



Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Web Sites The First Half of June 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 June 2013. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- In a new audio statement, Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda, calls on Muslims, and especially Palestinians, to liberate Palestine from the Zionist-Israeli regime that has controlled it for 65 years.
- The Qatari satellite television station Al-Jazeera publishes a letter allegedly written by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri in an attempt to mediate between the Al-Nusra Front in Syria and the Islamic State of Iraq – feuding Al-Qaeda affiliates – following the declaration by the leader of the latter that the two were uniting. Although al-Zawahiri confirms that the two groups are still separate, the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq continues to aver that the unification is valid.
- A senior member of Al-Qaeda exhorts the Muslims in India to join global jihad against the US and its allies.
- In a recent audio statement, a Saudi Arabian deputy consul who is a captive of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) accuses the Saudi regime of collaborating with the US against the mujahideen – as evidenced, he claims, by its allowing a US air base on Saudi soil, from which drones are sent to attack Muslims in Yemen.
- The Al-Nusra Front in Syria warns the Druze in As-Suwayda not to collaborate with Hezbollah and the Shi'ites, unless they wish to feel the wrath of the mujahideen.
- The second issue appears of the Pakistan-Taliban's English-language jihadist magazine, *AZAN*.
- The Shura Council of the jihadist Web forum Snam Al-Islam mourns the death from a degenerative muscular disease of the administrator of the Global Jihad Web forum.

Table of Contentsz

New Publications	1
Ideology.....	1
Strategy.....	3
Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets.....	4
Promoting the Myth of the Martyr.....	6
Women and Jihad	7
Magazines	7
Reports from the Field	10
Afghanistan-Pakistan	10
Iraq.....	10
The Arabian Peninsula	11
Al-Sham [The Levant].....	12
The Battle for Qusayr.....	15
The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip.....	16
The Maghreb [North Africa].....	18
Mauritania.....	21
Mali	21
Egypt	22
Somalia.....	23
The Caucasus.....	23
The Indian Subcontinent.....	24
The West	25
Miscellaneous	26
Facebook and Twitter	28

New Publications

Ideology

- The Qatari media giant Al-Jazeera published an epistle by Al-Qaeda leader Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri in response to the deepening rift between the leader of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria and the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, sparked by the latter's declaration that the two groups had united as "The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant". Although al-Zawahiri praised both leaders, he noted that al-Baghdadi had erred in declaring the unification of the two Al-Qaeda affiliates without first consulting the leadership of Al-Qaeda Central. The unification was therefore frozen, he wrote, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Nusra Front would continue to function, under their original names, as two separate branches of Al-Qaeda. Al-Zawahiri added that the two leaders would remain in their posts for one year, at the end of which the Shura Council of each affiliate would decide, with the authorization of Al-Qaeda Central, whether they would continue in their posts or whether a new leader or leaders would be chosen. Al-Zawahiri further revealed that Abu Khaled al-Suri had been sent by the leadership of Al-Qaeda Central to mediate between the two groups.¹

Al-Zawahiri's letter received a cold reception from Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. On June 15, 2013, Al-Furqan, the media outlet of the Islamic State of Iraq, published an audio statement in which al-Baghdadi refused to disavow the unification of the two groups, which he stated was still in effect. He cited the late Sheikh Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, the former leader of the Islamic State of Iraq who was assassinated in 2006, for paving the way to the Islamic State. Al-Baghdadi doubted the authenticity of the letter published by Al-Jazeera. Nevertheless, he said, after reading the letter, he realized that he had two options: to disobey Allah, or to disobey the stipulations in the letter. After consulting with the Shura and Shari'a Councils of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, he had decided to cleave to the commandments of Allah, and to disregard the letter.²

This incident provides a rare glimpse of an internal dispute in the upper echelons of Al-Qaeda. For one, the deepening gulf between Al-Qaeda's branches in Iraq and Syria indicates a certain tendency of these affiliates to independence. In addition, the incident hints at some erosion of the status of Ayman al-Zawahiri, who appears not to be able to

¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/06/2013699425657882.html> (English); <http://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/710586/ayman-zawahiri.pdf> (Arabic).

² <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

of the Arab and international media toward al-Zawahiri and Al-Qaeda, whose actions are no different from those of the British toward the Africans and the Americans toward the Indians. The article claims that were al-Zawahiri an American, he would be respected and esteemed.⁵

- The jihadist media institution Al-Farouq, which functions under the auspices of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Egypt, published an article by Abu al-Tayyeb Ibrahim titled, "The Pearl of 'There Is No God But Allah' Monotheism: Politics and Economics (Part Three)".⁶

Strategy

- The jihadist media institution Al-Fajr published an audio statement titled, "The First Stage in Guerilla Warfare", by Abu Ubaydah Abdullah al-Adam, a prominent Al-Qaeda strategist who was killed in a drone strike in April, 2013. This is the 43rd installment in a series of publications titled, "The Terrorism Industry: A Course in Security and Intelligence".⁷
- During the first half of June 2013, the jihadist strategist Abdullah ibn Muhammed discussed the "red lines" for security drawn by various states and entities. For example, he claimed that the "red line" of the US is a nuclear Iran, which could cause mass destruction; the "red line" of Israel is the Mossad, which protects Israel from its hostile environment; the "red line" of Lebanon is Hezbollah, which is the only entity capable of confronting Israel militarily; and the "red line" of the Palestinians is Hamas in the Gaza Strip. In this context, Ibn Muhammed claimed that the "red line" of the Syrian revolution should be the jihadist brigades. This would afford the mujahideen freedom of action and enable them to persist. He stressed that attacking the mujahideen only benefited the regime and the superpowers, which are motivated by their own interests.⁸
- During the first half of June 2013, the jihadist strategist Abdualh ibn Muhammed discussed tactics of resistance to Israel, in light of the growing jihadist threat on Israel's border with Syria.

Ibn Muhammed first surveyed Israel's past attempts to protect its northern border, including the conquest of the Golan Heights, the infiltration into southern Lebanon, the

⁵ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁸ <https://twitter.com/Strategyaffairs>;

<http://twitmail.com/email/1073730258/31/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%B7%D9%88%D8%B7-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AB%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9> (Arabic).

failed attempt to establish a Druze state in southern Syria, and the establishment of the Southern Lebanese Army. In the absence of a stable Syrian regime, Ibn Muhammed posited that Israel would have to find a strategic solution – perhaps through the Druze or members of the [Syrian] army – as it had done in one way or another in the past. Moreover, after 40 years of calm in the Golan Heights, the Syrian revolution had begun to “bleed” into Israel, which was now concerned with designing a regime to control Syria after the military campaign.⁹

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- During the first half of June 2013, visitors to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published the following:
 - One forum visitor discussed making the explosive compound C4, and asked readers which were the best and cheapest materials for making the explosive RDX. In response, another forum visitor stated that preparing C4 was complicated; he suggested trying to make a weaker explosive, instead, and proposed sending him links to relevant online video clips.¹⁰
 - A post appeared containing general information about chemical weapons, including the physical symptoms exhibited by people who have been attacked by such weapons. In response to the post, one forum visitor denounced the use of chemical weapons, which he called “a damned Western weapon” that does not differentiate soldiers from women, the elderly and children. Another forum visitor wrote that he had recently seen a video on YouTube in which Rih Al-Sarsar, a jihadist brigade active in Syria, threatened to use chemical weapons against Alawite villages. This video clip, which appeared on the Internet in early March 2013, shows a member of this brigade testing chemical weapons on rabbits. Most disturbingly, this is not the first time Syrian rebels have been documented “testing” chemicals, in general, and on animals, in particular, in preparation for using them as a weapon against people.¹¹

⁹ <https://twitter.com/Strategyaffairs> (Arabic).

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

¹¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



From the video clip: chemicals made by the Turkish company Tekkim

- A detailed guide to preparing HDN explosives. In response, forum visitors thanked the person who uploaded this post and wished him a happy afterlife in Paradise.¹²
- A general post about biological weapons. In response to the tenor of the post, one visitor to Ansar Al-Mujahideen noted that Allah created each and every thing, including biological weapons, for the use of human beings. Other forum visitors argued that these destructive weapons were a Western, and chiefly an American, invention, and that "...it does not do us honor...or suit our faith and principles...to [even think of using] such weapons...". One Web surfer countered that not a single Islamic state has ever used such weapons. A post about nuclear weapons was similarly denounced.¹³
- A lengthy list of links to files about armaments. For example, a file about the Grad missiles used by Hezbollah was uploaded by a forum visitor who also asked other visitors to post similar files.¹⁴
- A post explaining the most effective use of anti-aircraft missiles. One forum visitor explained that additional information about countering airborne threats was available at <http://www.flightradar24.com/>, a site that also tracks planes online. He suggested that the site could be used to aid the mujahideen in Syria.¹⁵



An anti-aircraft missile and launcher

¹² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

¹⁵ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam who calls himself zaszas posted a guide to lock picking that he translated into Arabic.¹⁶



From the guidebook on picking locks uploaded to Shumukh Al-Islam

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The jihadist media institution of the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), Sawt Al-Islam, published a video clip titled, "Lovers of Paradise – Part 9".¹⁷
- A biography of the martyr Umar al-Tchadi Abu al-Abbas was published as part of the series "Martyrs of East Africa".¹⁸



In memory of an East African martyr

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam eulogized Sheikh Abu Abd al-Rahim Samer Abd al-Rahim al-Rish, a prominent member of the Syrian Salafi-jihadist group Jund Al-Sham who was shot to death on June 11, 2013.¹⁹

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

¹⁷ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

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



Abd al-Rahim al-Rish, martyred in Syria

Women and Jihad

- During the first half of June 2013, the jihadist Web forum Hanein featured a video clip of a Saudi Arabian woman exhorting her sisters in the Arabian Peninsula – and indeed in the entire Muslim Nation – to join jihad in Syria. “Where are the Muslims?...Come to the aid of the Levant!”, she cried. Forum visitors responded by taunting that the Muslim Nation must have been unmanned if it needed a woman to praise jihad.²⁰



A woman speaks in praise of jihad

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published new issues of its magazines in Arabic, English and Urdu: Issue No. 85 for June-July 2013 of *Al-Somod*, in Arabic (56 pp.),²¹ Issue No. 53 for May 2013 of the English-language magazine *In Fight* (222 pp.),²² and

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

²¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²² <http://ansar1.info> (English).

Issue No. 54 for June 2013 of *Nawai Afghan Jihad*, in Urdu (71 pp.),²³ all of which cover jihad in Afghanistan.



The covers of, from left to right, *Al-Somud*, *In Fight*, and *Nawai Afghan Jihad*

- The second issue of the new English-language jihadist magazine *AZAN* (51 pp.) was published by the Pakistan-Taliban.²⁴ It included the following:
 - A letter by Muhammad 'Atta, one of the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, apparently written the night before the attacks.
 - An article praising the double bombing at the Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013.
 - An article in praise of suicide attacks.
 - Articles denouncing US policy toward the world's Muslims.
 - An article discussing the need to oppose journalists who antagonize Islam or publish lies about the mujahideen.

²³ <http://nawaiafghan.blogspot.co.il> (Urdu).

²⁴ <http://jhuf.net/showthread.php?18126-NEW-Release-Issue-2-of-Magazine-quot-AZAN-quot-from-Khurasan&p=84001> (English).



The cover of Issue No. 2 of AZAN (l.) and a page from inside the magazine (r.)

- Issue No. 46 for May 2013 of the jihadist magazine Al-Waka'i, which is devoted to the implementation of shari'a and the importance of Andalusia [Spain] to the Muslim Nation.²⁵



Al-Waka'i, Issue No. 46

²⁵ <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

- The Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published an audio-visual clip in Hindi titled, "Message to the Muslims of India: Why Is There Not a Storm In Your River?", in which Maulana Aasim Umar, a prominent member of Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, exhorts India's Muslims to join global jihad against the US and its allies, contain corruption and heresy in the world, and establish an Islamic caliphate.
- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan recently stated that it would never harm civilians or medical and charitable institutions, and denied any involvement in a May 29, 2013 attack on the Red Cross in Jalalabad in which 17 people were killed. The jihadist Web forum Snam Al-Islam responded that several lessons could be learned from this statement: (1) civilians and charitable institutions are not to be attacked under any circumstances; (2) the mujahideen must immediately indicate whether or not they were responsible for a given attack; (3) fairness, transparency and clarity are paramount, and mistakes should be promptly admitted.²⁶
- The leadership of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan described a May 29, 2013 attack for which it was responsible against the Ministry of the Interior in the heart of Panjshir in Afghanistan. The attack was reportedly carried out in cooperation with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.²⁷

Iraq

- The jihadist media institution Al-'Itisam, which is a platform for the publications of the Islamic State of Iraq, published a video clip titled, "They Are Not Harmed by Those Who Deceive Them". The video clip showcases terrorist attacks by the Islamic State of Iraq against a variety of local targets.²⁸
- Al-Ansar, a Salafi-jihadist group active in Iraq with close ties to the Islamic State of Iraq, an Al-Qaeda affiliate, published an Arabic-language video documenting its history, titled, "Al-Ansar: The Global Perspective and Path".²⁹
- During the first half of June, the jihadist Web forums 'Ushak Al-Hiwar Al-Islamiyyah and Shumukh Al-Islam featured a 15-page pamphlet titled, "Peace and Respect for the Islamic State". The pamphlet contains photographs, articles and hymns of praise by and for Salafi-jihadists, including odes to jihad and the mujahideen, and exhortations to

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

²⁷ <http://as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁸ <https://shamukh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

establish a shari'a-based Islamic state (no specific location for this state was cited). The pamphlet heaps praise on Al-Qaeda in Iraq, better known as the Islamic State of Iraq, which had grown from a small group to a mass movement.³⁰



"Peace and Respect for the Islamic State"

The Arabian Peninsula

- During the first half of June 2013, the jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published the following:
 - An audio statement titled, "A Message to the American People", in which prominent AQAP leader Sheikh Qassem al-Rimi insists that the war against the US has not flagged despite the assassination of Osama bin Laden. A transcript of the audio statement was also published in late May in Issue No. 11 of the influential English-language jihadist magazine *Inspire*.³¹
 - The second part of a videotaped interview with the Saudi Arabian Deputy-Consul in Yemen, Abdallah al-Khalidi, who was abducted in Aden and has since been held captive by AQAP. Al-Khalidi reports that an American drone base in Saudi Arabia is the launching pad for attacks on the mujahideen in Yemen, one of which killed Anwar al-Awlaki, an American of Yemenite origin and prominent AQAP leader who violently opposed the US. According to Deputy-Consul al-Khalidi, the Saudi regime allows the base to function because it wishes to thwart attempts to establish a regime based on shari'a. In fact, he claims, the Saudi regime is afraid that the Arab Spring, and specifically the rise to power of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Tunisia will affect Saudi Arabia. He notes that the US is trying to strengthen its ties to the Saudi regime to protect its supply of oil; to this end, the US exploits Saudi Arabia's reputation as the guardian of the sites sacred to Islam.

³⁰ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb> (Arabic).

³¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Conversely, Saudi Arabia benefits from American support, and therefore capitulates to American demands and protects American interests.³²

The content of this videotape is notably unlike that of previous videotapes, in which the deputy-consul pleased with Saudi authorities to secure his release from captivity by meeting AQAP's demands. His requests have so far gone answered. It is possible that in response, the deputy-consul has turned to accusing the Saudi regime of being a US puppet and collaborating with the US in assassinating Muslims in Yemen. He may even have joined AQAP.

- The first half of June 2013 marked the one-year-and-one-month anniversary of the withdrawal of Ansar Al-Sharia and AQAP from Abyan Province in Yemen. In commemoration, the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published a position paper which praised Ansar Al-Sharia for maintaining order in Abyan, which it ruled according to shari'a [Islamic law]. Furthermore, under the rule of Ansar Al-Sharia, the residents of Abyan lived a tranquil life. Since the group's withdrawal and the retaking of the province by the Yemeni government, the province has suffered from increasing crime and violence. Moreover, residents fear local committee members who are purportedly immoral, consuming drugs and alcohol, and who allegedly maintain torture chambers where they "take care of" residents whom they suspect of involvement in terrorism. One visitor to the forum commented that the Yemeni government has done nothing to fight theft, which has increased since the withdrawal of Ansar Al-Sharia from Abyan. He criticized the denigration of mujahideen in general, and of the mujahideen in Yemen in particular for participating in jihad. The visitor's comments exude a strong sense of the absurd: In effect, he asks how it is possible that those accused of being criminals (Ansar Al-Sharia) were actually law-abiding, while those thought to be law-abiding (the public councils and the Yemen government) are actually criminals.³³

Al-Sham [The Levant]

- During the first half of June 2013, the Al-Nusra Front published Announcement Nos. 301-298 taking responsibility for attacks on Syrian security forces.³⁴
- During the first half of June 2013, the Military Council of the Al-Nusra Front in Deraa published the following:
 - A message to the Druze of As-Suwayda, whom Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah had purportedly asked to help fight the Syrian regime. The Al-Nusra

³² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³³ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁴ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

Front warned the Druze of As-Suwayda not to collaborate with the Shi'ites and Hezbollah, lest the mujahideen wage jihad against them.³⁵

- A pocket pamphlet of religious-legal justifications for implementing shari'a.³⁶
- During the first half of June, the jihadist Web forum 'Ushak Al-Hiwar Al-Islamiyyah published a letter by Al-Gharib al-Muhajir al-Qahtani, who oversees matters of Islamic law for the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria. Al-Qahtani commented on the severe disagreement between the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State of Iraq – both of them offshoots of Al-Qaeda Central – which ultimately led to the uncharacteristic intervention of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri (May 23, 2013). Al-Qahtani regretted that the rift in the ranks of the Muslims was being exploited to harm the mujahideen. Such behavior was redolent of the behavior of certain infidels: the Shi'ites.³⁷
- The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Syria published a message to Russia: Since the Russian government continues to support Bashar al-Assad and help him spill Muslim blood, all Russian interests are a legitimate target.³⁸
- The Qatari satellite television station Al-Jazeera conducted an interview with Hassan Aboud, the commander of the Salafi-jihadist umbrella organization Ahrar Al-Sham. Aboud denied the interviewer's implication that Ahrar Al-Sham had ties to Al-Qaeda, and asserted that he had no ties to any party, group or movement. However, he did not deny that Ahrar Al-Sham cooperated with other jihadist groups militarily. He added that the mujahideen of Al-Qaeda in Syria – that is, the Al-Nusra Front – were fighting with the utmost bravery. According to Aboud that Syria would not fall except to the Muslims, who held out hope of seeing the Muslim Nation united. Aboud called Israel an "aggressive enemy".

In response to the interview, which was posted on the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen, one visitor noted that "Syria would only be ruled by Islamic law".³⁹



³⁵ https://twitter.com/bent_elkhatib/statuses/340948000731983872 (Arabic).

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

³⁷ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb>; <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>; (all in Arabic).

³⁸ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

Hassan Aboud, commander of Ahrar Al-Sham

- During the first half of June 2013, a visitor to the forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen asked whether it was proper for someone who was going to fight jihad in Syria to bring along a laptop, mobile phone and special clothes. Forum visitors responded with suggestions, including that he avoid telling anyone who he was – especially not his real name. They advised him to read the Islamic sources on jihad, and avoid sharing his decision to fight in Syria with anyone, lest he be suspected of being a spy.⁴⁰
- The Shari'a Council of the jihadist Web forum Snam Al-Islam declared that Hezbollah's interests were fair game, since Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah supports the slaughter of Syrian citizens by the Syrian regime.⁴¹
- Recent attempts by the Assad regime to retake Aleppo, in northwestern Syria, roused a visitor to the Al-Jihad Al-Alami Web forum to post military advice to the rebels in Aleppo. For example, he advised that they should dig trenches where mujahideen could take shelter from airborne bombs; prepare booby-trapped cars and mine the main thoroughfares leading to the areas under their control; place snipers on the front lines to defend against a Syrian Army-Hezbollah incursion; and try to move the fighting to areas under government control.⁴²
- A correspondent for Aleppo News related that Hezbollah and Syrian regime forces in Aleppo had sustained a severe blow on June 13, 2013, when their attempt to attack rebel strongholds in the city, including the international airport, failed. Despite their use of airplanes and helicopters, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant had halted their advance, and left tens of Hezbollah and regime soldiers dead. One rebel fighter said that the soldiers of Assad and Hezbollah screamed Shi'ite slogans, like "Praise to Hussain" (The son of Ali, son-in-law and nephew of the Prophet Muhammad, who is revered by the Shi'ites). He also claimed to have identified men from Lebanon and Iraq among the soldiers.⁴³
- The administrator of the jihadist Web forum Al-Minbar relied on a publication of the Islamist portal Mufakarat Al-Islam, according to which the Free Syrian Army had brought down more than 260 regime airplanes and helicopters since the beginning of the Syrian revolution in 2011. The site also reported that, on June 13, 2013, the Free Syrian Army

⁴⁰ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁴² <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴³ <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

had assassinated the commander of Assad's forces in Deraa, Yassin Muhammad Ayub Wikaf.⁴⁴

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen uploaded a video clip in which the Wahhabist religious scholar and senior member of the Saudi education system Sheikh Abdallah ibn Muhammad al-Ghunaiman issued a fatwa [Islamic-legal ruling] instructing believers to fight jihad in Syria physically, with monetary support, and by supplying weapons. Al-Ghunaiman stressed that jihad in Syria is a top priority because it is directed against "infidels who do not recognize Islam".⁴⁵



Sheikh Abdallah ibn Muhammad al-Ghunaiman

The Battle for Qusayr

- On June 5, 2013, a battle raged between the rebels and Syrian regime and Hezbollah forces in Qusayr. In this context, a prominent member of the jihadist Web forum Snam Al-Islam published an article detailing the specific and cumulative damage to Hezbollah in Qusayr: a large number of Hezbollah dead, relative to a battle for such a small city; the failure of Hezbollah's battle plan – that is, Hezbollah would have lost the battle were it not for the Syrian Army; increased hostility, even loathing, toward Hezbollah in the Arab world; the restlessness of Hezbollah members, who do not understand why their comrades are being killed in a war that has nothing to do with them; and the slow seeping of fighting between Hezbollah and the Syrian [Sunni] opposition into Baalbek, Hermel and Dahieh in Lebanon.⁴⁶

⁴⁴

[http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb](http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb;);
<http://www.islammemo.cc/akhbar/arab/2013/06/13/174104.html> (both in Arabic).

⁴⁵ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁶ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

The power vacuum in the Sinai Peninsula continues to leave Egyptian security forces prey to attack by jihadist gunmen.⁴⁷ Egypt has tried to crack down on the growing jihadist presence in the Sinai, which is composed in part of militant Palestinians enraged at the Hamas regime in the Gaza Strip.⁴⁸ In fact, jihadists in the Sinai are thought to be coordinating attacks with Gaza-based Salafists, creating a "trans-national network of Salafist jihadism" that jeopardizes the region's stability.⁴⁹

- In early June 2013, the Monitoring Committee of the Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center accused Hamas government security forces of kidnapping the Salafist preacher Hussein al-Jouaytani from the Tel Al-Hawa neighborhood of Gaza City. According to the Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center, this was only one in a series of aggressive acts against Salafists in the Gaza Strip, whom Hamas allegedly arrests for no reason. The Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center warned Hamas' internal security services not to persist in making such arrests.⁵⁰
- A visitor to the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Web forum published a position paper titled, "Advice to Jihadist Groups in Palestine", which recommended exchanging international efforts to liberate Palestine for actual jihad. The paper denigrated secular values like nationalism and democracy, which have so far failed to resolve the problem of Palestine, and which have proven ineffective against current attempts to thwart "the resistance". In this context, the writer took a jab at the Hamas government, which he presented as relinquishing its staunch stand on Palestine under international pressure. For example, once Hamas had insisted on the liberation of all Palestinian land, and now it was willing to compromise on a return to the 1967 borders. The writer pined for a true leader to come and liberate Palestine "from the defilement and contamination of the Jews, sons of pigs and monkeys" – a distinctly anti-Semitic epithet.⁵¹
- An item in the media stated that 900 Israeli tourists had recently crossed into the Sinai Peninsula via Taba on vacation. Visitors to the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Web forum responded with threats to attack the Israeli tourists. One of them even declared, "Khaybar, Khaybar – O Jews, the Army of Muhammad will return!". According to Muslim

⁴⁷ http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/gunmen-attack-security-checkpoint-in-sinai-1.1532933#.UbyCW_nVBfQ (English).

⁴⁸ <http://www.worldtribune.com/2013/06/10/egypt-blame-hamas-palestinians-for-violence-in-sinai/> (English).

⁴⁹ <http://carnegieendowment.org/sada/2013/06/04/salafi-choice/q89I> (English).

⁵⁰ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

tradition, Khaybar was an oasis near Medina (ancient Yathrib) inhabited by Jews, who were slaughtered by the army of the Prophet Muhammad in the 7th Century CE.⁵²

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Snam Al-Islam posted an article about the difficulty of disseminating Salafism among the Palestinians. He claimed that individual da'wa [proselytizing] was insufficient, except over the Internet; that the Salafists isolated themselves from society; and that the Salafists took a negative stand toward other Palestinian factions.⁵³ The forum's administrator praised the visitor for this post.
- A visitor to the Web forum Snam Al-Islam published a compendium of advice to jihadist groups in Palestine. According to the article, many Palestinian groups had raised the banner of nationalism but had failed; this was especially true of the Palestine Liberation Front, which had begun as a militia but had been moderated by Western pressure. Hamas had also abandoned its ideology and principles; though it had "joined the international democratic swamp", the West was pressuring it to become even more moderate. These failures had delayed the liberation of Palestine and caused the public to lose faith in the mujahideen. The article exhorted Palestinian Salafi-jihadist groups to learn from the experience of other groups, to remain united, and to remember that only jihad – not international agreements and decisions – would liberate Palestine and the prisoners.⁵⁴ One forum visitor seconded these comments and urged the leaders of jihad to avoid the mistakes of the past.
- The Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center, which focuses on the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist movement in the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula, issued a document expressing Salafist criticisms of Hamas, among them that the group had abandoned jihad in favor of becoming a quasi-political organization. The new generation [of Hamas leaders] was preventing other resistance groups from acting, and was teaching the youth to hate the Salafists, so that they would not join the Salafists' ranks. The document compares Hamas to Hezbollah, and states that both have relinquished armed struggle for political involvement. According to the document, Hamas first became involved in politics when it won the 2006 parliamentary elections. This fomented an ideological division among the Palestinian organizations, which led Hamas members in the Gaza Strip to forsake shari'a [Islamic law] and persecute the mujahideen. The document then describes the tension between Hamas, which was allegedly trying to thwart jihad, and the Salafist leaders who wish to promote it, and states that Hamas has scuttled the mujahideen's plans. In fact, according to the document, Hamas has become so weakened that Fatah has succeeded in

⁵² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵³ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁴ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

dismantling a cell of the Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam Brigades (Hamas' military wing), and both the Jews and Hamas have succeeded in arresting jihadists. According to the document, Hezbollah has done the same thing in Lebanon. After the Second Lebanon War of 2006, which Hezbollah won (according to the Arab perspective) and which the document claims marked a turning point in Israel-Hezbollah relations, both sides were forced to obey UN Decision 1701 ordering a cease-fire. Ever since, Hezbollah has blocked military actions against the Jews from its territory. Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, whom the document calls the "leader of the Resistance", debases and threatens the mujahideen not to open fire on "Occupied Palestine".

The comparison of Hamas to Hezbollah also included the following:

- After its 2006 victory against Israel, Hezbollah had turned its weapons inward, on Lebanon, instead of fighting the Zionist enemy. Hamas was doing the same thing.
 - Both organizations were guarding the border with "Occupied Palestine" and thwarting any attempt to transfer weapons.
 - Both Hezbollah and Hamas threatened anyone who tried to attack the Jews, which interfered with their agenda – which was hence suspect.
 - The Jews were infiltrating Lebanese airspace, and Hezbollah was not lifting a finger to stop them. The Jews were also constantly disregarding the hudna [cease-fire], and Hamas was not lifting a finger to stop them.⁵⁵
- The general administrator of the jihadist Web forum Al-Minbar quoted the tweets of Sheikh Abu Sa'ad al-'Amili, a prominent Salafi-jihadist contributor to Web forums, regarding Hamas' oppression of Salafi-jihadists in the Gaza Strip, which includes the incarceration of mujahideen and collaboration with Israel.⁵⁶

The Maghreb [North Africa]

Recent attacks in North Africa indicate that armed mujahideen fleeing French forces in northern Mali have found refuge in southern Libya and the mountainous Jebel Chaambi region between Algeria and Tunisia,⁵⁷ where they are regrouping and rebuilding their ranks.⁵⁸ In response, Algeria has established a military zone along its border with Tunisia, to stem the infiltration of arms and Al-Qaeda-linked militants from Mali;⁵⁹ recently, the

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

⁵⁶ <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/06/07/reportage-01 (English).

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/788047.shtml#.UbwmcfnVBfQ> (English).

*Algerian Army killed five mujahideen from the Movement for Oneness and Jihad (MUJAO) who were trying to enter the country from Mali.*⁶⁰

*In Niger, twin suicide bombings killed at least 20 people last month; the Nigerien president blamed Al-Qaeda operatives in Libya for the attack, and warned that the entire Sahel was at risk of destabilization.*⁶¹ *Government efforts to maintain security in Libya's cities and along its southern border appear to have failed, raising fears that attacks on state targets in Libya and neighboring countries could intensify.*⁶²

*Also, a recent roadside bomb attack in the Jebal Chaambi region killed two Tunisian soldiers who were pursuing members of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).*⁶³ *This precarious situation could worsen, if allegations of the presence of Hezbollah cells in the area prove to be true. Analysts warn that Hezbollah is taking advantage of the security vacuum in Libya to establish a foothold there.*⁶⁴ *Libya's grand mufti has also warned that Shi'ite "Iran is engaging in suspicious, bad activities in Libya" – a predominantly Sunni country.*

- During the first half of June 2013, the Al-Andalus Media Institute, which functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published the following:
 - An opinion piece by Sheikh Ahmad Abu Abd al-Ilah al-Jigli, the head of the Political Council of AQIM, titled, "Algeria and the Disease of the Military". Al-Jigli blames the Algerian Army for the disease and distress of the Algerian people, which is trying to force the political system to adhere to its caprices and does not allow true political freedom, as reflected, for example, in efforts to find a successor for President Boutaflika from within the Ministry of Defense, even before elections are held.⁶⁵
 - A second opinion piece by Sheikh Ahmad Abi Abd al-Ilah al-Jigli, titled "The Embassy Governments". According to al-Jigli, Muslim lands are subject to Western hegemony in general, and American hegemony in particular, enforced from within US embassies. Al-Jigli calls on the Algerian regime to cease its

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/06/07/reportage-01 (English).

⁶² <http://www.thenational.ae/news/world/middle-east/libyas-porous-borders-worry-its-neighbours-with-extremists-and-smugglers-on-rise> (English).

⁶³ http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h_sUffq2sL8NuZjHiP_GA10-WOXA?docId=CNG.89440e74fb0ad05503b0e0f59380c91b.01 (English).

⁶⁴ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201306120575.html> (English).

⁶⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb>; https://twitter.com/Andalus_Media/status/346333056522657792 (both in Arabic).

passivity and throw off the yoke of the US Ambassador in Algeria, whom he claims is the actual ruler of Algeria.⁶⁶

- An article by Abu Yahya al-Shanqiti, a member of AQIM's Shari'a Council, who was run over by a US soldier in Mauritania. Although al-Shanqiti gave scant details of the incident, he stressed that he saw it as endemic to the new American occupation. Until now, the US had used drones (unmanned aircraft) to attack devout Muslims in Afghanistan; now it was using cars against them in Mauritania. Al-Shanqiti complained of the severity of the incident, and asked provocatively whether Muslim blood was so cheap that they could be run over in broad daylight with impunity. Why weren't the Muslims guarantors for each other like the Jews and Christians? he asked, illustrating his point with the example of Israel's willingness to release 1,000 prisoners in exchange for the return of the Hamas abductee, IDF soldier Gilad Shalit.

In response, one forum visitor declared that the Muslims were suffering these disasters because they had forsaken jihad.⁶⁷



The banner reads, "A US soldier provokes the Muslims in Mauritania"

- The jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen announced an open session with Sheikh Abu Yahya al-Shanqiti, a member of AQIM's Shari'a Council, during which registered forum members could ask questions on a variety of topics. Al-Shanqiti's answers would be posted on the forum at a later date. In addition, the forum posted al-Shanqiti's biography.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>; <http://ia601804.us.archive.org/18/items/Mauritania.AQMI/Mauritania.pdf> (both in Arabic).

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

Mauritania

- During the first half of June 2013, the Barā'ah Media Center, which functions under the auspices of Ansar Al-Sharia in Mauritania, published the following:
 - An announcement of support, issued on June 14, from Ansar Al-Sharia member Sheikh Muhammad al-Amin bin al-Sheikh bin Mazid for the decision by the president of Mauritania to eliminate Sunday as a national day of rest. According to Bin Mazid, this step heralded the advent of Islamic law. Conversely, France criticized the move, and the national democratic movement in Mauritania tried unsuccessfully to foil it.⁶⁹
 - A call to all Muslims to secure the release of 14 Salafist prisoners, apparently from Mauritania, who were abducted two years ago and whose whereabouts and situation is unknown.⁷⁰

Mali

A manual belonging to AQIM that was discovered in Timbuktu reveals how to operate surface-to-air missiles capable of downing a commercial airplane.⁷¹ The manual suggests that AQIM is in possession of SA-7 missile and confirms analysts' suspicions that AQIM is actively training its fighters to use them. The missiles are believed to have come from Libya, where porous borders have facilitated the smuggling of weapons into and out of the country. According to terrorism analyst Bruce Hoffman, the missiles pose a serious threat, although they are not easy to operate: "On the one hand it's not easy to use, but against any commercial aircraft there would be no defense against them. It's impossible to protect against it ..."⁷²

Reports indicate that a number of Senegalese youth are fighting with the mujahideen in Mali.⁷³ Millions of Senegal's Muslim youth belong to Islamic fraternities, which have in the past attacked Christian targets and entertainment spots outside of Dakar. The presence of Senegalese youth in Mali reveals the extent of jihadist recruitment in North Africa and the Sahel.

⁶⁹ <https://twitter.com/Shinqit> (Arabic).

⁷⁰ <https://twitter.com/Shinqit> (Arabic).

⁷¹ <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/06/11/manual-left-behind-in-mali-suggests-al-qaida-training-to-use-feared-surface-to/>

⁷² <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/06/11/manual-left-behind-in-mali-suggests-al-qaida-training-to-use-feared-surface-to/> (English).

⁷³ <http://www.africareview.com/News/Senegalese-youths-among-Mali-jihadists/-/979180/1883254/-/peg6u3z/-/index.html> (English).

Egypt

- During the first half of June 2013, the jihadist media institution Al-Bayan, which functions under the auspices of the pioneering Salafist group Ansar Al-Sharia, published the following:
 - An article titled, "They Are Not the Same...al-Zawahiri Carries Musak and Ganoushi Full of Air" (20 pp.) by Sheikh Ahmad Ashush, a prominent member of Ansar Al-Sharia. In the article, Ashush comes to the defense of Al-Qaeda and its leader Ayman al-Zawahiri. He protests Ganoushi's harmful definition of al-Zawahiri as a tragedy for Islam and the Muslims, and Al-Qaeda's ideology as an extremist interpretation of Islam. He claims that Ganoushi and his comrades in the Muslim Brotherhood have fallen into a Western secular trap by participating in democratic politics and failing to implement shari'a [Islamic law].⁷⁴



The banner for the article

- "Announcement from the Jihadist Movement: Jihad and Democracy Are Diametrically Opposed", by Sheikhs Muhammad al-Zawahiri and Jalal Abu al-Fatuh. In the announcement, the sheikhs called democracy "the path of Satan", and praised jihad as "the path of prophets".⁷⁵
- Following the general convocation of a Shura Council of Egyptian Salafist Islamic legal scholars, the Al-Jihad Al-Alami Web forum published the Shura Council's declaration that the jihad in Syria – fought through battle, philanthropy, or the supply of weapons – is an individual obligation. The Council also determined that it is an obligation for Muslims to stand united and avoid divisiveness. It ruled that The intervention of Iran and Hezbollah in Syria is tantamount to a declaration of war against Islam and the Muslims, and urged

⁷⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

Arab and Western regimes to take a stand against the Assad regime, and impose an economic boycott on Iran, Russia and other supporters of Assad. The Council exhorted the Syrian Army to mend its ways, and urged Syrian soldiers to defect to the side of righteousness and faith. The Council rejected the designation that certain rebel factions were “terrorists”, and announced that it was forming a special clerical committee to monitor the implementation of its injunctions.⁷⁶

Somalia

In recent weeks, violence has intensified on the Somalia-Kenya border, leaving several people, some of them schoolchildren, dead.⁷⁷ Kenyan authorities said the region had been hit by inter-clan fighting, as well as by the persistent attacks of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, which continues to launch incursions from its hideouts in the south, despite having been routed from the cities by Western-backed African forces.

The Caucasus

- During the first half of June 2013, the Web forum 'Ushak Al-Hiwar Al-Islamiyyah featured an interview with Movladi Udogov, a Sunni Islamist who had served as the deputy head of the first government of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, which has been waging a struggle of changing intensity against Russia in a bid for independence. Udogov discussed the April 15, 2013 Boston Marathon bombings perpetrated by Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. Udogov did draw a link between the propaganda efforts of Caucasus Islamists, particularly those in Chechnya, and the success of the bombings. Udogov also noted that it would not be an exaggeration to say that the jihad in the Levant was holding the international community in bated fear.⁷⁸



Movladi Udogov

⁷⁶ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁷ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-22877418> (English).

⁷⁸ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The editors of the KavkazCenter Web took umbrage at the alleged discovery explosive belts in the Caucasus, which they claimed were planted by Russian security forces to frame innocents. The article referred to two raids on the apartments of suspects, including an apartment inhabited by two women, in which explosive belts were found. The editors obliquely admit that the suspects are related to mujahideen – purportedly the reason the Russian authorities had chosen to “harass” them.⁷⁹
- The KavkazCenter Web site praised a ruling by the European Human Rights Court that Russian authorities must return the bodies of mujahideen killed during fighting in the Caucasus to their families. The protracted suit to release the bodies was filed in 2005 by several Muslim families. KavkazCenter described the Russian response to the ruling as “very vague”. The site claimed that the Russians had rejected European methods of fighting terrorism and had instead adopted “Israeli” methods. For example, the Web site claims that the Russians, like the Israelis, wrap the bodies of martyrs in pigskin before burial. Also, just as the Israelis destroyed the homes of Palestinian mujahideen, so, too had the Russians begun destroying the homes of the families of Caucasus martyrs. The site hoped that the ruling of the court in Strasburg would ease the suffering of the Muslims in the Caucasus, and mark the beginning of the end of the “infidels’ cruelty toward the Muslims”.⁸⁰
- The KavkazCenter Web site summarized the activity of the Caucasus mujahideen between May 11 and June 9, 2013. During this period the mujahideen perpetrated a total of 39 attacks, in which 28 “enemies of Allah” were killed and 96 of them wounded, eight mujahideen were martyred, one mujahid was taken captive as a prisoner of war, 38 supply convoys were intercepted and three buildings were destroyed.⁸¹

The Indian Subcontinent

- During the first half of June 2013, the jihadist Web forum Hanein featured a video clip of tens of Salafi-jihadists running in file and practicing military tactics in the heart of a city in Indonesia. The jihadists urged others to join jihad in Syria in solidarity with, and out of concern for, their “brothers”.⁸²

⁷⁹ <http://www.kavkazcenter.com/russ/content/2013/06/11/98463.shtml> (Russian).

⁸⁰ <http://www.kavkazcenter.com/russ/content/2013/06/09/98429.shtml> (Russian).

⁸¹ <http://www.kavkazcenter.com/russ/content/2013/06/13/98500.shtml> (Russian).

⁸² <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



Indonesian mujahideen practice urban guerilla tactics

The West

- On June 9, 2013, Sheikh Anjem Choudary, a prominent Salafi-jihadist in England who maintains ties with Islamist and Salafi-jihadist social networks throughout Europe and who aspires to impose Islamic law [shari'a] there, published a link on his Twitter feed to an interview that he gave to the Australian version of the American television news magazine "60 Minutes". In it, he discussed the May 22, 2013 murder in broad daylight, before stunned passers-by in Woolwich, London, of British soldier Lee Rigby by two of his acolytes. Choudary refused to denounce the murder or express solidarity with the soldier's family. The broadcast also showed Australian Muslims praising the murder.⁸³ Another link uploaded on the same date showed Choudary giving an interview to Australia's Channel 7 on the same topic. Choudary accused the American, British and Australian governments of committing crimes against Muslims, commenting that it was therefore no wonder that Rigby had been killed as he had.⁸⁴

On June 13, 2013, Choudary posted several more links to an item that addressed the June 12, 2013 arrest in Brescia, Italy of a 21-year-old Moroccan Salafist blogger named Anas el-Abboubi, aka Anas Abdu Shaker, on suspicion of establishing a Web site in support of extremist Islamist groups in Europe. According to the item, el-Abboubi was accused of establishing the blog sharia4italy about one year ago. In one of his blog posts, el-Abboubi urged the Italian government to impose shari'a [Islamic law] as a means of overcoming Italy's economic crisis. According to Italian investigators, a raid on

⁸³ <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary/status/343791110734360576>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSCqNGHv07M> (both in English).

⁸⁴ <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary/status/343792716964052992>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cSpKZ3jFp8> (both in English).

el-Abboubi's home revealed documents inciting Muslims to commit jihadist acts in Italy and France.⁸⁵



Anas el-Abboubi, aka Anas Abdu Shakur, Islamist blogger

In response to this incident, Choudary wrote that shari'a would ultimately be imposed in Rome and all of Italy, over the objections of the Italian security authorities.⁸⁶

 **Anjem Choudary** @anjemchoudary 13 Jun
Italy should withdraw its 3000 troops from Afghanistan (Herat province) which are clearly a cause of instability there & insecurity in Italy
[View conversation](#)

 **Anjem Choudary** @anjemchoudary 13 Jun
The Shari'ah will in fact one day be implemented in Rome & Italy anyway despite the Italian authorities making a big fuss about Sharia4Italy
[Expand](#)

 **Anjem Choudary** @anjemchoudary 13 Jun
Regarding Italy, the Messenger Muhammad (saw) in fact said that "The Day of Judgement will not come until a group of my Umah conquer Rome!"
[Expand](#)

Tweets from the inimitable Anjem Choudary

Miscellaneous

- The Al-Sahab media institution, which functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda, published a ninth video clip in the framework of a series titled, "Diary of a Mujahid". The

⁸⁵ <http://hespress.com/marocains-du-monde/81649.html> (Arabic).

⁸⁶ <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary/status/345376017701019649> (English).

clip follows a day in the life of a jihadist, and describes the obstacles he must overcome to fulfilling the commandment to wage jihad.⁸⁷

- The jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen promoted an online public relations campaign for the release of Sheikh Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a prominent Salafi-jihadist who has been imprisoned in Jordan for more than a year.⁸⁸



A banner promoting the release from a Jordanian prison of Sheikh Muhammad al-Maqdisi

- On June 4, 2013, the Shura Council of the jihadist Web forum Snam Al-Islam announced the death of Abu Ridhwan, the administrator of the Al-Jihad Al-Alami Web forum, from a degenerative muscular disease. The forum eulogized Abu Ridhwan, who had been a member of several jihadist Web forums.⁸⁹
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Al-Minbar reported that a new jihadist Web forum, "Iraq and the Levant", was launched on June 1, 2013, at <http://www.irfg89.net/vb>.⁹⁰ However, the Web forum was taken down in late July this year, and has yet to resume activity.



A new, short-lived jihadist Web forum

⁸⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁸ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁹ <http://www.snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁰ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The general supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Al-Minbar published a collection of banners designed by Web surfers in response to a call for design ideas and banners promoting jihad.⁹¹



One of the banners exhibited on Al-Minbar, designed by a forum member

Facebook and Twitter

- During the first half of June 2013, the jihadist Web forum 'Ushak Al-Hiwar Al-Islamiyyah announced the launching of a new Twitter feed by Jama'at Ansar Al-Islam, a Salafi-jihadist group active in Iraq. The account was opened in the name of a commander of Jund Al-Islam (which recently united with Ansar Al-Islam), Abdullah Khulayfani, who died in 2003.⁹²
- During the first half of June 2013, the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen announced the launching of a Twitter feed for the families of Salafist prisoners in the Gaza Strip.⁹³



A Twitter feed for the families of Salafists imprisoned by Hamas in the Gaza Strip

⁹¹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹² <http://www.i7ur.com/vb>; <http://www.alwasatnews.com/121/news/read/191886/1.html> (both in Arabic).

⁹³ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).