



Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Web Sites The First Half of May 2013



International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT)

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Highlights

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

- Sheikh Abu Ubaidah Yusuf al-Anabi, a senior leader of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), criticizes French military intervention in Mali and calls on the Muslim Nation to retaliate against this “new Crusade” by attacking French interests worldwide.
- Jordan’s Salafi-jihadists intensify their rhetoric against Lebanon’s Hezbollah and threaten to attack it in retaliation for fighting alongside the Assad regime in the Syrian civil war.
- Sheikh Mokhtar Ali Zubeyr, the emir of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in Somalia, urges the Somali people to thwart Ethiopian and Kenyan plans to carve Somalia into areas of influence and plunder its resources.
- Sheikh Abu Mansur al-Amriki, a contentious former member of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, responds to readers’ questions about jihad.
- *Azan*, a new jihadist magazine in English, is published by the Pakistani and Afghanistani Taliban.
- AQIM launches a new blog – “Muslim Africa” – whose aim is to exhort Muslim residents of Africa to jihad.

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New Publications

Ideology

The Importance to Jihad of Propaganda

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Fajr, a mouthpiece of Al-Qaeda's leadership, published an article titled, "Jihadist Propaganda Is Stronger Today than Yesterday".¹ The article reviews the importance of jihadist propaganda in deflecting the enemy's propaganda. It also warns jihadist Web forums and media institutions, especially those of the Islamic State of Iraq, not to cooperate with anyone who defames the mujahideen. It adds that contributors to jihadist Web forums represent themselves alone.
- Sheikh Abu Sa'ad al-Amili, a very prominent contributor to jihadist Web forums, wrote an opinion piece on the takedown of jihadist Web forums – an attempt by the enemies of Islam to interfere with jihadist propaganda. The attempt has failed, he writes, as evidenced by the renewed online activity of the forums. Moreover jihadist propaganda should be stepped up, as the forums are an additional battlefield of jihad.²

The Arab Spring in Jihadist Discourse

- A prominent contributor to jihadist Web forums who calls himself Gharib al-Ikhwan published an opinion piece on the geopolitical aftermath of the Arab Spring revolutions. According to al-Ikhwan, the region suffers from a lack of leadership, and appears to be devolving into chaos and instability. The US no longer plays the role it once did; in fact, its status has declined, such that its regional interests are not secure. Concurrently, Iran and Turkey have increased their involvement in the region. The mujahideen are turning their attention to Israel, which will thus soon face a test of its stability. Europe is embroiled in a severe economic crisis, with the euro devalued to the point that Europe cannot directly intervene in events in Syria, Yemen or Somalia, and France has decided to withdraw its military forces from Mali. These trends reflect a crisis of leadership throughout the world, and not only in the Arab world, yet one that will lead humanity to realize that Islam is the solution.³

The Anniversary of Osama bin Laden's Death

- May 2, 2013, marked the second anniversary of Osama bin Laden's death. In commemoration, Abu Hawra' al-Ansari, who maintains a popular jihadist Twitter feed,

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

² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

posted a review of “tweets” about Bin Laden by prominent jihadist commentator Sheikh Abu Sa’ad al-Amili. According to al-Amili, Bin Laden contributed much to Islam and Muslim heritage. Even though our generation is not perfect, Islam reveres anyone who, like Bin Laden, walked the true path. Even after his death, Bin Laden’s contribution is a lamp unto the living. Al-Amili clarified that, contrary to what some people think, Muslims are not loath to canonize Islamic figures, as both the living and the dead are holy to them. However, the point of remembering the death of Osama bin Laden is not only to give thanks for his actions, but also to irk and bait the enemies of Allah. When [the enemy] hears the daily pronouncements and actions of leaders [of global jihad], al-Amili opined, they are maddened, for the emirs of jihad strike fear into the hearts of their enemies, whom they target. Al-Amili explained that it is [the emirs’] obligation to ensure the continued safety and action [of the mujahideen] in the present and to train leaders for the future. Al-Amili also cited Bin Laden’s insistence on the unity of the ranks, which is more important than “striking with swords”. In this context, al-Amili exhorted jihadists to obey their commanders, to listen to their every word and whisper, soft or loud.⁴

Belief in the Unity of God [Taawheed]

- Al-Farouq, the media institution of the Egyptian Salafi-jihadist movement, published an article by Abu al-Tayyeb Ibraheem titled, “The Pearl of Tawheed is ‘There Is No God but Allah’: Allegiance (to Allah) and Rejection (of the Devil)”.⁵

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- The Al-Haqq media institution, which is affiliated with global jihad, drew the attention of Web surfers to the possibility of “printing out a pistol”. It reported that a group calling itself Defense Distribution had succeeded in creating a three-dimensional pistol using a printer. Al-Haqq noted that the possibility that terrorists might use printers to create weapons aroused the concern of the US Congress.⁶

⁴ <https://twitter.com/AbuHawra3Ansari>; <http://justpaste.it/2jc0> (both in Arabic).

⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



A video clip disseminated by Defense Distribution on how to fire a 3-D paper pistol

- The Ibn Taymiyya Media Center published the third and final installment in a series titled, "Coping with the War of Arrests – Part 3: How to Behave during Arrest and Interrogation".⁷ The guide was a response to a spate of arrests by Hamas of Salafi-jihadists in the Gaza Strip.
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen asked for help downloading a book that had appeared on the Shumukh Al-Islam Web forum. The book contained instructions for preparing chemical – and "even nuclear" – weapons, in the words of the visitor, who apparently appealed to fellow visitors to Ansar Al-Mujahideen because a name and password are required to access Shumukh Al-Islam. In addition, the visitor asked for links to information about explosives, poisons (such as nitric acid) and gun silencers. In response, some forum members began passing him links to the information he had requested. However others avoided doing so for "security reasons".⁸
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen tried to enlist other Web surfers in preparing rockets that could be guided toward a moving target with a camera, as a means of defending against air strikes and "creating a new balance of power – from the ground". One visitor to Ansar Al-Mujahideen forum praised the initiator of this project, adding that his country had been occupied because it lacked military technology. After all, he explained, the mujahideen do not have tanks or S300, SA-17 or Manpad missiles. Another contributor to the discussion referred forum visitors to Armyrecognition, a Web site devoted to "hot" topics and articles on weapons and military development which, he claimed, was a fount of useful information, for example about the arms used by French military forces in Mali. In the emphatic opinion of this visitor, if the mujahideen had SA-17 missiles, all battles would be decided in their favor. Subsequently, this same visitor hatched an idea to improve the military capability of Palestinian mujahideen: He suggested that mortars as shoulder-borne missiles be used to defend against air strikes

⁷ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

(in the absence of anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles). He also posted a link to the Web site of a company that manufactures antennas for use by the military.⁹

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen referred readers to a new channel on YouTube, which he claimed is administered by a member of the Free Syrian Army. The channel contains video clips explaining military matters. Some of the clips were uploaded to YouTube some time ago, but the channel has collated them for ease of access and viewing.¹⁰



From a new YouTube channel dealing with warfare

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The jihadist media institution Sawt Al-Islam, which functions under the auspices of the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), published a video clip titled, "Lovers of Paradise – Part 8".¹¹



The eighth installment in the video series, "Lovers of Paradise"

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published a eulogy for Abu Ayub al-Masri, a mujahid who left Egypt for Syria, where he met his death. As the eulogy indicated, al-Masri had belonged to the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Sharqiyya

⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

¹¹ <https://shamukh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

region of Egypt. When he was 16, al-Masri had tried to enter the Gaza Strip to join the Palestinian struggle against Israel, but was caught and arrested. After he was released he traveled to Sudan, in the hope that he could reach an arena of jihad from there. However, he was not successful, and he was forced to retrace his steps. Ultimately, he joined the ranks of the mujahideen fighting the regime in Syria.¹²



Abu Ayub al-Masri

- The jihadist media institution INFORM, which translates jihadist materials into multiple languages, published a Russian translation of a video clip issued by the Al-Sahab Media Center, titled, “Last Will of the Martyr Abul Abbas al-Janoobi”. The video presented the last will and testament of al-Janoobi, one of the hijackers of the airplane that crashed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.¹³



A Russian-language version of a video containing the legacy of Abul Abbas al-Janoobi

- During the first half of May 2013, two biographies were published as part of the series, “Biographies of Martyrs from East Africa”:
 1. A biography of the shahid [martyr] Hassan al-Tur al-Mughrabi (aka Abu Ibrahim). Born in Morocco, al-Mughrabi was described as having a powerful yearning for jihad. He left his family for Kenya, where he entered a training camp. When he concluded his training, he journeyed to Somalia to join the Al-Qaeda-linked Al-

¹² <https://shamukh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹³ <https://shamukh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Shabab Al-Mujahideen. He was killed by a sniper during a raid on the enemy's strongholds in Mogadishu.¹⁴



2. A biography of Saleh al-Nabhani Abu Yusef, a Kenyan who had been a senior leader of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in Somalia, and who was martyred by the Americans in 2010. Al-Nabhani was known to be responsible for overseeing two terrorist attacks against Israeli targets in Mombasa, Kenya in November 2002.¹⁵



Women in Jihad

- During the first half of May 2013, the Hanein jihadist Web forum featured a link to a video clip documenting a Salafist woman activist named Fatiha al-Mejjati, better known as Umm Adam. In the video, Umm Adam asks Moroccan King Muhammad VI to make Islamic law [shari'a] the law of the land. Umm Adam is the widow of the Islamist Karim al-Mejjati, a prominent member of the Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda. Karim al-Mejjati was killed by Saudi Arabian security forces in 2005, together with the couple's 11-year-old son.¹⁶



Umm Adam appeals to King Muhammad VI of Morocco to heed the Qur'an

¹⁴ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <http://hespress.com/societe/78610.html> (both in Arabic).

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the newest issues of its jihadist magazines in English and Urdu, which cover events in Afghanistan: Issue No. 52 for April 2013 of the English-language magazine *In Fight* (200 pp.);¹⁷ Issue No. 53 for May 2013 of the Urdu-language magazine *Nawai Afghan Jihad* (71 pp.);¹⁸ and Issue No. 14 of the Urdu-language magazine *Shariat* (52 pp.).¹⁹



Cover pages of recent issues of *Nawai Afghan Jihad*, *In Fight*, and *Shariat*

- *Azan*, a new jihadist magazine in English has been issued by the Taliban in Khurasan, a Taliban group active in Afghanistan and Pakistan.²⁰ The following are among the topics covered in this first, 80-page issue:
 1. An article promoting the revival of the caliphate, and highlighting portents that the new caliphate is nigh.
 2. An article discussing the drones used by the West to eliminate jihadists, including how to scramble their flight path and divert them from their plotted course.
 3. An article denouncing the Pakistani Army.
 4. An interview with Adnan Rasheed, a global jihadist activist who was recently released from a Pakistani prison thanks to a Taliban rescue effort. Rasheed established the "Supporters of the Prisoners" group, whose goal is to attack the Pakistani security personnel who are behind the imprisonment of jihadists.
 5. An overview of the wars in Syria and Mali.
 6. Articles denouncing democracy and nationalism.

¹⁷ <http://ansar1.info/> (English).

¹⁸ <http://nawiafghan.blogspot.co.il/> (Urdu).

¹⁹ <http://theunjustmedia.com/> (English).

²⁰ <http://www.jhuf.net/showthread.php?17892-Good-News-New-Jihadi-magazine-in-English-quot-AAZAN-quot> (English).

7. An article on the loss of Andalusia – the Moorish name for Spain – in the 15th century, and the imperative of re-conquering it.
8. The publication of an encoded means of contacting the Taliban, for the benefit of anyone interested in joining jihad.



The cover of the first issue of the new English-language jihadist magazine *Azan* (l.), and two pages from inside the magazine

- Issue No. 5 appeared of the jihadist periodical in Urdu *Ihya-E-Khilafat* (seven pages), an organ of the Pakistan-Taliban.²¹

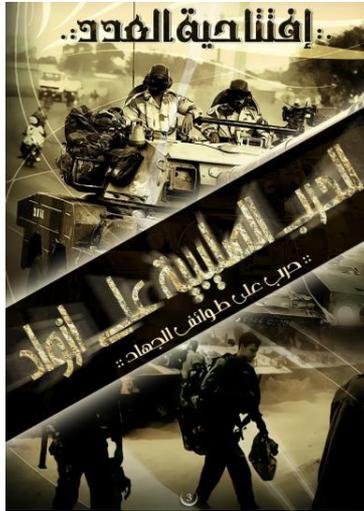


The cover of the most recent issue of *Ihya-E-Khilafat*

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<http://jhuf.net/showthread.php?17883-Ihya-E-Khilafat-May-2013-%26%231580%3B%26%231605%3B%26%231575%3B%26%231583%3B%26%231740%3B-%26%231575%3B%26%231604%3B%26%231579%3B%26%231575%3B%26%231606%3B%26%231740%3B-%26%231777%3B%26%231780%3B%26%231779%3B%26%231780%3B> (English).

- The third issue has appeared of the jihadist magazine *Fursan Al-Balagh* (59 pp.).²² This issue deals primarily with the war in northern Mali, and contains a selection of comments made by various leaders and authorities on the topic.



From an article in the latest issue of *Fursan Al-Balagh*. The heading reads, “The Crusader War against Azawad [Northern Mali]”

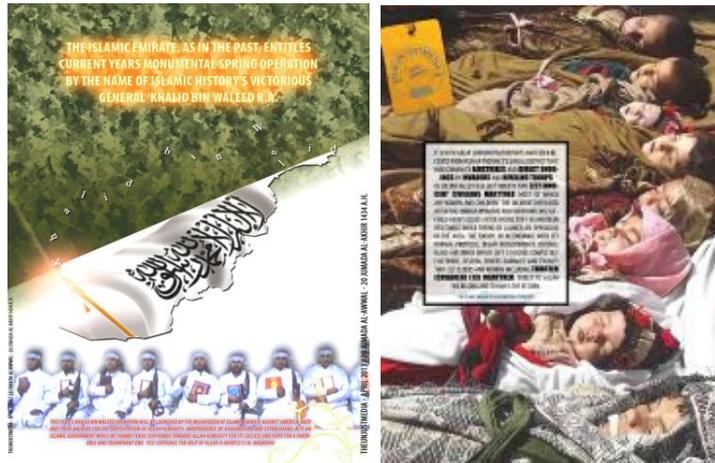
Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

- TheUnjustMedia, which is affiliated with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, published a statistical report for April 2013 (18 pp.) summarizing all of the Emirate’s activities that month, including the number of lives lost and the amount of property damage suffered by the Emirate and by its enemies, and mapping the areas and types of terrorist attacks committed. In addition, TheUnjustMedia published a four-page report about the alleged war crimes of the US, NATO and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.²³

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

²³ <http://theunjustmedia.com/> (English).



Illustrations from the reports of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, available through TheUnjustMedia Web site

- During the first half of May 2013, the Pakistan-Taliban published the following:
 1. Announcement No. 8, refuting media reports that the Taliban had embedded explosives near the home of former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf in Shazad.²⁴
 2. Announcement No. 9,²⁵ concerning elections in Pakistan slated for May 11, 2013. The announcement denounced the elections whose basis in secular democracy completely contradicted Islam, and cited two justifications for attacking Pakistani political parties: (1) their secular beliefs; and (2) their responsibility for the strife in the Khyber, Sawat, and Pakhtunkhwa tribal regions, which had caused Pashtun residents to flee the area, and led to bloodshed and the destruction of mosques. The Pakistan-Taliban announced its intention to punish all those responsible for this state of affairs.
- The Jamia Hafsa Urdu Forum and Umar Media, which functions under the auspices of the Pakistan-Taliban, published a video clip of an interview with Abu Dhar Azzam, the mufti of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. In it, Azzam spoke about jihad in Pakistan and Pakistan's democratic system.²⁶

²⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁵ <http://moqatel.net/> (Urdu).

²⁶ <http://al-fidaa.cim/vb> (Arabic).



Abu Dhar Azzam, mufti of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan

Al-Sham [The Levant]

- The Shari'a Council of Deraa, Syria, a town controlled by the Al-Nusra Front, clarified its conduct toward the enemy on the battlefield, in light of shari'a [Islamic law]. For example, it responded to the question of whether it is permissible to kill Druze. According to the Shari'a Council, the Druze are not Muslims; there is a dispute as to whether they *were* Muslims, who left the fold, or whether they have always been infidels. The Shari'a Council recommended fighting anyone who is aiding the Alawite regime. The Druze in As-Suwayda should be made to understand that it would be best for them not to take up arms – and to leave things at that.²⁷
- During the first half of May, 2013, Assad al-Jihad2, who maintains a popular jihadist Twitter feed, announced the unification of several jihadist groups in Syria "under one banner, and the motto 'There Is No God but God, and Muhammad Is His Messenger'". This motto is identical to the legend written on the banners of many Salafi-jihadist movements, including Al-Qaeda; it is also the Muslim creed [shahada]. According to Assad al-Jihad2, the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, and Ahrar Al-Sha'am were among the groups that had joined forces. Assad al-Jihad2's Twitter followers strongly supported the move. One wrote: "These words cause hearts to beat as one".²⁸



The announcement of the unification of jihadist groups in Syria

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

²⁸ <https://twitter.com/AsaAljehad2> (Arabic).

Increasingly Harsh Salafi-jihadist Rhetoric Denouncing Hezbollah

- Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah recently boasted that the organization, which is fighting alongside the Assad regime in Syria, was drawing close to the Jordanian border. In response, Jordanian Salafi-jihadist leader Sheikh Muhammad al-Shalabi (aka Abu Sayyaf) threatened Hezbollah with “hellfire”. Al-Shalabi stated that if the “evil” Nasrallah thought that the Sunnis would not avenge the murderous crimes against their brethren in Syria, he had another think coming. Moreover, al-Shalabi stated that although Nasrallah had earned a great deal of empathy because of his military achievements against the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in the 2006 Second Lebanon War, it was now clear that, as a murderer of innocent Sunnis, he was the IDF’s lackey. Al-Shalabi warned that the Jordanian Salafi-jihadists love death as much as Hezbollah loves life, and that 500 [Jordanian] Salafist mujahideen were fighting the regime of Bashar al-Assad. Moreover, despite Nasrallah’s declaration, the Jordanian government had not made any official announcement that Hezbollah was nearing the border.²⁹



Prominent Jordanian Salafi-jihadist Muhammad al-Shalabi threatens Hezbollah

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

As Egyptian authorities continue to struggle with the precarious security situation in the Sinai Peninsula, suspected militants there abducted six Egyptian security officers who were en route to Cairo.³⁰ According to Egyptian officials, the militants held the officers hostage in an attempt to secure the release of other militants imprisoned in Egypt. As Islamist rebels have proliferated in the Sinai since the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak, the identity of the kidnapers was not immediately clear.³¹ It is not uncommon for Islamists to target police stations and security forces.

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

³⁰ <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-judges-suspend-talks-president-19182127#.UZ4zDLXVBfQ> (English).

³¹ Ibid.

Egyptian forces have destroyed some of the smuggling tunnels³² that run between the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula, and have thwarted an alleged Al-Qaeda plot against Western installations in Cairo and Alexandria.³³ Three men were arrested in connection with the plot, which Egyptian officials stated had been in its final stages. One of the three suspects is believed to have been in contact with Al-Qaeda in Algeria.³⁴

- During the first half of May 2013, an anonymous, 46-page article was posted on the Ansar Al-Mujahideen jihadist Web forum concerning the Israel Defense Forces' 2012 Operation Pillar of Defense. Titled, "Diagnoses, Attitudes and Advice Following the Eight Day War on the Gaza Strip", the article claimed that the "war in the Gaza Strip" (Operation Pillar of Defense) was merely a link in the historical chain of struggle between the Muslim truth and the Jewish lie, which is supported by Christians.³⁵



The cover of a lengthy article about the IDF's Operation Pillar of Defense

- News media reported the death of Evyatar Borovsky, a resident of the settlement Yizhar and the father of five, who was stabbed by a Palestinian at Tapuah Junction in the West Bank. During the first half of May 2013, visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein commented that this was the first attack perpetrated by a lone mujahed in the West Bank, after long years [of inaction].³⁶

³²http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2013/05/egypt_claims_successes_in_oper.php (English).

³³<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-22495369> (English).

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵<http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

The Rivalry between Hamas and the Salafi-Jihadists

- During the first half of May 2013, the jihadist Web forum Hanein proposed a truce between Hamas and the Salafi-jihadist movement. Given that the Christian bloc, the Jewish bloc, the Shi'ite bloc and others with shared interests had united against the Muslims, the time had come to confront the danger together – for example in Palestine. The enmity between the Salafi-jihadists and Hamas was not benefitting either of them. The success of this proposal rested on resolution of the main disputes between the two parties, which had been exacerbated by Hamas' involvement in the Palestinian government. Today, the main dispute between the two lay in Hamas' objection to the implementation of Islamic law [shari'a]. To avoid forcing either side to make insulting and dishonorable concessions, it was proposed that both sides accept one condition: adherence to the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet.

The proposal then listed what should be done to ensure peace between the rival parties. Hamas was asked to clarify its position toward implementing shari'a, to cease hounding the Salafi-jihadists, and to create a common basis of understanding. The Salafi-jihadists were asked to relinquish their Islamic-legal approach, including rulings [fatwas] of takfir [accusing another Muslim of being an infidel] and other accusations, and to coordinate their actions with Hamas in the interests of jihad and the public. Both sides were instructed to express their regret to Allah for their past sins. Together, the Salafi-jihadists and Hamas were asked to establish an Islamic-legal council that would resolve any problems regarding the implementation of Islamic law, and a jihad council to coordinate the jihadist effort. Supporters of the two parties were asked to disseminate the spirit of the proposal internally and externally; to fight anyone who opposed Islam; and to use the media to both enlist the support of the Muslim Nation for jihad and trumpet the Word of Allah far and wide.

Most of the visitors to Hanein praised this proposed truce. One visitor stated that a third party should be chosen as a mediator; he proposed Sheikh Dr. Hakim al-Mutairi, the secretary-general of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Kuwait from 2000 to 2005. Another visitor to the forum proposed Hazem Salah Abu Ismail, an Egyptian Salafist lawyer and statesman, as mediator. However, a different visitor to Hanein berated what he called a "utopian" proposal, which would never be realized; to prove his point, he noted that 17 hours had passed since the proposal had first been posted on the forum, and not one Hamas supporter had responded to it. This same visitor denounced supporters of Hamas for drinking wine and engaging in adultery.³⁷

³⁷ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

- A post on the jihadist Web forum Hanein in early May 2013 provided additional evidence of the rift between Hamas and the followers of Salafiyya in the Gaza Strip. The writer of the post, who used the name Muhammad al-'Abdari, denounced the Hamas government for arresting, torturing and murdering Salafists; he even went so far as to call Hamas "traitorous". He noted that although Hamas had promised, as the ruling power, to implement the Word of Allah, in reality it donned the mantle of Islam, but nothing more – despite the pleading of scholars, publicists and propagandists that Hamas return to the true path. However, he then posted links to video and audio clips of prominent Islamists, some of them – such as Sheikh Ahmad Yasin and Ibrahim al-Maqadmeh – members of the Hamas leadership, who preached the implementation of Islamic law as integral to the liberation of Palestine.



From a speech by Ibrahim al-Maqadmeh, a leader of Hamas' military wing. Al-Maqadmeh states, "Implementing the laws of Allah [hudud] – is an obligation; and fighting for Allah – is an obligation..."

The writer then noted that were the Fatah government of the West Bank to be colored black, the Hamas government would be colored grey, and grey is far worse than black because it obscures the distinction between truth and falsehood. The post, which was dedicated to Salafi-jihadists martyrs, included photographs of tens of martyred mujahideen, some of them very graphic, along with the circumstances of their death.³⁸

- The jihadist media institution Ibn Taymiyya published an "important announcement" concerning the circumstances of the assassination of Palestinian jihadist Haytham al-Mushal, 29, who had previously been imprisoned by the Hamas government in the Gaza Strip. Al-Mushal was killed by sniper fire from an Israeli plane as he was shooting mortars at Eilat. According to the Ibn Taymiyya Center, al-Mushal's elimination was made possible by the security coordination between the Hamas and Israeli governments. The Ibn Taymiyya Center excoriated Hamas' behavior toward the Salafi-jihadists, and implored residents of the Gaza Strip to increase their popular protest against Hamas, to bring about the release of Salafi-jihadist prisoners.

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

The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem, of which al-Mushal was a member, stated in late April 2013 that al-Mushal had left the Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing, to join its ranks, because he did not approve of Hamas' behavior in the Gaza Strip.³⁹

The Maghreb [North Africa]

The Algerian government has stepped up its operations against the Islamist rebels who have fled Mali for Algeria, and who are moving arms from Libya to Algeria. In two recent operations, the Algerian army killed seven Islamist fighters in the mountainous Tizi Ouzou and Boumerdes Provinces⁴⁰ – believed to be the base of operation of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) leader Abelmalek Droukdel.⁴¹

Neighboring countries are also struggling with the Islamist threat. For example, the Tunisian government has launched its own offensive against Al-Qaeda affiliates in the Kasserine region. The offensive was intensified after several Tunisian soldiers were injured in roadside bombs and mine explosions.⁴² Recent arrests made in Tunisia's border areas indicate that foreign jihadists are now regrouping in the Jebal Chaambi region, near the Tunisian-Algerian border.⁴³ According to Tunisian officials, many of these mujahideen fought in Mali. Authorities also say that dozens of Islamist fighters are hiding in northern Tunisia, near the town of Al-Kef.⁴⁴ Increased Tunisian military operations around Jebal Chaambi have heightened Algeria's fears that the violence may soon spill over into its territory.⁴⁵ Some analysts warn that Tunisia could become the next base of retaliation against the French for their offensive in Mali – especially worrying during summer, which is the high season for tourism.⁴⁶

France and the War in Mali

- The Al-Andalus media institution, an organ of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published an audio file titled, "The War on Mali" by Sheikh Abu Ubaidah Yusuf al-Anabi, a

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

⁴⁰ <http://news.yahoo.com/algerian-army-kills-seven-militants-al-qaeda-stronghold-142052285.html> (English).

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/05/north-africa-algeria-tunisia-al-qaeda.html> (English).

⁴³ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/05/10/feature-03 (English).

⁴⁴ <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/jihadi-peril-makes-tunisia-19139909#.UZueILXVBfQ> (English).

⁴⁵ <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/jihadi-peril-makes-tunisia-19139909?page=2#.UZuquLXVBfQ> (English).

⁴⁶ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/05/10/feature-03 (English).

member of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb's Shura Council. Al-Anabi protested the military involvement of France in Mali, which he claimed France was trying to justify. For example, France claimed it had entered Mali to protect Malian and French citizens residing there from the strong arm of the mujahideen. But if this were true, why hadn't France gotten involved in Syria, which has a much larger French community? In any case, it was remnants of the Malian Army, and not mujahideen, who had massacred the residents of several villages in northern Mali – massacres sanctioned by France. France, wrote al-Anabi, was lying.

The real reasons for France's incursion into Mali, according to al-Anabi, were as follows: (1) Religion. France's involvement in Mali is a direct continuation of the Crusades against Islam, as reflected in the enmity felt for Islam by statesmen, liberals, socialists, moderates and extremists. (2) History. France is determined to hold on to its former colonies, Mali among them. (3) Economics. France covets the uranium deposits in Niger, and the oil and gas of Libya and Algeria. The establishment of an Islamic emirate in northern Mali jeopardizes France's strategic interests in the region. (4) Personal. The war in Mali is the most important decision in French President Francois Hollande's political career, and he is using it to distract attention from problems in France, and to garner popular support.

The new Crusader conquest of Muslim territory in Mali obligates the Muslim Nation to aid the Muslims there by attacking French interests throughout the world. President Hollande may intend to limit his war, and avoid the fate of the US in Iraq and Afghanistan; it is thus up to the Muslims to confound his plan by dragging France into an open-ended war across a great expanse of territory, thereby weakening the French economy. In this religious war, France must know that faith will overcome fighter planes, and shari'a [Islamic law] will once again rule Mali, in spite of France.⁴⁷



Sheikh Abu Ubaidah Yusuf al-Anabi

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

The Struggle of Secularists in Algeria against Islam

- Sheikh Ahmed Abu Abdul-Elah al-Jigli al-Jazaeri, a prominent member of the Al-Andalous Media Center, published an article titled, "The Algerian Regime and Violation of the Sacred". In it, al-Jazaeri complains that the Algerian media is ignoring the discrimination at a religious school in the eastern district of the capital. Al-Jazaeri relates that several girls asked the school's principal to allow the establishment of a mosque on school grounds where they could pray, but she scornfully refused. According to al-Jazaeri, her response is part of a broader trend in Algeria, in which secularists are waging an all-out war against Islam, with the blessing of the Algerian regime. Al-Jazaeri excoriated this trend, and expressed his support for the girls who wished to practice their religion.⁴⁸

A Video Clip in Support of Sheikh Nizar Trabelsi

- The Al-Bayareq Media Center, which functions under the auspices of Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia, published a video clip in support of Sheikh Nizar Trabelsi, a Tunisian terrorist who was arrested in Belgium on September 13, 2001 and has been in prison ever since. Trabelsi was convicted of planning a terrorist attack against the Kleine Brogel Belgian Air Force Base, where US soldiers are stationed. In 2011, the Belgian authorities received a request to extradite Trabelsi to the US. The video clip reviews Trabelsi's life, from his past as a soccer (football) player to his complete transformation to a devoted Islamist who fought alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan against the US-led coalition forces. The video clip includes interviews with relatives and friends of Trabelsi, who attest to his fine character. Some of them ask Ansar Al-Sharia to pressure the Belgian authorities to release Trabelsi.⁴⁹



Nizar Trabelsi

⁴⁸ <https://shamukh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁹ <https://shamukh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Mali

Although the French military operation in Mali has driven jihadists out of the country's major cities, Islamist rebels have regrouped on their outskirts. Responsibility for three recent suicide attacks against Malian and Nigerian soldiers near Gao⁵⁰ – the first sizable town to be retaken by French troops earlier this year – was claimed by Islamist rebels. According to Malian authorities, the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) was behind the attacks.⁵¹ Thus, despite French intervention, jihadists still pose a threat in Mali. In fact, some analysts believe the jihadist rebels are sending a deliberate message to Malian and African Union forces that their attacks will continue.⁵² Although France is continuing its troop withdrawal, it has reassured Mali that it will leave behind a permanent support force of 1,000 soldiers, even after Mali holds elections in July.⁵³

At the same time, AQIM has increased its presence on the Internet, where it disseminates its jihadist message far beyond the Maghreb and Sahel. A new blog urges AQIM supporters to engage in jihad, and calls on Africans to defend Muslim lands. The blog features videos of attacks against French forces in Mali.⁵⁴

Mauritania

- The jihadist media institution Al-Qabidun Ala al-Jamr, which functions under the auspices of Ansar Al-Sharia in Bilad Shinqit [Mauritania], published an audio file by Ahmed Salem Ould al-Hasan (aka Abu Ayub al-Asir), a Salafist imprisoned in Mauritania. According to al-Hasan, the fighting against France and its allies in Mali is not jihad. Al-Hasan also disavows ties to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) or any other jihadist group. At the same time, he claims not to have forsaken da'wa [missionary work] for shari'a [Islamic law].⁵⁵

Egypt

- During the first half of May 2013, Muhammad al-Zawahiri, the brother of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri and a Salafi-jihadist leader in his own right, was discussed

⁵⁰ http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2013/05/jihadist_launch_3_suicide_atta.php (English).

⁵¹ <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/05/11/jihadist-group-claims-northern-mali-suicide-attacks-tells-foreign-troops-to/> (English).

⁵² http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2013/05/jihadist_launch_3_suicide_atta.php (English).

⁵³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2013/05/201357201852923861.html> (English).

⁵⁴ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/05/10/reportage-01 (English).

⁵⁵ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

extensively by the Arab media, and particularly on jihadist forums, in light of two events. One involved al-Zawahiri's vitriolic invective against a correspondent for the Algerian daily *Al-Shorouk*, whom he claimed had omitted parts of an interview with him. The other involved comments concerning a civil constitution, imputed to al-Zawahiri, to the effect that if [the secular camp] took power in Egypt, [the Salafi-jihadists] would take up arms against them. These remarks sparked a discussion among visitors to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen, many of whom insisted that the media was deliberately and wantonly defaming Muhammad al-Zawahiri. One forum visitor noted that because the majority of Egyptians relied on newspapers for their news, it was truly difficult to convince them of the rightness of jihadist Web forums. Al-Zawahiri also did not remain silent. In response to the comments about him, he posted the transcript of the "full interview" with him on his Facebook page (which he had launched in March 2013). It appears that this was his way of highlighting the purported unreliability of the official media in general, and of *Al-Shorouk* in particular.⁵⁶

- The Al-Bayan media institution, which functions under the auspices of the Salafi-jihadist group Ansar Al-Sharia headed by Ahmad Ashush, called on its members and on Muslims everywhere to march in support of martyrs killed in Syria on May 6, 2013 in Beheira Province in Egypt.⁵⁷

Somalia

Although Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen has been driven out of Mogadishu by foreign peacekeepers, the Al-Qaeda-linked group retains the ability to attack in that city and elsewhere.⁵⁸ For example, a suicide bomber rammed a car filled with explosives into a convoy carrying Qatari officials in Mogadishu,⁵⁹ killing eight people, all believed to be bystanders, and wounding several others. Al-Shabab took responsibility for the attack, which it claimed had targeted the Somali interior minister. A recent UN report found that as many as 3,000 African Union peacekeepers have been killed fighting the Islamic insurgency in Somalia since 2007.⁶⁰

⁵⁶ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=89205>;
<http://elgornal.net/news/news.aspx?id=2413321> (both in Arabic).

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

⁵⁸ <http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/news/2013/05/11/18144309-after-decades-as-worlds-most-dangerous-place-has-somalia-turned-the-corner?lite> (English).

⁵⁹ <http://edition.cnn.com/2013/05/05/world/africa/somalia-violence/> (English).

⁶⁰ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/09/us-somalia-peacekeepers-deaths-idUSBRE94812020130509> (English).

- The Islamic World Issues Study Center, which focuses on jihad in Somalia, published the responses to Web surfers' questions about jihad of Sheikh Omar Hammami, better known as Abu Mansur al-Amriki.⁶¹

Al-Amriki, an American convert to Islam who joined Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, became embroiled in a serious dispute with the group's leadership. During the past two years, al-Amriki has posted several video clips on the Internet warning of the leaders' intention to kill him. The widening rift between al-Amriki and the leadership of Al-Shabab ultimately resulted in al-Amriki's expulsion from the group and condemnation.



A banner advertising Abu Mansur al-Amriki's responses to Web surfers' questions about jihad

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein posted a book on the site by someone anonymous who "adopted" the name of Abu Hamzeh al-Muhajir, a former leader of the Islamic State of Iraq who was assassinated in 2011. The book, which discusses the personality of Abu Mansur al-Amriki, is titled, "Turning Away from the Truth Won't Make It Disappear". In addition to tarnishing al-Amriki's character and casting doubt on his motives, commitment to jihad, and behavior, the book sheds light on the complex and contentious relationships within Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, which has suffered from an internal rift for some time.⁶²

⁶¹ <http://www.iwisc.net/vb> (Arabic).

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



The cover of "Turning Away from the Truth Won't Make It Disappear"

- During the first half of May 2013, the jihadist Web forum Hanein carried a declaration from Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen Emir Sheikh Mokhtar Ali Zubeyr in support of the implementation of shari'a [Islamic law] in Somalia, in place of the Somali constitution. Zubeyr also declared the necessity of immediately evicting the "foreign elements" who were occupying Somalia (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda), and which he claimed were raiding its resources. Further, Zubeyr urged opposition to the cruel persecution by state security forces of those who wished to live according to shari'a: arrest, torment, exile and murder. According to Zubeyr, Somalia was in a sorry state because the Somali regime had capitulated to US demands. The regime was no more than a gang of bandits who wished to rend the people from their faith, he said. Zubeyr exhorted the Muslims to learn from past experience and fight the alliances that have allowed Somalia to be occupied and divided among Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. He also asked the mujahideen to do their part to evict the infidels from Somalia and impose shari'a as the law of the land.⁶³

Nigeria

- Ansar al-Muslimin in the Land of Black Africans (Bilad al-Sudan) published an announcement stating that it had not and would not spill the blood of innocent Muslims. It claimed that the Nigerian government was trying to misrepresent the mujahideen by

⁶³ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

making false claims that they killed Muslims. The group called on Muslims everywhere to support jihad against the enemies of Islam.⁶⁴

The Caucasus

Security risks remain high in the northern Caucasus republic of Dagestan, where the Caucasus Emirate is said to be deeply entrenched. In a recent attack, an IED went off in the capital of Makhachkala, killing two high school students and injuring others.⁶⁵ Details have emerged that one of the Boston Marathon bombers – Tamerlan Tsarnaev – met with Islamist extremists when he visited Chechnya and Dagestan.⁶⁶

- The Web site Valiat Dagestan published an appeal by Abu Utman al-Migravi, emir of the mountainous region of the Caucasus, concerning the “Allah’s challenges to man”. According to al-Migravi, people can be divided into two groups: Muslims who have heeded the call of the Prophet, and infidels who have ignored this call. Just as Muhammad fought the infidels – even those who were members of his clan – these two groups would fight each other until judgment day. According to Al-Migravi, the believing Muslim who follows the Sunnah of Muhammad must face the same challenges that the Prophet faced in his day. Al-Migravi told of how some Muslims, on hearing that infidel police and military were massing to arrest them, chose to sell their honor to the infidels rather than stand and fight in the name of the faith. When infidels do battle, when they gather tens of soldiers to fight the lone Muslim, it should be clear that their one tactic is to threaten – but that their threats are empty. Although the infidels have tanks and planes and soldiers who outnumber the Muslims, the Muslims must remember that Allah can grant them victory at any moment, and that their faith is the real source of their might.⁶⁷

The Indian Subcontinent

Discourse about a Jihadist Offense against Burma

- The Twitter feed of Sheikh Abu Sa’ad al-Amili featured a stinging critique of the Burmese government’s oppression of the Muslim Rohingya who reside in Burma (Myanmar). Al-Amili warned that the Burmese regime would bear the consequences of its actions, and

⁶⁴ <http://www.snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁵ <http://www.rferl.org/content/daghestan-extortion-insurgency/24975168.html> (English).

⁶⁶ http://thelead.blogs.cnn.com/2013/05/09/russian-sources-tell-congressman-boston-suspect-met-with-two-chechen-extremists/?hpt=hp_c2 (English).

⁶⁷ <http://vdagestan.com/amir-gs-vd-abu-usman-o-polozhonii-v-gimrax-ispytaniyax-allaxa-i-neobxodimosti-proyavit-terpenie.djihad> (Russian).

would share the fate of all oppressors. Al-Amili called on Muslims everywhere to aid the Muslim Rohingya and foment a revolution that would topple the Burmese regime.⁶⁸ In this context, Shumukh Al-Islam launched a virtual jihadist workshop for creating and posting banners to raise awareness of the plight of Muslim residents of Burma.⁶⁹



A banner designed as part of a virtual campaign to aid the Muslim Rohingya of Burma

- During the first half of May 2013, the Ansar Al-Mujahideen jihadist Web featured an initiative to establish an armed front to aid the Muslims of Bangladesh, whose desire to implement shari'a [Islamic law] had exposed them to torture and murder. The Web surfer who posted the initiative added that, to the best of his knowledge, the Muslims of Bangladesh "love jihad, and their customs are like our customs". He opined that the Bangladesh-Burma border was the ideal place to establish such a front, which could then also support the Muslims in Burma. A forum visitor who joined the discussion expressed his opinion that aid to the Muslims of Bangladesh was the first priority, as the Muslims of Burma could be helped by Muslims in Malaysia and Bangladesh. He added that he hoped the initiative would soon be realized, in a manner similar to the November 2008 terrorist attack in Mumbai, in which Pakistani Al-Qaeda affiliate Lashkar-e-Taiba killed over 170 people.

In this context, also during the first half of May, a Web surfer posted an item published in the press, which reported that the calls for jihad in Burma had caused the authorities there to take a series of security steps in Yangon. Another Web surfer asked that appeals be made to Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri and other prominent leaders of global jihad such as Mullah Omar, the spiritual leader of the Taliban, to insist that jihadists commit themselves not to forsake their brethren in the world. This writer

⁶⁸ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

claimed that China, which is propelled by its interests in Muslim lands, should be pressured and targeted.⁷⁰

China

- The jihadist media institution Sawt Al-Islam, which functions under the auspices of the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), published an audio statement by Sheikh Khalid 'Abd al-Rahman al-Husaynan, a senior member of the religious council of Al-Qaeda who had previously preached in Kuwait. In it, al-Husaynan appealed to the Muslims of East Turkistan, and offered religious-legal justification for jihad against the enemies of Islam. Al-Husaynan was killed in a drone strike in December 2012.⁷¹

Iran

- During the first half of May 2013, the jihadist strategist Abdullah Ibn Muhammed issued four position papers on four different topics, which evidence the growing threat to the region posed by Iran.

1. Position Paper 1: What, if any, benefit would derive from transferring the war in Syria to Iranian territory?

In this paper, Ibn Muhammed notes that wars should ideally be fought on enemy territory, so as to create a new balance of fear. However, different countries have differing capacities to effect such a situation, depending on the value they ascribe to the lives of their citizens. Although Western countries are convenient targets of attack because they value human life, this same value causes them to spend vast sums of money on security to protect their citizens; this strengthens their internal security and reduces opportunities to attack them on their soil. One example of this is failed attempt by Al-Qaeda to bomb a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit in 2009. Subsequently, the US government invested \$40 billion in improving its airport security systems out of concern for its citizens' welfare. In the east, wrote Ibn Muhammed, countries like China and Russia do not put much stock in human life and so are not usually the target of internal terrorism, for there is no sting in it. To bolster his claim, Ibn Muhammed referred readers to the Moscow theater hostage crisis of 2002, in which Chechen terrorists invaded a theater during a performance and took more than 100 people hostage in an attempt to blackmail the Russian Federation into recognizing the Chechen

⁷⁰ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

liberation movement and withdrawing from Chechnya. The crisis ended with the death of 129 hostages and 39 terrorists – because of the hard-heartedness of the Russian regime, according to Ibn Muhammed. To further illustrate the limited value placed on human life by the regimes of the east, Ibn Muhammed cited the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, in which the regime killed several thousand Chinese citizens. He then wrote of the Russian economy, which he claimed was severely damaged by the Soviet incursion into Afghanistan in 1979. According to Ibn Muhammed, the human and financial losses incurred by the Soviets in that debacle led – even if indirectly – to the disintegration of the entire Soviet bloc. Ibn Muhammed next turned his attention to Iran, whose disregard for human life is reflected in the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988). He concluded that it is therefore preferable to support jihad in Syria than to transfer the war to Iranian territory. In comparing the war in Syria against Iran to Soviet war in Afghanistan, he prophesied that the “Shi’ite Crescent”, including Iran itself, would disintegrate just as had the Soviet Union. In other words, he predicted, Iran would fall – and also fall apart internally. This would be hastened by the call of indigenous Iranian ethnic groups such as the Baloch people.⁷²

2. Position Paper 2: The strategy of inter-ethnic (Sunni-Shi’ite) war in the Persian Gulf.

Ibn Muhammed began this paper by quoting from a French soldier’s allegedly fearful comments to his father during the First World war: “It is better not to learn the geography of Europe, because it will soon change”. This was true of the “situation in the Persian Gulf” today as well, stated Ibn Muhammed. Citing the multiple challenges that the Iranian-led Shi’ites were posing to the Sunnis in many Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain and Kuwait, Ibn Muhammed opined the Gulf states had never before faced a more serious regional threat. He therefore recommended that the Gulf states exercise caution, and draw the conflict into the Sunni-majority Arabian Peninsula, which also has areas where there is groundwater and fields that can sustain life. Although some oppose such a move lest it leave Saudi Arabia’s oil fields exposed to the Shi’ites – a justified fear, he wrote – in the final analysis it would be better to sacrifice oil than to risk annihilation. Moreover, he wrote, waging a battle on the Persian Gulf coast of Iran should be avoided, because the Persian Gulf has no natural obstructions to

⁷²<https://twitter.com/Strategyaffairs>;
https://docs.google.com/document/d/19vPzIrW5QyZctcxTEChUG8bfPr_v6NrHJ-Q9P_CGHI8/edit#
(both in Arabic).

naval traffic and also lacks sweet water and other resources essential for life. Ibn Muhammed cited the optimal type of political and military leadership to lead such a conflict, which should be independent and impervious to external pressure. If no such leader exists, he wrote, it is necessary to rely on religious scholars who have political experience. Since this would be a popular war, he opined that it should be fought with guerilla warfare, which has proven be fairly efficient, as evidenced by the Syrian revolution. Lastly, he urged the people of the Gulf to prepare themselves religiously, physically and informatively, so that they will be able to repel the Shi'ite incursion from the Arabian Peninsula.⁷³

3. Position Paper 3: Tactical preparations for war in the Persian Gulf.

In this paper, Ibn Muhammed reviewed a series of tactics that would indicate the imminence of war in the Gulf, as follows:

- An extensive, multi-country campaign to defuse mines in the waters of the Persian Gulf, as happened in the "mine war" in the Gulf in the early 1980s.
- Saudi Arabia blocking its air space and the air space of the Persian Gulf to protect its oil installations – a ritual that precedes every Gulf war, according to Ibn Muhammed.
- Iran closing the Straits of Hormuz to block the supply of oil, and laying mines in the Gulf waters to interfere with naval traffic.
- The Gulf states finding alternative ways to transport oil to circumvent the closing of the Straits of Hormuz, while the West defuses the water mines laid to interfere with naval traffic.
- Oman placing immense oil reserves in the Arabian Sea, just as it did prior to the First Gulf War in 1990.

According to Ibn Muhammed, Iran's "trump card" was to block the Straits of Hormuz. The above tactics, he wrote, should deter Iran from doing this and prepare the Gulf states for the coming challenge.⁷⁴

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<https://twitter.com/Strategyaffairs>;
<http://twitmail.com/email/1073730258/85/%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA%D9%8A%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AE%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%AC> (both in Arabic).

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<https://twitter.com/Strategyaffairs>;
<http://twitmail.com/email/1073730258/87/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%83%D8%AA%D9%8A%D9%83%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A8->

4. Position Paper 4: The future of the Iranian project in Egypt.

In this paper, Ibn Muhammed addressed the Shi'ites' promulgation of their values worldwide, and particularly in Egypt. He began by stating that any Sunni-Shi'ite alliance has always served the interests of the Shi'ites, by enabling them to infiltrate new areas. He claimed that the Shi'ites succeed in promulgating their faith when the Sunnis are distracted; this, he explained, accounts for the rise of the Shi'ites during Khomeini's revolution of the 1980s. According to Ibn Muhammed, were it not for the free press, including the Internet and television, Shi'ism might have doubled in size; thanks to the media, Sunni consciousness was raised to the growing Shi'ite threat. The Syrian conflict has also contributed to the destruction of the Shi'ite project, as it has become an unprecedented battle between Sunnism and Shi'ism, forcing the Iranian project "100 steps backward", according to Ibn Muhammed. In Egypt, he stated, the media and the Salafi-jihadists have thwarted "Shi'ization". In the analysis of Ibn Muhammed, although the Shi'ite project will not win the hearts and minds of the Egyptians, it may succeed politically, given the Muslim Brotherhood's ties to Iran. Ibn Muhammed compared the political relationship between Iran and Egypt to that between Iran and Hamas in the Gaza Strip – a comparison that, he wrote, gives rise to a fear that Egypt might become another Gaza.⁷⁵

Facebook and Twitter

- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) launched a new blog: "Muslim Africa", at <http://africamuslima.blogspot.co.il/>. According to AQIM, the blog is a response to French aggression in Mali. It will provide a platform for any Muslim who jealously guards his faith and Nation, and for any free person who wishes to oppose the tyranny and arrogance of the Crusader-Zionist West, protest the oppression of the weaker peoples, and change the existing status quo. The blog would also appeal to all Muslims on the African continent to aid the Muslim Nation in general, and their brethren in Africa in

[%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A8%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AE%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%AC](#) (both in Arabic).

⁷⁵ [twitter.com/Strategyaffairs;](#)
<http://twitmail.com/email/1073730258/91/%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A8%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1> (both in Arabic).

particular, by any and all means possible. The blog is linked to a Twitter feed (twitter.com/Africamuslima) and a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/africamuslima).⁷⁶



The banner of a new blog dealing with Muslims in Africa

- On May 3, 2013, the Islamist press agency Al-Haqq, a portal for news of global jihad, posted a photograph on its Facebook page from an international conference in Teheran on April 29-30. As the photograph shows, the conference, titled “The Ulama’ [Scholars] and the Islamic Awakening”, was attended by Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) Secretary-General Ramadan Salah. Al-Haqq lambasted Salah, and the leadership of Hamas, for attending the conference despite Iran’s role in the massacre of Sunnis in Syria. In its words: “While Iran and its ally in Lebanon – Hezbollah – are massacring the Sunnis in Syria every day, the leaders of Hamas and the PIJ, Osama Hamdan and Ramadan Salah, respectively, are enjoying a conference in Teheran, and burnishing Iran’s image...”. Respondents to this post also severely criticized Hamas and the PIJ.⁷⁷



The photograph of Ramadan Salah speaking at a conference in Teheran, which appeared on the Facebook page of Al-Haqq

⁷⁶<https://shamukh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁷<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=239841679492031>.