

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from the Jihadist Forums

The First Half of June 2011

This report summarizes the most prominent events discussed in the Jihadi online forums in the first half of June 2011. Following are the main points covered in this report:

- The Jihadi forums advance the strategy of individual Jihad, and threaten to carry out attacks against Americans and targets in the U.S.
- Ayman Al-Zawahiri eulogizes Bin Laden and threatens to carry out a revenge attack which will be larger in scope than the 9/11 attacks.
- The "Abdullah Azzam Brigades" organization denies any connection to the attack on a UNIFIL convoy at the end of May 2011, and supports the popular uprising in Syria.
- The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan movement threatens to attack American targets in response to Bin Laden's assassination.
- The Jihadi forums publish the 61st edition of the Jihadi "Al-Somood" magazine.
- The "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement carried out an attack on the Somali Minister of Interior.
- Reports on additional Jihadi groups on the Facebook social network.

New Publications

The Jihadi forums advance the strategy of Individual Jihad – Call for the preparation of a database of targets and for the assassination of prominent figures in the United States

At the beginning of June 2011 the "As-Sahab" Jihadi media institute published a 2-part video entitled "You are Held Responsible Only for Thyself".¹ The main theme of the film is the importance of individual Jihad (see reference to the content of the film later in this report).

The film's publication influenced the debate on the Jihadi forums, which also sought to advance the individual Jihad ideology. Of particular mention is Yaman Mukhaddab, one of the senior members of the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum. On June 9th he published correspondence in which he referred to the great importance of individual Jihad, believing that this idea should be advanced and disseminated. He therefore recommends taking the following steps:

- a. Jihad supporters should gather the names of all the people who participate in the "Zionist-Crusader" war against the Muslim nation. This includes the names of company directors who support the war, of media institutes, and the names of congressmen who publicly speak against Islam. This should have an emphasis on the countries most hostile to Islam, such as the United States, England and France.
- b. All relevant information should be gathered on these people – this includes their workplace addresses, home addresses, photographs, telephone numbers, and any other information accessible on the internet.
- c. The list of names should be sent to the leaders of the Mujahideen via a representative of the Jihadi "Al-Fajr" media institute (mediated by the

¹ <http://124.217.249.19/~asansar/vb>

forum's supervisors) so that the Jihad leaders will be able to make the appropriate changes to these lists.

- d. A list of assassinations or a wanted list should be prepared, according to the individuals' importance. This should be done either in one list or in several lists.
- e. The lists should be publicized with great fanfare: "This will be similar to a nuclear bomb in terms of impact and will force the media to publicize the matter [...]". Furthermore, many of the people mentioned on these lists will be worried about their personal safety, and will have to ask their governments and security forces to protect them.

The writer stresses that "the existence of these lists will greatly facilitate the individual Mujahideen's task, who will need to rely only on himself. All he has to do is to choose the easiest target for assassination from the list, prepare a gun or even a knife, rely on Allah, and surrender to his conviction".²

In response, the surfers praised the initiative and expressed their willingness to advance it. One of the members of the "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" Jihadi forum asked the surfers to gather home addresses, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers etc., to enable the dispatch of "parcel bombs".³ The database of assassination targets is growing on a daily basis on other Jihadi forums. The list includes, amongst others, the names of reporters, U.S. Generals, heads of security companies who advise the U.S. military and government, and heads of research institutes who provide intelligence information to the U.S. government, such as the MEMRI institute.

² <https://202.149.72.130/~shamikh/vb>

³ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>

In addition, one of the members of the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum published correspondence containing threats to attack Americans. According to the surfer, the U.S. is continuing its anti-Muslim policies and has not responded to Bin Laden's demands for it to halt its support of Israel, to remove its forces from Saudi Arabia, and to stop killing Muslims worldwide. Therefore the writer suggests the following:

"We are not aiming to kill an American soldier or a civilian, this does not interest us. We will kill them only if we have to. However, our intentions are greater than this... There is a need for another kind of blow... The Muslim youth must make every effort to find ways to paralyze the American economy."

The writer continues to provide a number of guidelines on how to harm the United States:

- a. Concentrating efforts to attack dams which would create floods all over the country. This would lead to a declaration of a state of emergency, paralyze the daily routine, and harm the economy due to the work stoppage.
- b. Attacking large electricity plants, nuclear plants, and oil companies which supply fuel.
- c. Attacking the Federal Reserve Banks, financial centers, and other large banks.
- d. Attacking water distillation plants, but not poisoning them "as we have Muslim brothers who live in this country. The intention is to paralyze the country, to spread fear, but not to kill all its citizens. We must also attack all the telephone companies and stop their services."

- e. Attacking the large companies which supply technology to the US military, such as DARPA Defense and the Advanced Research Projects Agency whose main offices are in Arlington, Virginia. Also, to attack the companies which provide intelligence information to the military establishment, and the companies employing scientists and researchers who aid the U.S. government. The targets should also include the places where the large weapons manufacturers are situated, for example Maryland is the location of the headquarters of Lockheed Martin. According to the writer, he is not interested in attacking symbolic sites, only those places which will have a real impact in the field.
- f. Harming the country's stability by publishing false announcements on the presence of terrorists. Frightening those who seek to harm any of the Mujahideen by laying a sophisticated ambush, using an explosives device or a sniper, or any other means. Spreading fear amongst the population is imperative as this will paralyze the daily life, the economy, and industry.

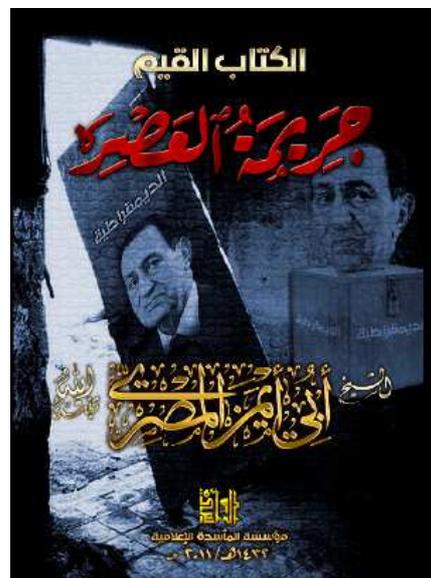
The writer concludes by sending a threatening message of defeat to American politicians and the Zionists behind them. He believes that the United States will quickly become a scorched land and will soon become aware of the damage to its interests, its companies, and military bases worldwide.

The surfers' response to this correspondence was extremely favorable. For example, one of the surfers responded that the threat is not only to the U.S. but also to the European Union. He says that the Central Asian states should be harnessed to the struggle against the European Union and the West. The original author of the correspondence replied that action must be taken first and foremost

against the United States, and not against Europe, as the U.S. is perceived to be the head of the snake. With its beheading, it will be possible to advance further.⁴

Ideology

- The "Al-Ma'asada" Jihadi media institute published a 134-page book titled "The Crime of this Era" by Sheikh Abu Ayman Al-Masri, one of the most prominent leaders and ideologists of Al Qaeda in Yemen.⁵ The book rails against the Arab regimes and the secular Muslims who do not impose the laws of Allah in their countries. To establish his claims, the writer refers to the writings of Islamic intellectuals and prominent religious clerics such as Ibn Taymiyyah, Ibn Baz, Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, Abu Al-Mundhir Al-Shanqiti, and others.

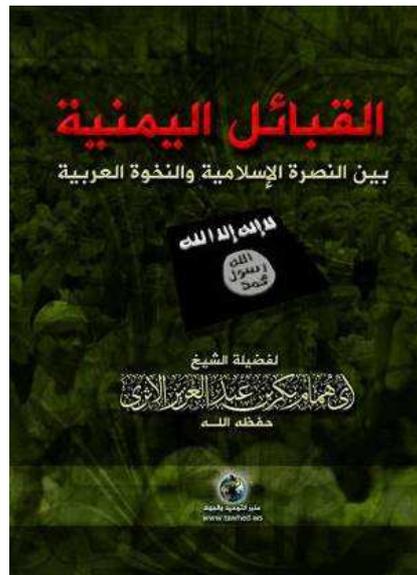


- The "Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad" website, which was set up by the Salafi ideologist Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, published an article titled "The Tribes of Yemen: Between Islamic Victory and Arab Bravery". The article is by

⁴ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

⁵ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

Sheikh Abu Humam Bakr Al-Athari, a Salafi Jihadi cleric who serves as a member of the site's Sharia committee.⁶



Strategy

- The "As-Sahab" Jihadi media institute published a video titled "And the Notable Knight Dismounts" by Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri.⁷

The 28-minute video eulogizes Bin Laden at great length, and threatens to take revenge on the Americans in an attack similar to the one perpetrated on 9/11. According to Al-Zawahiri, the United States suffered four defeats: the 9/11 terrorist attacks; the war in Afghanistan; the war in Iraq; and the popular uprisings which led to the fall of the Egyptian and Tunisian presidents.

Al-Zawahiri expressed his support for the popular uprisings in the Arab states and called upon the Syrian people to continue their struggle against the corrupt regime. Al-Zawahiri expressed his support of the Jihad against

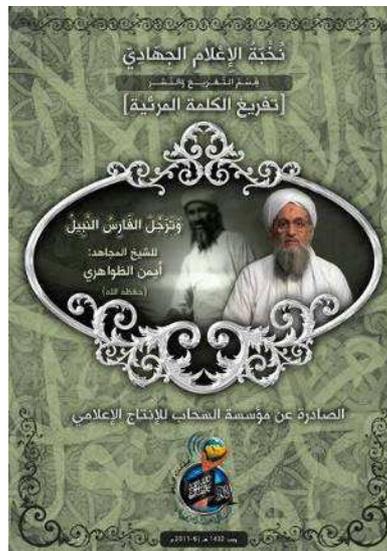
⁶ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

⁷ <http://124.217.249.19/~asansar/vb>

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Salah. With regards to Libya, Al-Zawahiri encouraged the rebels and strongly attacked Qaddafi and NATO.

Al-Zawahiri also reaffirmed his oath of loyalty to the Taliban leader, Mullah Muhammad Omar, and called upon the Pakistanis to rebel against the country's corrupt regime.

It is clear that Al-Zawahiri is trying to promote an image of himself as an organizational leader. Since the beginning of the Arab uprisings, his efforts to jump on the bandwagon and profit from the situation are also apparent. Al-Zawahiri's renewed vow of loyalty to Mullah Omar demonstrates that he is seeking consent to continue Al-Qaeda's presence and operations in the Taliban's territory in Afghanistan. This is not new - Osama bin Laden also gave a vow of loyalty to Mullah Omar earlier in 2011.



- The "As-Sahab" Jihadi media institute published a two-part video titled "You are Held Responsible Only for Thyself".⁸ The main theme throughout the entire film is the need to adhere to individual Jihad, i.e. that the

⁸ <http://124.217.249.19/~asansar/vb>

responsibility to defend Islam does not only fall on the shoulders of the Jihadi groups, but also upon every individual Muslim.

The video says that those who are unable to belong to one of the Jihadi groups must try and fulfill the individual Jihad commandment, and act against the enemies of Islam on their own. The video reminds viewers of a number of attacks carried out which were inspired by individual Jihad over the past decades. Examples given include Nosair Al-Masri who murdered Rabbi Kahane in 1990; Muhammad Bouyeri who assassinated the Dutch film director Theo Van Gogh; and Nidal Malik Hassan, who killed a number of American soldiers serving with him at an army base in Texas.

The film also includes the statements made by senior Al-Qaeda leaders such as Osama bin Laden, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, Abu Yahya Al-Libi, Adam Gadahn, Anwar Al-Awlaki and others, who justify adhering to individual Jihad and urge the faithful to carry it out.

The film shows that there is variation from state to state of those targets which should be focused on within the framework of individual Jihad. In occupied Muslim countries the targets should be the Crusaders' army bases and diplomatic institutions - such as the embassies of states hostile to Islam, "where plots are hatched and wars against Islam and the Muslims are planned."

The video urges all Muslims to make every effort to ruin the economy of Western countries and their allies by attacking their institutions and hacking into the websites of large companies and the government offices of countries hostile to Islam.



A banner of the video with the pictures of Osama bin Laden, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, Abu Yahya Al-Libi, Adam Gadahn, Anwar Al-Awlaki, Nidal Hassan, and other terrorists who carried out attacks of Individual Jihad

- One of the members of the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum, calling himself "Abu Suleiman Al-Nasser of the Global Jihad supporters", requested chemists in the Muslim world to join the ranks of the Mujahideen and to prepare poisonous gas for them, which they will then use to attack the occupational forces on Islamic lands. He published a list of easy-to-make poisonous gases and how to prepare them, including Cyanogen Chloride, Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S), and Mustard Gas.⁹

Instructional and Guidance Publications

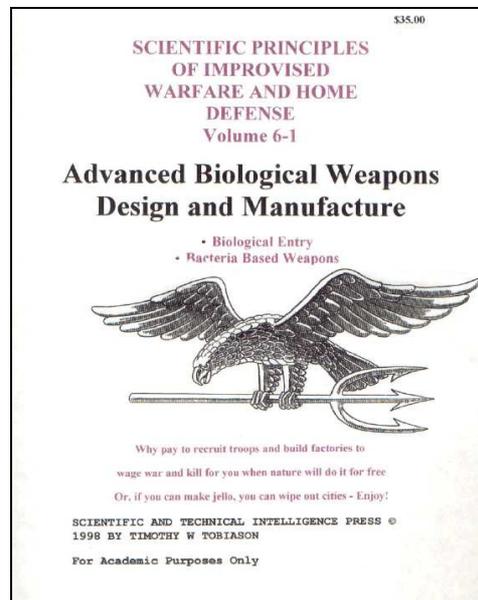
- Abu Muslim Al-Shami, one of the members of the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum, requested that members of the forum suggest ways to prepare bombs and explosives which can be used in attacks against individuals. In response the surfers made various suggestions - one of the

⁹ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

surfers suggested converting gas canisters into bombs, which he said is a method often used by the Mujahideen for car bombs.¹⁰



- One of the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum members published links to download six books in English on "The Science of Weapons, Explosives and Poison."¹¹

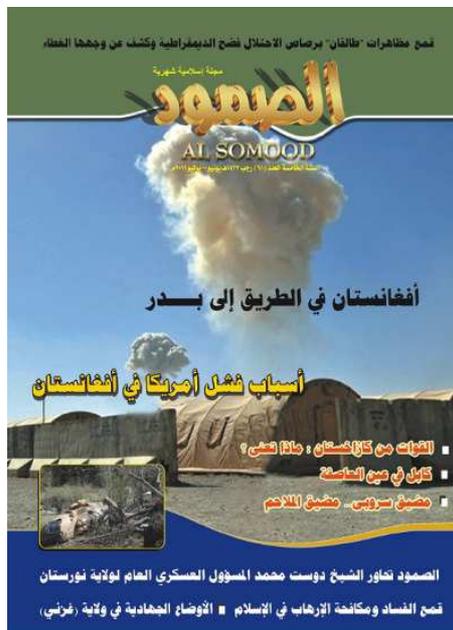


¹⁰ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

¹¹ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

Magazines

- The Jihadi forums published the 61st edition of the Taliban's "Al-Somood" Jihadi magazine for the months of June/July 2011. The issue has 62 pages and includes an interview with the military general commander of the Nuristan region, Sheikh Dost Mohammad. Amongst other things it contains an article on the reasons for the failure of the United States in Afghanistan, and a review of the attacks recently carried out in Afghanistan.¹²



- The Jihadi forums published the 30th edition of the "Al-Waqi" Jihadi magazine. The publication reported on topics pertaining to Jihad, and news stories at the top of the international agenda. The edition makes reference to Russia's support of the Palestinian national reconciliation agreement and the establishment of a Palestinian state, to the demonstrations in Jordan calling for the resignation of the government, to the explosion next to a police vehicle in Iraq, and more.¹³

¹² <https://202.149.72.130/~shamikh/vb>

¹³ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan – Pakistan

- Following Bin Laden's death, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan movement published a report on 6th June 2011, titled "The Martyrdom of Sheikh Osama and the War of Interests." The announcement, signed by the movement's emir Omar Khalid Al-Khorasani, strongly attacked the Pakistani authorities and threatened to carry out revenge attacks against American targets.¹⁴

Iraq

- The "Islamic State of Iraq" organization published a report detailing the attacks carried out against the Shiite incursion by the organization's activists in the Diyala region. The report states that a total of 38 attacks of various kinds were executed, such as roadside bombs, assassinations, shootings etc.¹⁵
- The "Islamic State of Iraq" organization published a report detailing the attacks perpetrated by their activists in Baghdad at the end of May 2011. This totaled 15 attacks.¹⁶
- The "Islamic State of Iraq" organization published reports detailing the attacks carried out by their activists in Ramadi¹⁷, Tikrit¹⁸, and in the Al-Anbar region.¹⁹

¹⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

¹⁵ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

¹⁶ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

¹⁷ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

¹⁸ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

¹⁹ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

The Arabian Peninsula

- The "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya" (Al-Mojahden Electronic Network) Jihadi forum reported that the Yemeni authorities accuse Al-Qaeda of the attempt on the life of President Ali Abdullah Saleh on June 3rd 2011.²⁰

The Al-Sham region

- At the beginning of June 2011, the "Abdullah Azzam Brigades" organization published the sixth report within the framework of the series of publications titled "And May the Path of Criminals be Shown". The organization accuses Hezbollah and Syria of attacking UNIFIL forces in Sidon at the end of May 2011. The organization also expressed its support of the popular uprising in Syria, and called upon the Lebanese to join their brothers in Syria.²¹
- On June 2nd 2011, the "Abdullah Azzam Brigades" organization published a report denying any connection to the attack carried out against a UNIFIL convoy near Sidon at the end of May 2011.²²

Africa

- The "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement published a notice claiming responsibility for the assassination of the Somali Minister of the Interior on June 10th 2011. According to the movement, the assassination was a painful blow for the infidels and the Crusaders.²³

²⁰ <http://www.majahden.com/vb>

²¹ <http://www.majahden.com/vb>

²² <http://www.majahden.com/vb>

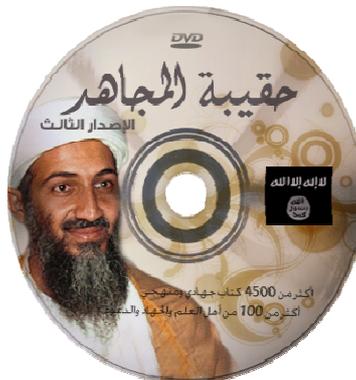
²³ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

- One of the members of the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum reported on the formation of the Islamic Police Movement in Somalia on behalf of the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen".²⁴



Miscellaneous

- One of the members of the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum published an anthology of over 4,500 books and articles on the subject of Jihad, written by more than 100 intellectuals in the field of Jihad and Da'awa. The anthology is titled: "The Mujahid's Suitcase – Part Three".²⁵ The various Jihadi forums published links to download the complete anthology.



²⁴ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

²⁵ <http://202.149.72.131/~shamikh/vb>

- The "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya" (Al-Mojahden Electronic Network) Jihadi forum reported that it can also be accessed by mobile phone.²⁶

Facebook

- The "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya" (Al-Mojahden Electronic Network) Jihadi forum reported that the Facebook social network had once again removed pages operated by the forum.²⁷
- On June 11th 2011, a page was created dedicated to a Jihadi media institute called "Muwahideen Jihadi Fighters - Furasani Media".²⁸ This page publishes Jihadi material, including information taken from Jihadi forums, particularly in Urdu.



²⁶ <http://66.96.232.214/~majahden/vb>

²⁷ <http://majahden.com/vb>

²⁸ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Furasani-Media/166837306714202>

- On June 5th 2011, a page was created on Facebook called "Ansarullah". This page identified with Al-Qaeda and occasionally published Jihadi materials, particularly in Urdu.²⁹ The group's page also has a blog with the same name.



- On May 26th 2011 a page was created called "The Publications' Archive", containing old Jihadi publications from various Jihadi institutes such as "Al-Furqan" and more. It has links to videotapes connected to Abu Mus'ab Al-Suri, audiotapes linked to Osama bin Laden, and more.³⁰



- Towards the end of April 2011, an Urdu page was opened on Facebook dedicated to the Jihadi forum "Bab Al-Islam".³¹

²⁹ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ansarullah-%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D9%87-%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AF%D9%88-%D8%A8%D9%84%D8%A7%DA%AF/213137818726398#>

³⁰ <http://www.facebook.com/archif.alisdarat>

³¹ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bab-ul-Islam-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85/209760612376773>