

## Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Forums

### The Second Half of May 2012

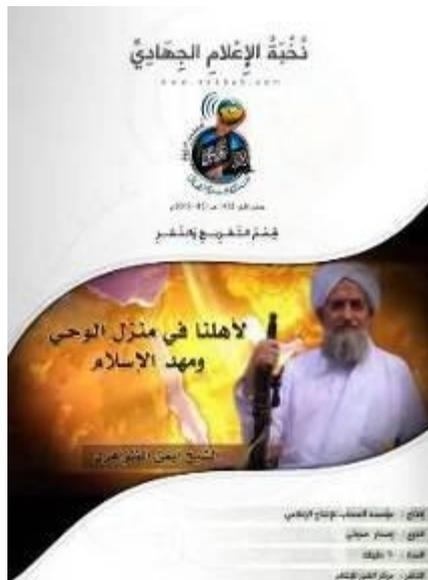
This report summarizes notable events discussed on jihadist Web forums during the second half of May 2012. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri calls on the residents of Saudi Arabia to organize mass protests to overthrow the Saudi regime.
- The Pakistani Taliban publish a video of the storming of Bannu Prison, during which nearly 400 Muslim prisoners were freed, among them Taliban involved in an attempted assassination of the former president of Pakistan.
- The Islamic State of Iraq exhorts Sunnis to realize that it is protecting their interests, while the Shiites are the real enemy, and must be fought.
- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) takes responsibility for an attack against Yemen's minister of defense and US military officers at a military base near Sana'a.
- Ansar Al-Din and the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad jointly agree to establishment an Islamic state in Azawad, northern Mali.
- A new Libyan Salafi-jihadist group, "The Imprisoned Sheikh Omar Abd Al-Rahman Brigades", publishes its first announcement.
- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan publishes the second issue of the Urdu-language magazine *Shariat*.

## New Publications

### *Ideology*

- The video clip "Lessons of Imprisonment: How to Behave with Allah" by Sheikh Abu Al-Fadhli Omar Al-Hadushi was published by the jihadist media outlet Al-Masadah. Al-Hadushi, a Moroccan Salafi-jihadist sheikh, was recently released from prison.<sup>1</sup>
- A new audio statement by Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri was published by the jihadist media institution Al-Sahab. Al-Zawahiri uses the statement, titled, "For Our People in the Dominion of Inspiration and the Cradle of Islam", to exhort the residents of Saudi Arabia to oppose and even overthrow the Saudi regime, erecting an Islamic state in its stead. Al-Zawahiri asks, "Why do you tolerate the regime of the Saud Family? It is most corrupt...Why do you not do as your brethren did in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and Al-Sham? They have demonstrated in the hundreds of thousands and sacrificed in the tens of thousands so that the tyrants would crumble before them...".<sup>2</sup>



### **Ayman Al-Zawahiri speaks to the people of Saudi Arabia**

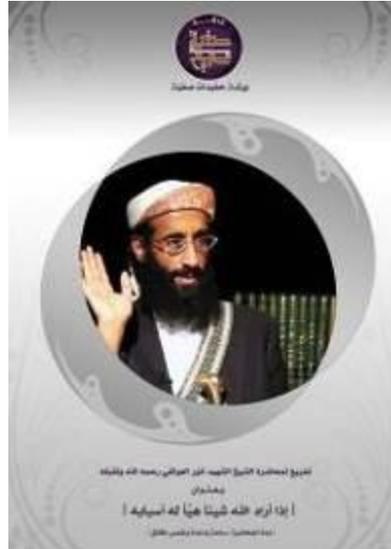
- A virtual workshop for women known as Hafidhat Al-Salafiyya published an audio statement and the text of a lecture by the late Anwar Al-Awlaki, titled, "If Allah Wants Something, He Has His Reasons".<sup>3</sup> Citing Islamic tradition, Al-

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

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

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

Awlaki insisted that Allah would soon ensure the victory of the Muslim nation over its enemies.



**A lecture by the late Anwar Al-Awlaki**

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Malahem published new installments in the audio series, "Thoughts on Purity and on Walking in the Path of the Righteous: A New Leaf" (installment No. 2),<sup>4</sup> and "The Soul between Will and Punishment" (installment No. 3).<sup>5</sup> Both are by Harith bin Ghazi Al-Nadhari, aka Muhammad Al-Murshidi, a member of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).
- Omar Hammami, an American terrorist who joined the Somali Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen and who is thought to recruit men and money for the group, called on mujahideen to declare a global Islamic caliphate. Such a step is crucial to preventing the West from sowing divisiveness among, and thereby defeating, the jihadist movements, said Hammami. He made this appeal in English, in four parts, under the heading, "In Defense of the Khilaafa: The Next Stage". The appeal was uploaded to YouTube on May 25, 2012 by someone calling himself "somalimuhajirwarrior".<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cumc46B2umc> (part 1);  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99RSrQCziEs> (part 2);  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVXaO4ARgi0&feature=relmfu> (part 3);  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HS2P1ShX2UU&feature=relmfu> (part 4) (all in English).



**Omar Hammami's plea for the establishment of a global caliphate**

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Andalus, affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published its first audio statement, titled, "Sit Down with Us and Have Faith for an Hour". The statement is part of a new series by the head of AQIM's religious-legal council, Sheikh Abu Al-Hasan Rashid Al-Bulaydi, titled, "Jihad: Between Adversity and Grants".<sup>7</sup>



**Abu Al-Hasan Rashid Al-Bulaydi**

- The Office of Shari'a and Jurisdiction of Ansar Al-Islam, a Salafi-jihadist group active in Iraq, published an announcement regarding "Sunni authority in Iraq". In it, the Ansar Al-Islam criticized the Iraqi government's attempt to pose as a "moderate" religious leadership, which will serve as the Sunni authority for the Iraqi people. According to Ansar Al-Islam, this is a deception fashioned by the Iraqi government and the US, meant to ease the functioning of the Iraqi regime. In reality, the Iraqi government fights any Sunni group that does not bow to its authority, even as it toils to strengthen the Shiites. To establish a Sunni religious authority in Iraq that will be acceptable to all, certain conditions must be met: for example, that the religious authority be independent and not subject to the state or to Iraqi nationalism.<sup>8</sup>

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

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

- The jihadist advocacy group Nukhbat Al-Ilam Al-Jihadi [The Best of Jihadist Propaganda] published a 303-page book titled, "The Political Conception of the Islamic Movement", by Sheikh Rifai Suroor. A prominent Egyptian Salafi-jihadist, Sheikh Suroor died several months ago, not long after having been released from prison thanks to the revolution in Egypt. Apparently, this was his last publication.<sup>9</sup>



A last book from the late Egyptian Salafi-jihadist Sheikh Rifai Suroor

#### Strategy

- The jihadist media institution Al-Fajr published an audio statement titled, "Examining the Goals, and How Information Is Gathered about Them".<sup>10</sup> It is the 30<sup>th</sup> installment in a series titled, "The Terrorism Industry: A Course in Security and Intelligence".<sup>11</sup>
- The jihadist media institution Al-Masadah published an analytical essay titled, "The Arab Revolutions Ring the Bell of the Cold War".<sup>12</sup> The essay, by Dr. John Boutros, addresses the varying approaches of the mujahideen and the US, respectively, to the Arab Spring. Boutros claims the US wants to exploit the Arab Spring to spread democracy and eradicate the mujahideen, while the

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

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

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

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

latter aspire to implement Islamic law [shari'a] and establish a caliphate. To reach their goal, Al-Qaeda and the mujahideen need the support of Salaf-jihadists now more than ever – especially in countries whose tyrants have been overthrown. If the West wins this ideological war and succeeds in spreading democracy in the region, the door to the mujahideen's dream of an Islamic caliphate will close.

#### *Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets*

- A video was posted on the Web site VDagestan which instructs the viewer in building a bilaj: a hut dug into the earth, usually in a forest, where mujahideen can conceal themselves and their weapons and equipment. The video is narrated by Emir Abu Muhammad of the Central Caucasus, a senior leader with close ties to Caucasus Emir Dokku-Uthman. Abu Muhammad describes construction in three stages: identifying the best spot for the bilaj; building and camouflaging the roof; and fortifying the interior.<sup>13</sup>
- A visitor to the global jihadist forum Al-Jihad Al-Alami asked for military guidebooks in Urdu on explosives and weapons.<sup>14</sup>
- A visitor to Al-Jihad Al-Alami, apparently from Iraq, asked how to booby-trap a Kalashnikov rifle – something of which he claimed to be in urgent need. The forum supervisor queried his request, to verify if he hadn't perhaps made a typographical error and instead intended to ask about "dismantling", rather than "booby-trapping", a Kalashnikov rifle. The visitor insisted that he had indeed meant "booby-trapping" the rifle so that it could be used to eliminate as many infidels as possible. The supervisor then explained in detail how to booby-trap a rifle.<sup>15</sup>

#### *Promoting the Myth of the Martyr*

- A member of the jihadist Shumukh Al-Islam posted a video clip in memory of Abu Ali Al-Ansari, a member of Fath Al-Islam from Nahr Al-Bared who escaped from prison only to be killed in Homs while fighting Syrian security forces.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>13</sup> <http://vdagestan.com/amir-abu-muxammad-kak-stroit-blindazh.htm> (Russian).

<sup>14</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>15</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

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



**Abu Ali Al-Ansari, a jihadist martyred in Homs, Syria**

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Qayrawan, which functions under the auspices of Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia, published an article by Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Tahawi in memory of Sheikh Osama bin Laden titled, "A Year since the Passing of the Noble Horseman". In it, Al-Tahawi praises Bin Laden and his path, claiming that President Obama's ostensible satisfaction with the assassination of Sheikh Osama bin Laden is artificial, and obscures the truth. He claims that Bin Laden's path was not destroyed by his death; in fact many Muslims continue to follow it. As US economic, military, and propaganda efforts are still entangled in wars in the Middle East, and as the US will continue to be vulnerable to terrorism, Obama's happiness over Bin Laden's death is both premature and unjustified.<sup>17</sup>
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masadah published an article by a mujahed named Yahya Hikmati, titled, "Memories of the Emir of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan: The Shahid [Martyr] Muhammad Tahir Faruq".<sup>18</sup>
- The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) eulogized one of its senior field commanders, Abbos Mansoor. The eulogy – a video clip titled, "What's Happening in Tribal Lands: Part 9" – was made available by IMU media affiliate Jundullah Studio. Narrated by IMU Emir Abu Usama Adil, the eulogy included a brief biography of Mansoor. Born in Kyrgyzstan, Mansoor joined the IMU in 1998 at age 19. He later became the bodyguard of previous IMU Emir Muhammad Tahir Faruq, who was killed in a drone strike in southern Waziristan in 2009.<sup>19</sup>

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

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

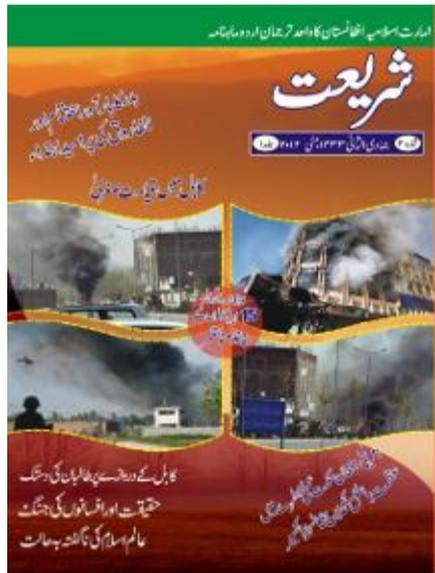
<sup>19</sup> <http://jhuf.net/showthread.php?15114-Jundullah-Studio-Presents-What-s-Happening-in-Tribal-Areas-Part-9-with-English-Subtitles> (Uzbek and Arabic, with English subtitles).



**Abbos Mansoor**

*Magazines*

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has published the second issue of its Urdu-language magazine, *Shariat*.<sup>20</sup>



**Shariat, the Urdu-language magazine of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan**

- The fourth issue has appeared of the online Salafi-jihadist magazine "Islamic Resistance to the Syrian Regime". The magazine is the brainchild of Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi, a Syrian living in exile in London.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> [http://theunjustmedia.com/Afghanistan/Statements/May12/shariat\\_2.pdf](http://theunjustmedia.com/Afghanistan/Statements/May12/shariat_2.pdf) (Urdu).

<sup>21</sup> <http://tartosi.blogspot.co.il/> (Arabic).



The cover of Al-Tartusi's online magazine

### Reports from the Field

#### *Afghanistan-Pakistan*

- The Pakistani Taliban published a video clip of the liberation of 384 prisoners from Bannu Prison in April 2012. The video covers both the planning of the raid on the prison and the actual break-in. Among the prisoners freed were 200 members of the Taliban, some of whom – like Adnan Rashid – had been involved in the attempted assassination of former Pakistani President Pervez Musharaf. In the video, Pakistani Taliban Emir Hakimullah Meshud and the group's leader in southern Waziristan, Wali Rahman Mashur, advocate war against the Pakistani regime and army.<sup>22</sup>

#### *Iraq*

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Furqan published an audio statement by the official spokesman for the Islamic State of Iraq, Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Adnani. Its title, "Only This I Ask of You", is taken from a Qur'anic verse.<sup>23</sup> Al-Adnani addresses his remarks to the Sunni members of the SAHAWAT Iraqi Awakening Councils, which oppose Al-Qaeda; to police and soldiers in the Iraqi Army; to collaborators with the Shiite government; to Sunni members of

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.jhuf.net/showthread.php?14992-Bannu-Jail-Video-leaked-by-Khyber-news-channel&p=66705>.

<sup>23</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

parliament; to respected citizens and tribal leaders; and to adversaries of the Islamic State of Iraq. He asks them to search their souls, admit that they have helped the Shiites and Crusaders against the mujahideen, and forsake their errant path. He explains that, contrary to media reports that it kills innocents, the Islamic State of Iraq never sheds blood in vain, but rather strictly hews to its goal of vanquishing the infidel. Al-Adnani insists that the Islamic State of Iraq defends the Sunnis, and has never been their enemy. The Shiites are the primary enemy of the Sunnis, followed by the Jews and Crusaders. Thanks to the Islamic State of Iraq, the Shiites have not unleashed the full force of their hatred of the Sunnis. The Sunnis must cease opposing the Islamic State of Iraq and unite against the real foe: the Shiites. The Islamic State of Iraq will not harm anyone who lays down his arms and ceases to aid the Shiites and Crusaders. Al-Adnani promises that the Islamic State of Iraq will open its gates to anyone who accepts its policy and ideology.<sup>24</sup>

- The Islamic State of Iraq published a detailed report of the 33 military actions it carried out between February 2 and April 19, 2012 in northern Baghdad.<sup>25</sup>

#### *The Arabian Peninsula*

- Given the constant US air strikes in Yemen, a visitor to the global jihadist Web forum Al-Jihad Al-Alami urged Yemen's Muslims to join Ansar Al-Sharia and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) under the leadership of Abu Basir Al-Wahishi. You have tried democracy and secularism, he wrote, and since these have come to naught, you should strive to implement Islamic law. He reassured his readers that Al-Qaeda strictly avoids harming innocent Muslims, and urged them to support it and oppose the Yemeni regime, especially former president Ali Abdullah Saleh and the soldiers currently fighting for the regime.<sup>26</sup>
- During the latter half of May 2012, the Madad Press Agency, which is affiliated with Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen, published issues No. 18,<sup>27</sup> 19,<sup>28</sup> and 20<sup>29</sup> of its eponymous news report, which covers the Yemeni arena of jihad.

<sup>24</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>25</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>26</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>27</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).


**تقرير إخباري**

صدر عن وكالة مدد الإخبارية - العشرين - جمادى الآخرة / 1433 هـ - مايو / 2012 م  
 شهادي ضد قطر الشريعة

**التصير الذي يُتخيمه ونسعى لأجله هو الخلافة الإسلامية على مناهج النبوة**

الأوجهات الفائزة بين تصير الشريعة من جانب الجيش اليمني، واللجان من جانب آخر، تراكمت معها حملة تشويه وتخطيل إعلامية كبيرة تشهقها جميع الأطراف الحاربية والتدابيرية لتصير الشريعة نداء بالمشائخ والكنايب والافتراءات عن أسباب المواجهات وحقيقة التجنن الترفيعة وينتهي بتفضيل المسلمين والرأي العام بشأن نتائج التوجهات في ساحة المعركة وهو ما جعلنا نتوجه بالسؤال عن حقيقة ما يدور في أودع إلى الإبحار أي محمد الأنصاري لصد فترات انتصار الشريعة التي أوجبها بقوله:

**لا نستطيع تطبيق الشريعة!**

ومن حقيقة ما جرى مع وله الرصدية التي تشكلت من بعض وجهاء قبائل أودع، فضلًا عن اللجان والجماعات التي تتواكب في أودع، محمد الأنصاري؛ عرضنا عن أودع شريعتنا لوقف القتال، وهي أودع الجيش من أودع وتشويق الشريعة الإسلامية بها، إلا أن اللجان والجماعات هذه الشريعة وقدر، لا نستطيع تطبيق الشريعة وهو به استنكره وقد التزمنا ذلك؛ يعني أتم لا

تقل ما يربط من سنتين فلما كان المحاصرون يبالغون عن سبيلتي لودع ومهوية ضد المدافع العسكرية التي تجاهلها أودع نظام على صلاح من أودع يوافقنا مثل اللجان يتكبرون لمدن سرية قلعت بالقبض من الجهادية ورسد حيايتهم وشركتهم لصالح أودع 1111 التراب في أودع، وعندما انطلقت الثورة في اليمن وانطلق المحاصرون للجنون عيني إيمانهم ووقف من أودع من مصالح تم الأمان بذلك رسي من ذلك اللجان بالتوصل مع



**From a recent issue of the newsletter *Madad***

- During the second half of May 2012, the jihadist media institution Al-Malahem, which functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published the following:
  - “Blessings and Support for the Mujahideen in Somalia and the Islamic Maghreb”, an audio statement by Sheikh Abu Sufyan Al-Shari, AQAP’s second-in-command.<sup>30</sup> Al-Shari congratulated the mujahideen in Somalia for having taken an oath of loyalty to Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri. He extolled the might of the mujahideen, stating: “from the borders of China to the Arabian Peninsula and from the Horn of Africa to the Islamic Maghreb they aid one another, speak with one voice, and have but one goal: that all power be in the hands of Allah”. Al-Shari predicted that the US and its allies would flee the Muslim provinces for dear life, abandoning those who had served them. He thanked the leaders of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen for helping to unite the Muslims, and lauded their victories and their fighting under the leadership of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).<sup>31</sup>
  - A video clip titled, “From the Deputy Consul of Saudi Arabia in Aden”.<sup>32</sup> Saudi Arabian Deputy Consul Abdullah Khalifah Muhammad Al-Khalidi was abducted from the consulate in Aden by AQAP in late March 2012. In this video clip, released in late May 2012, Al-Khalidi describes the

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>31</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>32</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

consulate and its various departments, including its intelligence section, which he claims is responsible for recruiting spies and collaborators, who provide the consulate with information based on their surveillance of Al-Qaeda and the mujahideen. This information is then sent to US forces in Yemen, which use it to identify targets for drone strikes. Al-Khalidi ends the clip with an appeal to the Saudi king to free him from AQAP and reunite him with his family, by releasing Muslim women prisoners and meeting AQAP's other demands.



**The deputy consul of Saudi Arabia, who was abducted from the consulate in Aden**

- During the latter half of May 2012, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) directly published the following:
  - An Islamic hymn titled, "The Dust Will Never Settle Down". The hymn appeals to the Muslim nation [ummah] to oppose Allah's adversaries in Europe and the US, who denigrate the Prophet in caricatures, making him an object of scorn.<sup>33</sup>

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



A hymn, in English, urging Muslims to oppose the West

- An announcement taking responsibility for an attack on May 20, 2012 against a group of US military officers who were instructing Yemeni naval forces in Al-Hudaydah.<sup>34</sup>
- An announcement taking responsibility for a lone wolf suicide attack in Sana'a on May 21, 2012. The terrorist, who was wearing an army uniform, infiltrated the dress rehearsal for a military march near the presidential palace. AQAP claimed that the attack had targeted the Yemeni minister of defense and US army officers, who were present at the rehearsal. AQAP also claimed that since everyone knew that the US had infiltrated Yemen, Yemen's Muslims were duty bound to attack any and all Americans. Moreover, 150 Yemeni religious scholars [ulama'] had issued a religious-legal ruling [fatwa] mandating jihad against foreign military intervention in the country.<sup>35</sup>

This attack sparked extensive debate on the jihadist Web forum Hanein. One visitor to the forum wrote that he wished the attack had been perpetrated against the Houthis, or "against the Crusaders and Zionists who throng Muslim lands". He wondered who Ansar Al-Sharia

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

were and with whom they were affiliated, and claimed that the attack was odious and merely aroused hatred of the mujahideen. The Yemeni Army is an army of Sunnis, he wrote, and should not be accused of heresy. Attacking Yemeni Army soldiers is not jihad, he stated, adding that he wanted nothing to do with such acts. Other contributors to Hanein argued with him that Ansar Al-Sharia was affiliated with AQAP and that, strange as it may seem, the Houthis had not done as much damage to the mujahideen as the Yemeni Army had. Al-Qaeda had nevertheless assassinated Bader Al-Deen Al-Houthi, founder of the so-called Houthi school of Shiism, in late 2010. Other contributors asked the first contributor whether he felt the Syrian Army was composed of infidels and should therefore be opposed. The first contributor replied that one could not compare Assad's Alawite gangs, which were attacking Sunnis, to the Yemeni Army. Sunnis had defected from Assad's army and established the Free Syrian Army. Detractors of the first contributor offered the counter-argument that the Yemeni Army is a slave of the US, and is fighting to the death against Ansar Al-Sharia and Al-Qaeda; they added that Sheikh Anwar Al-Awlaki had aligned himself with Ansar Al-Sharia. Other visitors to Hanein chastised the first contributor, writing that it would be better for him to be silent than to oppose the mujahideen and pander to the US and Yemeni and Saudi leaders. They claimed that his comments indicate he is not well-versed in events in Yemen. The first contributor rejected these claims, and again asserted his opposition to the spilling of Muslim blood. He expressed outrage that the attack had been presented by AQAP as if it had targeted the Yemeni minister of defense and US military officers, reminding his readers that the attacker had detonated himself in the midst of Yemeni soldiers, and that not one senior official had been killed. He then cast doubt on whether the announcement had really been made by AQAP. Other contributors remarked that the announcement had been disseminated by the Al-Fajr Media Center. Contributors then turned to a broader discussion of the religious-legal status of the region's armies. Some stated that all of the Arab and Islamic armies from Morocco to Bangladesh were composed of apostates [people who have left Islam to one extent or another]. They

added that some (armies) were waging an uncompromising fight against those who wish to implement the law of Allah, while others were merely obstructing the implementation of Islamic law [shari'a].<sup>36</sup>

- A denial of an item disseminated by news Web sites that Haitham Hamid Hussein Moufarrah, the suicide attacker responsible for the attack in Sana'a on May 21, 2012 (see previous item), had begun to work for a Crusader "network" in the national security system. The denial indicated that the leaders of AQAP had supervised Moufarrah's act, and added that all legitimate announcements from AQAP were published via the Al-Fajr Media Center.<sup>37</sup>



**The suicide attacker Haitham Hamid Hussein Moufarrah**

- In the wake of reports on the matter, contributors to the jihadist Webforum Hanein protested Saudi Arabia's sanction against sending donations to Syria and its investigation of fundraisers for Syria, accusing the Kingdom of duplicity. Some commented that the Saudi mufti had ruled it a religious-legal obligation to send money to the Free Syrian Army, which is not considered an agent of global jihad, but noted that the Saudi regime would not want the money to reach the jihadist Al-Nusra Front for the People of the Levant. Conversely, other contributors noted that Saudi Arabia was fearful lest the donations mistakenly fall into the hands of the hated Syrian regime. Still other contributors derided Saudi Arabia for assisting US hurricane victims while preventing the Saudi people from assisting the Muslims in Syria.<sup>38</sup>

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

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>38</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

*Al-Sham*

- During the latter half of May 2012, Al-Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant published the following:
  - Announcement No. 9 of the Al-Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant took responsibility for the May 19<sup>th</sup> suicide attack against Syrian security headquarters in Deir Al-Zour, perpetrated with a booby-trapped car. The Front claimed that no innocent civilians were harmed in the attack, and added that it had canceled several previous planned attacks because innocent civilians would have been endangered. Supervisors of the Web forums on which this announcement appeared expressed support for the Front. One forum contributor urged the Front to guard the lives of the innocent and avoid making mistakes that would disgrace the mujahideen.<sup>39</sup>
  - A video clip titled, "The Confirmation of the Promise 1".<sup>40</sup> The video showed crimes against civilians perpetrated by Syrian security forces and the Al-Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant's acts of revenge against them.



"The Confirmation of the Promise 1"

<sup>39</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- Contributors and supervisors on the global jihadist Web forum Al-Jihad Al-Alami expressed support for the Al-Nasrah Front and urged it to avenge the massacre in Houla, Syria, in which scores of innocent civilians, especially women and children, were brutally stabbed and beaten to death. They asked the Front to detonate explosives in Alawite villages.<sup>41</sup>

#### Sheikh Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi

- During the latter half of May 2012, jihadist Web forums devoted special attention to the incarceration of Sheikh Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi, leader of the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, who has been in a Hamas prison in the Gaza Strip since 2009.
  - With the proclamation "People of Tawheed [Monotheism]...On Behalf of Aid to Sheikh Abu Al-Walid",<sup>42</sup> the jihadist media outlet Ibn Taymiyyah announced the immediate start of an extensive campaign advocating the release of Sheikh Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi. The campaign, declared Ibn Taymiyyah, should include the following;
    - Spreading news of Abu Al-Walid's character and path.
    - Asking sheikhs, religious scholars [ulama'] and others to address the issue in sermons, lectures and interviews.
    - Asking persons with ties to or influence in Hamas to intervene on behalf of Sheikh Abu Al-Walid.
    - Asking authors and journalists to write about the matter.
    - Advocating the sheikh's release on all Palestinian and Arab Web sites, blogs, and forums – especially those affiliated with Hamas or the Muslim Brotherhood.
    - Raising awareness of the Sheikh's plight on television and radio.
    - Encouraging mujahideen in the Gaza Strip to disseminate materials advocating the Sheikh's release.
    - Asking surfers on jihadist Web forums to publicize the matter.
  - Similarly, Ibn Taymiyyah issued a video clip titled, "A Message to Our Brothers in Gaza and in the Hamas" by Sheikh Abd Al-Hakim Hasan,

<sup>41</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

an Egyptian Salafi-jihadist. The video is also part of the campaign to liberate Sheikh Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi.<sup>43</sup>

- o Also part of this campaign is the article, "A Few Lines on the Problem of the Imprisoned Sheikh Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi".<sup>44</sup>



|| أكبر حملة للمطالبة بالإفراج عن الشيخ أبي الوليد المقدسي ||

**A few lines about Sheikh Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi**

#### *Africa*

##### The Maghreb [North Africa]

- On the occasion of a (second) conference of Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia, prominent Egyptian Salafi-jihadist Sheikh Ahmad Ashoush, who was released from prison in 2011 with the overthrow of President Mubarak, wrote in support of that group. His missive was published by the jihadist media outlet Al-Bayareq, which is affiliated with Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia. The Sheikh extended greetings and salutations to Ansar Al-Sharia's leadership for their efforts on behalf of Islam. He called on Tunisians to join and support the group, and on the group's leaders and members to unite and cooperate.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>45</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).



A letter of greeting from Ahmad Ashoush to Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted photographs of a second conference held by of Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia.<sup>46</sup>



From the conference of Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia

- The Al-Bayareq media institution reported a show of force by Islamists at Tunis-Carthage International Airport. The photographs posted by Al-Bayareq indicate that hundreds of supporters of Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia gathered to demand that two Moroccan Salafi-jihadists sheikhs whose entry into Tunisia had been barred on May 15, now be allowed into the country.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.shamikh1info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>47</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



**Islamists demonstrate at Tunis-Carthage International Airport**

- Al-Bayareq, the media institution affiliated with Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia, published greetings and salutations from Muhammad Al-Tahawi, a prominent Jordanian Salafi-jihadist sheikh, to Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia. Al-Tahawi praised the group's efforts to implement shari'a [Islamic law] in Tunisia, and encouraged it to continue them.<sup>48</sup>
- The name of a new Salafi-jihadist group in Libya has been cited on jihadist Web forums: The Imprisoned Sheikh Omar Abd Al-Rahman Brigades. The group was mentioned in a first-ever announcement regarding Red Cross activities on Libyan soil. The announcement included the following:
  - A claim of responsibility for an attack against a Red Cross installation in Benghazi, intended as a warning against the organization's continued missionary efforts – evidenced by the distribution of copies of the New Testament to Muslim residents.
  - A demand that the Red Cross take down its flag [which bears a cross symbol], close its offices in Libya, and collect all copies of the New Testament.
  - A clarification that Libya is an Islamic nation where missionary activities and centers are not welcome.
  - A denial of involvement in an attempted attack on a Libyan factory.

<sup>48</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

It should be noted that this unknown group has yet to be authorized by any official source. Members of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam asked for additional information about the group. One contributor noted that it would be best to maintain secrecy at this stage, and continue gathering arms and proselytizing [da'wa].<sup>49</sup>



**The logo of a new Libyan Islamist group: The Imprisoned Sheikh Omar Abd Al-Rahman Brigades**

- Islamists in Tangier, Morocco, turned out in force on May 18, 2012 to protest the desecration of copies of the Qur'an at one of the country's prisons.<sup>50</sup>



**A demonstration in Tangier, Morocco, against desecration of the Qur'an**

#### Mali

- Based on news from a Mauritanian press agency, a member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam reported that Ansar Al-Din and the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad had together formulated an agreement regarding the future of the Azawad region, in northern Mali. In effect, the two groups would merge and establish an Islamic state in Azawad,

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

<sup>50</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

to be preceded by "The Transitional Council of the Islamic State of Azawad". According to the agreement, the two movements had "committed themselves to...establish and build an Islamic state in Azawad, implement shari'a [Islamic law] in all aspects of life, and follow the Revered Qur'an and the Prophetic Sunnah as did Islam's forefathers".<sup>51</sup>



**Iyad Agh Ghali, the emir of Ansar Al-Din in Mali and a candidate to head its Shura Council during the period of transition to an Islamic state in Azawad**

#### Egypt

- The jihadist media institution Al-Faroq published a statement in which Sheikh Muhammad Al-Zawahiri retracted comments he claimed had been incorrectly imputed to him in an interview with Al-Arabiyya TV News. The incorrect comments were meant solely to discredit jihadist Salafism in Egypt, he said, "as if it supported democratization". He reiterated that participation in the democratic process in Egypt, or in the elections that are part of it, is illegitimate; any other comment on the matter attributed to him has been deliberately falsified.<sup>52</sup>

Marjan Abd Al-Hakim Hasan, another Egyptian Salafi-jihadist sheikh, echoed Al-Zawahiri's words. In video clips issued by Al-Faroq, Hasan declared that elections and the democratic process were heretical and unacceptable.<sup>53</sup>

- An article by Sheikh Al-Zubayr Abu Maadh Al-Filastini titled, "Hazem Abu Ismail – A Man for Now. Is This How Democracy Treats Its Supporters!" was jointly published by jihadist media outlets Ibn Taymiyyah and Al-Faroq.<sup>54</sup> Al-Filastini noted that the disqualification of Hazem, a prominent Egyptian

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

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

<sup>53</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>54</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Salafist sheikh, from competing in Egypt's presidential elections, proved that democracy is not good for the Muslims or for Islam. Al-Filastini claimed that the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) was misleading the Egyptian people: although it ostensibly supported the democratic model, SCAF was really determined to maintain power. Even if Hazem had been elected president, SCAF – a lackey of the US – would have prevented him from implementing Islamic law [shari'a], wrote Al-Filastini.

### Somalia

- During the latter half of May, 2012, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen published the following:
  - An announcement about the construction by a charitable organization of dams over the Shabelle River, to stem the flooding of agricultural lands in the area.<sup>55</sup>



**Flooding in the vicinity of the Shabelle River, Somalia; note the banner of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen**

- Clarification of several Islamic religious-legal issues, in light of the implementation of shari'a [Islamic law] in Somalia and of the unrelenting Crusader onslaught. First, Al-Shabab explained that only Allah could make laws, as He is the supreme source of permission and sanction. Islamic law is perfect; it answers every question, is suited to every age, and is appropriate for every human being. Second, Al-Shabab iterated that those who prefer the laws of men – e.g., those who would formulate a constitution – to the laws of Allah are apostates. Those who obey man's law but disobey Allah's law are also

<sup>55</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

apostates and infidels. Al-Shabab cited the religious rulings of scholars from Somalia's Islamic regions, that legislation is in Allah's hands alone and that anyone who defies Allah's laws is an infidel and apostate. Al-Shabab recommended that Somalia's Muslims abide by Allah and His religion, reject the tyrannical regime, and defend their honor. Al-Shabab called on religious leaders to arise and proclaim the true path. Respected tribal and other leaders must guide the ummah [Muslim nation] toward the implementation of Islamic law, and struggle against the enemy. Al-Shabab exhorted merchants to contribute their money, and the intelligentsia to contribute its knowledge and experience. Lastly, Al-Shabab asked the mujahideen not to abandon their principles when facing the enemy.<sup>56</sup>

- The supervisor of the Al-Jihad Al-Alami Web forum asked visitors to the site to pray for the safety of the mujahideen in Somalia, where, he claimed, the enemy was aggressively trying to uproot Islamic law, with US and French military help. Muslim neighborhoods were being attacked and terrorized by heavy artillery fire. The mujahideen were standing strong, while the foreign forces were suffering losses.<sup>57</sup>
- The Islamic World Issues Study Center, which apparently identifies with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen and concentrates its efforts on the Somali arena of jihad, produced and published a film titled, "The Truth about American Aggression against Somalia". The film shows sites in Somalia that were allegedly attacked from the air by the US, and portrays the US as massacring Somalia's civilian population. The film also shows tribal leaders trying to unite the Somali people against foreign intervention.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>57</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

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



|| العدوان الأمريكي على الصومال ||

A film about alleged US attacks on Somalia

*The Caucasus*

- Asad Allah, the emir of the Temir-Khan-Shura region of Dagestan, in the Caucasus, called for the burning of money as part of jihad, quoting the Qur'an and Islamic traditions that sanction such an act.<sup>59</sup> He then expressed his disappointment with the residents of Dagestan, whom he feels have disavowed Islam and turned to corruption, theft, imbibing alcohol, prostitution, gambling and suicide. He reproved them for claiming that they were following the true path, despite their deeds. He explained that it was the infidel conquerors from Russia who had spread corruption and suppressed affection for the faith; this, he said, was one of the difficulties facing the mujahideen in Dagestan and the Caucasus Emirate. It is a test from Allah, he said, which would only increase persistence and dedication to the victory of Islam. In conclusion, he called on the mujahideen to act honestly and with integrity and not disobey the law of Allah. He vowed that his men would militantly fight heresy and corruption in all their forms. They would wage war against the army and the brothels and the bars where Dagestan's Muslims were wasting their time. He called the Muslims to return to the faith, lest the mujahideen impose the punishments of Allah.<sup>60</sup>

<sup>59</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>60</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



**Asad Allah, the emir of Temir-Khan-Shura, Dagestan**

- The blog Kavkaz Jihad published English translations of two video clips in Chechen, of speeches by Caucasus Emir Dokku-Uthman. The first video was published at the end of May 2012, and was intended for a Chechen audience. It contains Dokku-Uthman's affirmation of Muslim dominion over Chechnya. In it, Dokku-Uthman says that the Muslim struggle in Chechnya has been going on for 16 years, since Dudayev was declared the first president of the independent Chechen Republic of Ichkeria. Today, it was being continued by young people determined to preserve the faith of Allah. Dokku-Uthman also avers the importance of jihad, citing the daily achievements of the Muslims in their fundamental resistance against the Christians.<sup>61</sup> The second video was originally published in late April 2012, but was only translated into English at the end of May. This video contained Dokku-Uthman's appeal to all Muslims in the territories of Russia to participate in jihad in the Caucasus. In it, Dokku-Uthman defines jihad as "the cure for the region's plagues", and as the only way to stop the massacre of Muslims in the Caucasus. He reminds the Muslims that, on Judgment Day, each of them will be judged for the assistance he gave his fellow Muslims; now, he added, was the right time to provide such assistance.<sup>62</sup>
- In a new video clip, Caucasus Emir Dokku-Uthman called on Muslims in Russia and the Caucasus to join jihad against Russia and defend their Muslim brethren. He dared Russian President Putin and his cronies to try and prevent jihad, declaring that they would never succeed in ridding the Caucasus of

<sup>61</sup> <http://kavkaz-jihad.blogspot.com/2012/05/kavkaz-center-message-from-ce-amir.html> (English).

<sup>62</sup> [http://kavkaz-jihad.blogspot.com/2012/05/kavkaz-center-amir-dokku-abu-usman-ha\\_22.html](http://kavkaz-jihad.blogspot.com/2012/05/kavkaz-center-amir-dokku-abu-usman-ha_22.html) (English).

Muslims or the world of mujahideen. He then threatened to attack Russian leaders – first and foremost President Putin.<sup>63</sup>

*The West and Elsewhere*

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein reported that Qatar had recently taken a harsher tack against Al-Qaeda, Ansar Al-Sharia and Salafi-jihadists. Qatar persecuted them, claiming they were serving the US and the tyrants. The contributor exhorted forum surfers to attack Qatar's military and intelligence installations and assassinate its emir. In this way, he explained, Al-Qaeda would prove to Qatar that it had its own pure agenda – a task more important than attacking the US at this time.<sup>64</sup>

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

<sup>64</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).