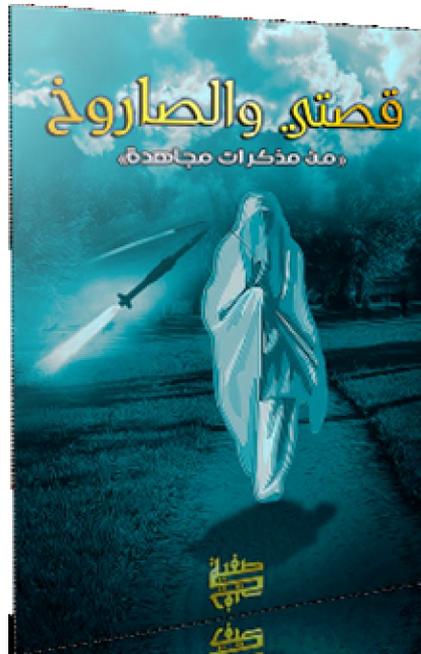
⁷⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



The video of a speech by Abu Talha Al-Almani

Women and Jihad

- A virtual workshop for women called Hafidhat Safiyyah published an article titled, "The Story of Me and the Missile: Memoirs of a Mujahedda".⁷⁶



"Memoirs of a Mujahedda"

⁷⁶ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

The One-Year Anniversary of Bin Laden's Assassination

- Dr. Hani Al-Sibai, an Egyptian lawyer who has been living in London since 1981, when he fled Egypt subsequent to his arrest in connection with jihadists, was asked how to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the death of Osama bin Laden. Al-Sibai responded that commemorating the one-year anniversary of anyone's death – including bin Laden – is an undesirable innovation not grounded in Islamic law. A Muslim who wishes to remember a man and his actions, heroism, and jihad, and to disseminate his opinions, messages and books, must do so every day of the year. Al-Sibai garnered support for his comments from Web surfers who wrote that it would be better to continue Bin Laden's work than to weep and mourn.⁷⁷
- On the one-year anniversary of Bin Laden's assassination, jihadist media outlet Al-Malahem, which functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published a series of articles titled, "In Remembrance of Usama: A Collection of His Methodological Instructions, Words and Poetry".⁷⁸



A collection of article praising Osama bin Laden

General Reports

- Web surfers responded to the publication in the US of letters found in Osama Bin Laden's home after his assassination. Visitors to the jihadist Web forum

⁷⁷ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Hanein urged caution in treating the letters as reliable, as they felt the letters' publication represented an American attempt to divide the mujahideen and the Muslims. In light of the impending US presidential elections, some Web surfers claimed that the documents had been fabricated by US intelligence, and were therefore fraudulent. Other Web surfers hoped for an official announcement by Al-Qaeda Central concerning the letters (no such announcement has been made as of this writing). Still others chided those who had posted links to the [original] documents in Arabic on forums such as Hanein, scolding that jihadist Web sites were not the place to post lies about the mujahideen. Hanein's "secretary" explained that their publication was meant to *expose* the lies about the mujahideen, not to get readers to believe them. Some Web surfers commented that the documents had in any case already been published worldwide, such that it would be unwise to ignore them; rather, they should be discussed and discredited for their mendacity (even if they contained a few grains of truth). Another Web surfer insisted that it was useful to read the documents, which provided a means of "knowing thy enemy" so as to better prepare for confrontation with him. Muslims abide by their religion, he wrote, such that neither the CIA nor anyone else can succeed in turning them away from the faith.⁷⁹

Miscellaneous

- The supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen, who calls himself Nasir Al-Din, announced that the forum had launched a new Twitter account, which will tweet news of jihad.⁸⁰
- The supervisor of the technical section of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, who calls himself Aba Abas Al-Qatari, put out a call for translators from Arabic into English to work on the translation of jihadist materials.⁸¹
- The jihadist Web forum Al-Fida published a recording of a sermon delivered on Friday, May 4, 2012, in which Sheikh Hani Al-Sibai discussed at length "the massacre of innocents by the army in Al-Abasiyya – that is, the Egyptian military's suppression of a demonstration."⁸²

⁷⁹ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁰ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF) announced that it had launched an official Web site to provide instructions on operating the computer program "Asrar Al-Mujahideen": <http://gimfmedia.com/index.php>.⁸³
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam solicited opinions from his fellow surfers about whether "the time had come for the mujahideen to learn how to fly fighter planes". The contributor cited recent, notable changes in the weapons available to the mujahideen, such as tanks appropriated from the Yemeni Army, and the opening of new horizons in the struggle against the West. The writer recommended teaching mujahideen to fly fighter planes. A forum member who is participating in the forum's online course on jihadist propaganda noted that every jihadist arena has its own characteristics and priorities. At the same time, it is incumbent on every mujaheed in every arena to become an expert in using weapons, constructing explosive devices, communications, tactics, and first aid. Only after [the mujaheed] has mastered [these], should he learn to fly a fighter jet. The contributor noted that some mujahideen are striving to generate or obtain nuclear weapons. Another forum member wrote that in order to achieve the goal [of flying planes] experts must be found who are well-versed in flying planes. Another member felt the plan should be implemented immediately, especially in Yemen and the Maghreb [Norht Africa]. He also suggested that mujahideen learn to pilot a battleship.⁸⁴
- In early May 2012, the Web forum Al-Jihad Al-Alami opened a chat room called "global jihad camp for training mujahideen for battle", which had previously been closed to the general public. The room's general supervisor and other Web surfers use it to post relevant material. Since opening to the general public, the room has hosted threads containing instruction (illustrated with photographs) on firing mortars, using GPS, creating explosive devices and suicide belts, generating poisonous gases and other noxious materials, and publishing guidebooks on military tactics such as guerilla fighting, ambushes, attacks, and reconnaissance. The room is also a place where visitors to the site can ask questions and post requests, such as for a guide to

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

⁸⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

building rockets for the mujahideen in Syria, or for instructions on joining the Free Syrian Army, or for compiling the explosives for a roadside device.⁸⁵

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam drew readers' attention to the presence of two Crusader bases from which drones are launched over Yemen, where they fire on (Muslim) residents. The first base is located in Djibouti and the second in Thumrait Province in the Sultanate of Oman. The writer posted maps and photographs of these bases.⁸⁶



A photograph of a military base from which unmanned military drones are allegedly launched into Yemen

Facebook

- On may 2, 2012, a new Facebook page was launched, called Shabakat Shumukh Al-Islam lil-Ilam. As of this writing, the page, which contains various jihadist content and news of the mujahideen, has received 2,050 "likes".⁸⁷

⁸⁵ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁷ <http://www.facebook.com/shwmkhaleslam> (Arabic).



The banner of the new Facebook page, Shumukh Al-Islam lil-Ilam