

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Forums

The Second Half of June 2012

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

- Al-Qaeda leader Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri maintains that jihad against Israel – to liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque and all of Palestine and to halt the “judaization” of Jerusalem – is a religious obligation incumbent on each and every Muslim. The peace agreement between Israel and Egypt, he claims, is neither valid nor relevant, and should be annulled immediately.
- In a new audio statement, Senior Al-Qaeda leader Sheikh Abu Yahya Al-Libi rails against the moral turpitude of US soldiers evidenced by their desecration of the Qur’an and abuse of Muslim corpses, and urges the Afghan people to wage jihad against the US. Jihadist sources claim that the statement, issued subsequent to reports in the Pakistani and American media that Al-Libi was killed in a drone strike in early June, refutes those reports.
- Sheikh Awadh Banjar, a Yemeni religious scholar closely affiliated with Ansar Al-Sharia, ruled that jihad against US forces stationed in Yemen is a personal religious obligation.
- Ansar Al-Din and The Tawhid and Jihad Movement in West Africa, two Salafi-jihadist groups now holding the Azwad region of northern Mali, threaten to attack all challengers.
- The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in the Environs of Jerusalem, a new Salafi-jihadist group in the Sinai Peninsula, announced its inception and took responsibility for a June 18, 2012 attack in which terrorists crossed into Egypt from the Sinai Peninsula, killing one Israeli citizen and wounding another.
- Muhammad Mursi’s victory in Egyptian presidential elections aroused the hope of Salafi-jihadists, who anticipate an Islamic awakening in Egypt and the freedom of activity to swell their ranks and influence society.
- The second and third issues are published of the Turkish-language jihadist magazine, *Islam Dünyasi* [The World of Islam].

New Publications

Ideology

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published a video clip by Al-Qaeda leader Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri, the tenth in a series titled "A Message of Hope and a Herald to Our People in Egypt".¹ The video opens with Al-Zawahiri insisting that Pakistani and American efforts to efface the memory of Sheikh Osama bin Laden – by tossing his body into the ocean and destroying his house in Abbottabad to prevent the building of a grave or monument and discourage hero worship – are doomed to failure, as the memory of Osama bin Laden will forever burn in Muslim hearts.

Al-Zawahiri then repeats a demand he first made in December 2011. He promises to release the Jewish American captive Warren Weinstein, who is being held by Al-Qaeda, if the US ceases its air attacks over Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia and Yemen, and liberates all Al-Qaeda and Taliban prisoners throughout the world – including blind Sheikh Omar Abd Al-Rahman, Pakistani scientist Aafia Siddiqui, who is suspected of aiding terrorist organizations, and bin Laden's relatives. Weinstein himself was abducted in August 2011 from Lahore, when armed men evaded his bodyguards and invaded his home. Weinstein had been the representative in Pakistan of the American consulting firm J.E. Austin Associates. According to J.E. Austin Associates, Weinstein's health is poor; the corporation provided a list of his essential medications, most of them for cardiac problems. On May 7, 2012, a video clip was published of Weinstein pleading that President Obama meet Al-Qaeda's demands, lest he be executed.²

Al-Zawahiri then turns to the main issue he wishes to address in this video clip: attempts to "judaize" Jerusalem. According to Al-Zawahiri, under Gamal Abd Al-Nasser, Anwar Sadat, and Hosni Mubarak, Egyptian policy was typified by territorial concessions to Israel. Nasser, for example, agreed to UN Security Council Resolution 442, which left the occupied territory of Palestine, including the Sinai Peninsula, in Israel's hands after the war of June 1967. Sadat signed a peace agreement with Israel and worked to normalize relations, with the authorization of Al-Azhar, the Arab world's most prominent religious institution. According to Al-Zawahiri, normalization with Israel

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

² See: <http://www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=-BKcu6fLkpU%3d&tabid=344> , p.2.

contravenes the commandment to wage jihad to liberate Palestine, and would not have been sought had Egypt been under the rule of shari'a [Islamic law]. Al-Zawahiri then quotes Sheikh Omar Abd Al-Rahman, who denounced normalization and iterated the commandment of jihad against Israel until Al-Aqsa and all of Palestine are liberated. Like Al-Rahman, Al-Zawahiri sees jihad against Israel as incumbent on each and every Muslim.

Furthermore, Egypt's peace agreement with Israel encourages the latter's policies regarding Palestinian Muslims and "judaization" – that is, increasing the number of Jews – in Palestine and especially in Jerusalem. Al-Zawahiri claims it is necessary to make ulama' [religious scholars], clerics, and Al-Azhar independent of the regime, so that they will be free to rule in accordance with shari'a [Islamic law], and not as they did during Sadat's reign, when Al-Azhar was forced to issue rulings dictated by the regime (e.g., that the peace agreement with Israel was legitimate).

According to Al-Zawahiri, Islamic law should be the main source of legislation for Egypt. He claims that the US and its allies are not interested in seeing it implemented in Egypt, and so try to prevent this, for example, by strengthening secular elements in Muslim lands and striving to divide and disassemble the Muslim Nation. In Al-Zawahiri's eyes, US and Western interests are of a piece with those of Israeli Jews, and are meant to weaken Islam. He therefore urges Egypt's Muslims to implement shari'a [Islamic law]. At this point, the video clip shows the late Sheikh Anwar Al-Awlaki calling for jihad against the US. Al-Awlaki, an American citizen of Yemeni origin who joined Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), was killed in an American drone strike in Yemen in 2011.

In conclusion, Al-Zawahiri reiterates the obligation of every Muslim to fight jihad against Israel and oppose its efforts to make Jerusalem ethnically Jewish. Jihad, he says, is the key to the eradication of Israel and the liberation of Palestine.

- Senior Al-Qaeda member Sheikh Abu Yahya Al-Libi is heard in a new audio statement titled, "The US Army and Wartime Ethics", publicized by the jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab.³ According to jihadist sources, the statement, published on June 22, 2012, refutes earlier reports in the Pakistani and American media that Al-Libi was killed by a US drone strike in Pakistan in

³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

early June. In the statement, Al-Libi discusses the ethical deterioration and contemptuous acts allegedly typical of US Army soldiers. To illustrate, he notes that US soldiers have burned copies of the Qur'an, placed a copy of the Qur'an in the toilet, and urinated on Muslim corpses. According to Al-Libi, these crimes should awaken the Afghani people to strongly retaliate against the desecration of all that is holy to Islam, including the honor of martyrs. They must immediately embark on jihad to avenge the American soldiers' insulting behavior.

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masadah published an audio statement by Sheikh Mamun bin Abd Al-Hamid Hatem titled, "Which of Two Groups Should be Trusted?". It is the third installment in the series "Understandings that Must Be Amended".⁴
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida posted a thread titled, "Heroes of Individual Jihad", in which he praises personal jihad and cites perpetrators of "lone wolf" attacks such as Mohammed Merah, the terrorist from Toulouse.⁵
- The jihadist Web forum Al-Fida produced a short video clip (4:15 minutes) titled, "Selected Advice from the Emir (1)",⁶ which presents an assortment of the advice recently offered by Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri to the Muslim Nation. Al-Zawahiri exhorts Muslims to join jihad so as to establish [an entity] that will defend Islamic lands, liberate the Golan Heights, and fight until it raises the banner of victory over Jerusalem. He warns Muslims in Syria not to be led astray by Arab countries, Turkey or the West, which are shielding Assad and collaborating with his regime, thereby protecting Israel and preventing Syria from becoming a bastion of jihad. Al-Zawahiri urges Muslims in Yemen not to stand by the Yemeni regime, which supports and is supported by the US in its fight against the mujahideen. In addressing Muslims in Somalia, Al-Zawahiri urges continued jihad and staunch resistance to US forces, despite the US's technological superiority.

The video concludes with Al-Zawahiri advising Muslims in Saudi Arabia to fight the Saudi monarchy, which he claims collaborates with the "Crusader armies" that use it as a base from which to attack Muslims in Afghanistan and Iraq.

⁴ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



Ayman Al-Zawahiri exhorts the Muslims to jihad

Strategy

- Prominent jihadist Web forum contributor Asad Al-Jihad2 wrote of the infamous battle at Tora-Bora, Afghanistan, fought by coalition forces against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda in December 2001. The latter were under the command of Osama bin Laden; Asad Al-Jihad2 explained Bin Laden's tactics and choice of this site for battle.

Asad Al-Jihad2 began by stating that, after the attacks of September 11, Bin Laden had taken 70 of his closest men to positions in the vicinity of Tora-Bora because of its strategic location and characteristics. It is forested and watered by two rivers, is at a high elevation, is proximate to Pakistan and traversed by the a road to Khost Province, is far from centers of population, and has the auspicious legacy of having been the site of the Soviet defeat.

Asad Al-Jihad2 then described Bin Laden's preparations for the Western attack: he appointed an emir of the mujahideen who spoke their language and had experience fighting the Soviets; divided 300 mujahideen into five large groups, which were then sub-divided into smaller groups and equipped with long-range weapons, food, and ammunition; appointed a leader for each smaller and each larger group, and instructed them to map the area and mark the territory; dug fortified, camouflaged trenches; and established field hospitals on the mountain tops, where he also embedded anti-aircraft weapons. Bin Laden obtained a commitment of support from residents of the villages proximate to Pakistan. He spoke with deceptive openness about preparing a large ambush of coalition forces, and openly visited the adjacent villages.

Bin Laden continued appearing openly throughout the area, even after massive bombing had begun. He visited the mujahideen, encouraging them to

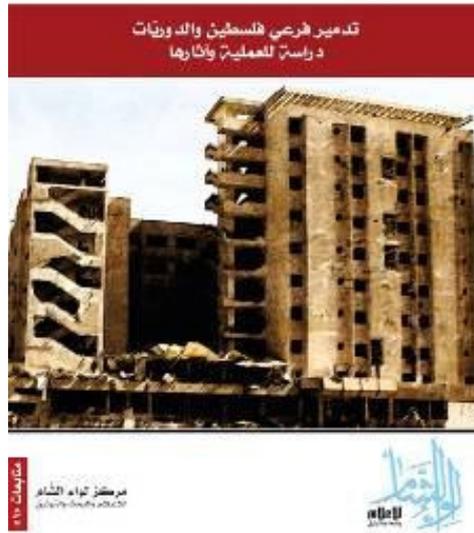
keep up the fight and telling them of American losses. This continued until the fall of Kabul. Heavy bombing lasted until the middle of Ramadan – that is, for one and a half months; only one mujahid was killed, on the first day of fighting. Although Bin Laden's orders had been for the mujahideen to do everything – such as digging the trenches – themselves, some were assisted by anonymous Afghans, and this was a mistake. The heavy bombing was accompanied by artillery fire and land incursions. The mujahideen faced a serious attack, but their spirits did not flag even though their means were meager, relative to those of the Crusaders and their collaborators.⁷

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- The Liwa Al-Sham [Banner of Greater Syria] Center for Propaganda, Research and Documentation published a 15-page article by Abd Al-Rahman Al-Nimr titled, "Punishing the Oppressors: Destroying the Palestine and the Patrols Branches: A Study of the Attack and Its Implications".⁸ The article analyzes the two-pronged terrorist attack of May 10, 2012, in which two booby-trapped cars were driven into the courtyard of the Syrian government's military intelligence building, in the Qazaz neighborhood of Damascus, destroying its notorious Palestine Branch and Patrols Branch. Some 70 people were killed in the attack, and an additional 300 were wounded. The article analyzes the modus operandi and implications of the attack.

⁷ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

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



The cover of the research report published by Liwa Al-Sham, showing the destroyed Palestine Branch of the Syrian Military Intelligence building

Promoting the Myth of Martyrdom

- Ismail Jad, considered an historian of the mujahideen, published a biography of Sheikh Khalid Ali Hajj (aka Abu Hazem the poet). A member of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Abu Hazem was killed in March 2004 in clashes with Yemeni security forces.⁹



Abu Hazem the poet

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen eulogized the martyr Hammam Jamal Abu Qadus, a Palestinian Salafi-jihadist from the Gaza

⁹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Strip who was killed by an Israeli fighter plane while preparing to fire a missile at Israel.¹⁰



Abu Qadus

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab issued a propaganda film titled, "A Day in the Life of a Mujahid, No. 7". The film shows the daily routine of Muslims who have chosen to fulfill the commandment of jihad, highlighting the importance of this commandment and glorifying the martyr's death that is its end. The film records comments in praise of jihad from Sheikh Mustafa Abu Al-Yazid, a representative of Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan who was killed in a drone strike there in 2009.¹¹



The glory of fulfilling the commandment of jihad

Magazines

- A second issue was published of the Turkish-language jihadist magazine *Islam Dünyasi* [The World of Islam].¹²

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

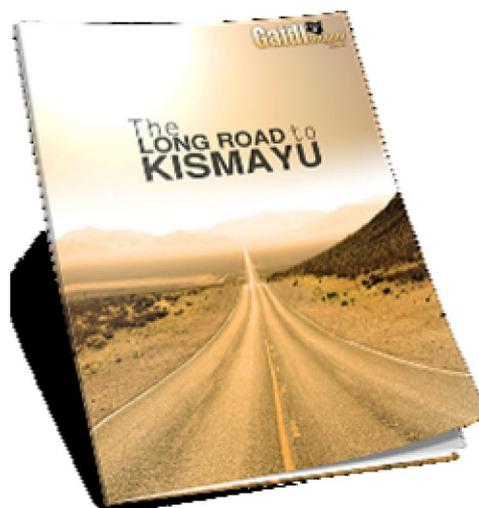
¹¹ <http://a.-fidaa.com/vb> (arabic).

¹² <http://asl-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic); <http://jihadmin.com/tr/yazi/dergi/islam-dunyasi-dergisi-3-sayisi.html> (Turkish).



Issues No. 2 and 3 of the Turkish-language jihadist magazine *İslam Dünyası*

- A second issue was published of the jihadist periodical *Gaidi Mtaani*. Its 28-pages, in Swahili and English, focus on jihad in Somalia and environs.¹³



Left to right, the cover of Issue No. 2 of *Gaidi Mtaani*, and some of its content

¹³ <http://asl-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published a video clip titled, "The Convoy of Victory, No. 7". It documents the attack on December 13, 2011 by several armed Taliban on the headquarters of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the US Embassy, and government offices in Kabul.¹⁴
- Hafiz Gul Bahadur, the leader of the Pakistani Taliban, decided to put a stop to a campaign to inoculate children against polio. He is preventing government-sent inoculation teams from entering North Waziristan, on the suspicion that they spy against the mujahideen and their families. For example, he claims such teams spied against Osama bin Laden, ultimately leading to his assassination.¹⁵

Iraq

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein addressed jihadist groups in Iraq. He wrote that Iraq's Shiite government, with Iranian aid, was committing crimes against Iraq's Sunnis, and that the Syrian regime, aided by Iran, Iraq and Hezbollah, was persecuting the Syrian people. The writer regretted that Iraq's jihadist groups had not joined forces to continue attacks against the Iraqi government and security forces, and had yet to take a clear stand on events in Iraq. Most of their attacks, he wrote, consist of detonating IEDs, firing missiles or mortars, and targeted killing. Although these are acts of jihad for Allah's sake, their effect is minimal. Where are the blood-soaked days when multiple, simultaneous attacks scored the enemy?, he wondered. He urged Iraq's jihadist groups to return to that attack strategy, which would weaken the Shiite government and strengthen the Sunnis, even if it reduced the number of "regular" acts of jihad. As for the situation in Syria, the writer exhorted his readers to promote the Syrian people's revolt against the regime, and to attack the interests of the Syrian state and its collaborators in Iraq. Visitors to the Web forum commended the writer. However, one contributor was skeptical as to whether his message would reach jihadists "in the field" and whether, if it did reach them, it would change anything; even though Iraq had experienced nine years of occupation, each jihadist group

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

¹⁵ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

persisted in acting independently and plotting its own strategy. This contributor claimed that he himself had called time and again for unity among the (jihadist) ranks, to no avail. Another contributor suggested establishing one command center for all of the jihadist groups, many of which do not have the capabilities of the Islamic State of Iraq. Additional contributors were equally pessimistic, claiming, for example, that Ansar Al-Islam insisted on taking the lead because it had been the first to raise the banner of jihad. And while some had already sworn loyalty to the Islamic State of Iraq, others might not do so in the future. One contributor cited cooperation between Ansar Al-Islam and Jaish Al-Mujahideen, though this had yet to culminate in a joint attack, as far as he knew. He added that 90% of the jihadists being jailed were members of the Islamic State of Iraq, but that some had also left the group, which is the strongest [of the jihadist groups in Iraq]. Its strength has enabled it to promise Sunnis who have returned to the fold that it would not harm them. As they come to recognize the justification [for jihad] and the danger from the Shiites, many Sunnis have begun to contribute money, weapons and aid to [the Islamic State of Iraq].¹⁶

- The jihadist media institution Al-Furqan published a video clip titled, "The Clanging of the Swords: Part One". Timed at 1:03:50, the video opens with anti-Shiite propaganda and a review of the Shiite danger to Iraq and its Sunni inhabitants, and states that collaboration among Iraq's Shiites, Iran, and the US warrants the attack of Iraqi officials. The video clip highlights a number of attacks perpetrated by the Islamic State of Iraq against Shiite security installations. For example, the Islamic State of Iraq invaded an army base in Baghdad and, using weapons with silencers, murdered Iraqi soldiers – Shiites to the extent that could be ascertained – and stole their weapons. The video clip also showed the execution and assassination of Iraqi collaborators and spies.¹⁷

¹⁶ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁷ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



From the video clip, "The Clanging of the Swords"

The Arabian Peninsula

- Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Saudi Crown Prince and Minister of the Interior, died on June 16, 2012. Prince Nayef led the campaign against Al-Qaeda and Islamic terrorism in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He escaped an assassination attempt by Al-Qaeda in September 2009.

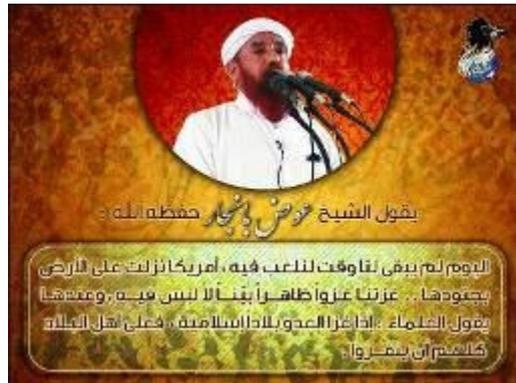
Jihadist Web forum contributors were ecstatic at the Prince's passing and with it, of his so-called evildoing against the Muslims, especially in Saudi Arabia, where he had defied the commandment of jihad. Conversely, the supervisor of the forum Hanein was not buoyant; he wrote that the problem lay not with any one individual, but rather with the Saudi regime as a whole. A contributor responded that the Saudi king was in any case very old, and since there was almost no one to succeed him, the death of the crown prince would be a severe blow to the regime. Other contributors highlighted the crown prince's uncompromising war against Al-Qaeda, and his responsibility for allowing foreign troops to flood the Arabian Peninsula.¹⁸

- Sheikh Abu Saad Al-Amili, a prominent Salafi-jihadist contributor to jihadist Web forums whose true identity is unknown, discussed Yemen's important geographic location and historic status. The enemies of Islam wished to decide the war in Yemen as soon as possible, lest it get out of hand and bleed into Saudi Arabia. The enemies of Islam unconditionally support the [Yemeni and Saudi] regimes, which might otherwise collapse in the face of the jihad led by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Ansar Al-Sharia, which

¹⁸ <http://aljahad.com/vb>; <http://hanein.info/vb> (both in Arabic).

have gained a foothold in parts of Yemen through military effort and da'wa [proselytizing]. Al-Amili called for continued, unstinting jihad in Yemen; the enemies of Allah spare no effort to deflate the morale of the mujahideen and persuade them to trade jihad for politics, for example. Al-Amili promised that the enemy would continue to suffer the blows of the mujahideen, who would bring the fighting to additional areas of Yemen – such as Sana'a, the capital – where the enemy has so far felt secure. Al-Amili explained that Ansar Al-Sharia's retreat from several cities was a wise and well-calculated tactic, a successful military strategy that embarrassed the enemy and gave it the (false) sense it was winning. The mujahideen had fallen back only to move into new arenas, leaving behind them a practical model for implementing shari'a [Islamic law], which local residents would not soon abandon. All of Yemen would soon be an overt and covert battlefield. Al-Amili concluded by urging Muslims to emulate the model of Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen.¹⁹

- Sheikh Awadh Banjar, a Yemeni religious scholar affiliated with Ansar Al-Sharia, sermonized that, because US soldiers have overrun Yemen, every Muslim has an individual obligation to wage jihad there, without need of permission from his parents. Banjar's sermon was disseminated in a video clip published by the jihadist media outlet Fursan Al-Balagh.²⁰



Awadh Banjar rules on the religious-legal obligation to fight jihad

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) took responsibility for the assassination of a senior Yemeni Army officer, Salem Qatan, on June 18, 2012 (Announcement No. 54). Qatan had been a commander in southern Yemen, where he oversaw the fighting against AQAP in Abyan and Shabwa

¹⁹ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁰ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Governorates. According to AQAP, the assassination was (also) meant as a warning to other American and Yemeni commanders.²¹

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen reported that five Al-Qaeda operatives had succeeded in escaping prison in Al-Hudeida Governorate in western Yemen by digging a 120-meter tunnel. Yemeni security forces consider the five the most dangerous of Al-Qaeda's operatives.²²



Mug shots of the five escaped Al-Qaeda prisoners

Al-Sham [Greater Syria]

- In his first speech as the new head of the Abdullah Azzam Brigades in Bilad Al-Sham, Majid bin Muhammad Al-Majid eulogized the fallen of the Syrian revolution.²³ He praised the Syrian people for fighting the Syrian regime, saying that their example should be copied. He urged real change – not merely the replacement of President Assad by a new traitor, or the holding of supposedly free elections, but the tearing up by the roots of the corrupt regime. He commended Syrian sheikhs, clerics, merchants and others who supported the revolution, especially as the need for food, medications, shelter and weapons was increasing. He then offered the following advice, based on what he said was his experience in the field:
 - Take advantage of the revolution to engage in da'wa [missionary work], pleasantly and tolerantly.
 - Avoid any act that the regime might exploit to divide the ranks of the revolutionaries, and any act that might deter the public from continuing to protest and aid the revolutionary frontlines. For example, avoid using booby-trapped cars and explosive [suicide] belts, even

²¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

²³ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

against important targets, in cities. It is more important to keep the revolution a popular one; it is necessary to delay immediate, partial achievements, if these would impede continued revolution. It is necessary to protect human life and honor, and strengthen the revolution against the regime.

- Help soldiers and officers who defect from the Syrian Armed Forces; work with them to defeat the regime and its henchmen.
- Fight the regime's security forces, and leave alone those, such as Christians and Druze, who have neither joined nor opposed the revolution; even encourage them to maintain their neutrality.
- Young people should cooperate with religious and civic leaders. The revolution must remain a popular one, and not a revolution of elite or specific groups.
- Be patient, steady, and persevere, and believe in Allah.

Visitors to the forum Hanein approved of this advice, adding that this was how proponents of Salafist da'wa [missionary efforts] had acted in Algeria.



Majid bin Muhammad Al-Majid

- The jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published a video clip (35:01) titled, "Jabhat Al-Nusrah Front [The Support Front] for the People of the Levant: Vanquishing the Wicked Nusairis [Alawites]", as well as a pamphlet titled, "The Support Front for the People of the Levant: Who Are They and What Are Their Goals?".²⁴ The video clip focuses on the crimes of the regime of Bashar Al-Assad against the Syrian people, and the Al-Nusrah Front's military struggle against Syrian security forces.

²⁴ <http://ww.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



A Web advertisement for a video about the Al-Nusra Front

- Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein wondered whether Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi, a Syrian Salafi-jihadist living in exile in London, might still be in Syria. This discussion arose following reports several months ago that Sheikh Al-Tartusi had come to Syria especially to support the mujahideen in their fight against the Assad regime. One of Hanein's supervisors responded that Al-Tartusi was indeed in Syria, and had arrived after visiting Tunisia. However, another visitor to the site claimed that Al-Tartusi had returned to England.²⁵



The subtitle reads: Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi meets with several of his brothers and their sons in beloved Syria

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Faroq launched a series of video clips titled, "Supporting Shari'a", by Dr. Iyad Qunaibi.²⁶ The Western-educated Dr. Qunaibi, formerly a lecturer at the Balqa Applied University in Salt, Jordan,

²⁵ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

was arrested in September 2010 on suspicion of maintaining contact with terrorists considered a security threat to the Kingdom of Jordan. In June 2011, he was sentenced to five years in a Jordanian prison, which were reduced to two and a half years because he had no prior convictions. He was ultimately released from prison as part of a gesture by King Abdullah II (see: <http://en.ammonnews.net/print.aspx?Articleno=14534>).

In this first installment of the video series, Dr. Qunaibi extols the virtues of Islamic law and its implementation.



A banner advertising the series, "Supporting Shari'a"

- On June 19, 2012, a new Salafi-jihadist group active in the Sinai Peninsula called The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in the Environs of Jerusalem [Majlis Shura Al-Mujahideen fi Aknaf Bet Al-Maqdes] disseminated two announcements to jihadist Web forums.²⁷ The first announcement declared the group's establishment. In the second, the group took responsibility for an incident on June 18, 2012, in which a three-man terrorist cell infiltrated Israel from the Sinai Peninsula and laid an ambush for a vehicle carrying Israel Ministry of Defense employees who were working on the border fence. The cell detonated an IED and fired an RPG at the vehicle. One of the employees, who was severely wounded, was pronounced dead at the scene; the other was slightly injured. Israel Defense Force (IDF) soldiers who stormed the cell killed two of the terrorists.

The announcements, which were published by the jihadist media outlet Ibn Taymiyyah, included a nine-minute video clip in which the group's leader stated that the group's establishment was part of the jihad against the Jews

²⁷ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

and the State of Israel. The video clip concluded with the two suicide terrorists reading their last testaments. The terrorists – Abu Salah Al-Masri and Abu Hudhayfa Al-Hudhali – were Egyptian and Saudi, respectively. The two announcements, both of which are dated June 18 2012/28 Rajab 1433h, are translated here in full:

Announcement 1

Notice to the Believers in the Oneness of God [Tawheed] Regarding the Establishment of The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in the Environs of Jerusalem [Lajnat Al-Shura fi Aknaf Beit Al-Mukadess]

All Praise Be to Allah, All Thanks Be to Allah, We Beg Allah's Help and Mercy. May Allah preserve our souls and guard our deeds against evil. He who walks in the footsteps of Allah is guided on the straight path, and he who strays from the straight path will find none to guide him. To wit:

The light of the true and noble caliphate has again begun to shine. The giddy braying of Allah's steeds, galloping from afar, grows ever louder over the Horns of Hittin.²⁸ The Muslim Nation [ummah] has begun to stir from its deep and lengthy slumber, to bring an end to decades of oppression, deprivation and fear. The oppression visited upon the Muslims most cruelly, which has been reflected in abdication of the laws of Allah on earth, has begun to dissipate. The tyrannical governments have fallen, and millions have taken to the streets demanding to implement the law of Allah the Merciful [shari'a], even as they herald the imminent coming of the Time of Allah.

The Shura Council of the Mujahideen from All Corners of Jerusalem has had a hand in what has transpired. The pharaoh of Egypt has been destroyed, and the Alawite despot of Syria [Al-Sham] is soon to fall, toppled by the blessed winds of Islam. The dictators of Lebanon and Jordan squirm uneasily, and the spirit of torment, emanating from the summit and the base of Mt. Sinai, is visited upon the Jews.

Since there are things behind these enormous events, Muslims throughout the land, and especially in the vicinity of Jerusalem, must prepare for the next stage. This will require that our Nation thoroughly order its ranks and make ready by carrying a unified message under the banner of monotheism, and by exploiting its capabilities to benefit a program that will be implemented under that one banner and with one goal, even though the means, priorities, and

²⁸ Hittin: the site on which Salah Al-Din defeated the Crusader armies.

starting points vary. We must prepare for this stage so that we may exploit this opportunity to thwart the enemies of the Muslim Nation who wait in ambush, and thwart their traitorous and deceitful partners in crime. From this day henceforward, nationalism, secularism and democracy have no place. This is a war in which the Muslims must reinstate the rule of Allah on earth, and restore the honor and sovereignty of the Muslim Nation over mankind, until the word of Allah is heard and the words of the infidels silenced. All faith will be in Allah.

We hereby declare that, putting our faith in Allah alone, we have established the Shura Council of the Mujahideen from All Corners of Jerusalem, knowing that we are at a turning point, at which our dear Nation is being tried and tested because of its faith – a faith instilled in us from the moment we set foot on the path of God's Unity [tawheed] – because we believers in the Oneness of God focus our efforts, because we hoist the banner of Islam, because of the bloodshed of those who have followed the path of the righteous, because of the grounds for victory, because of our determination to vanquish the enemy. In this we are laying the cornerstone of blessed jihad, that we may become a brick in the sublime global edifice of the restored true and noble caliphate where Islamic law [shari'a] will be implemented, thereby aiding the Lord of All Worlds. We incline toward the believers and pardon the errors of the righteous. We set forth with a healthy Islamic-legal understanding honed and burnished by suffering. We will consider priorities, we will eradicate corruption, we will balance interests according to Islamic law, and we will defend our Muslim Nation as Allah enables us to. We extend our hand to every Muslim who wishes to aid Islam and fight its enemies. We ask Allah to guide us on the straight path. We do not purport to be blameless of error and sin, and we do not have a monopoly on the banner of monotheism. The door is open to all honest men who wish to join our ranks. Those who hasten to do so, are the devoted of Allah.

To the Muslims, to all those who believe in the Oneness of God, to the mujahideen, and to the scholars [ulama'a] and clerics: We are your sons and brothers on the lands around Jerusalem; our banner, with Allah's help, is the banner of Islamic law; our faith is the faith of the Sunnis; and our path is the path of the righteous forefathers of Islam, may Allah be pleased with them. We will battle those who most hate the believes, and we will defend the

sanctity and honor of those who believe in the Oneness of God. Do not keep us from victory; we will stave off the traitors and manage the home front. We will not perform deeds in your name: Do not you perform deeds in our name, by Allah's grace.

Lastly, we say to the enemies of Allah and to the Jews: Know, Infidel, that what is fated to happen will happen not as in the past; the cup from which you have forced Jerusalem's Muslims to drink – with the help of Allah the Great Avenger, we will force you to drink a slaking poison from it. The swords of the adherents of the Oneness of God – those who smashed the heads of your ancestors, the Bani Nadhir²⁹ – those swords have been withdrawn from their scabbards, and will be stained with your blood when we have obliterated all you have conquered. The time of negotiations, cease-fires, and interim solutions – which have only mounted your cruel deeds – is over and gone. O Infidel, it is best that you know what it is that will blacken your hideous countenance. With Allah's help, the second battle of Hittin draws nigh.

"If you do good, only you will benefit, and if you do evil, only to yourselves will you do harm. When again [we sent our Servants against you], so that they would bring shame upon your countenance."

Announcement 2

The Shura Council of the Mujahideen Takes Responsibility for the Terrorist Attack: Bringing Aid to Al-Aqsa and the Prisoners

All Praise Be to Allah, All Thanks Be to Allah, We Beg Allah's Help and Mercy. May Allah preserve our souls and guard our deeds against evil. He who walks in the footsteps of Allah is guided on the straight path, and he who strays from the straight path will find none to guide him. To wit:

The Shura Council of the Mujahideen perpetrated a blessed terrorist attack, known as "bringing aid to Al-Aqsa and the prisoners". It is one more link in the chain of light [the caliphate] with which the lions of Islam, who man the frontlines throughout the land, are honored to adorn themselves, and is in fulfillment of Allah's commandment to wage jihad against His enemies wherever they may be. It is an expression of [the mujahideen's] burning desire to lay the cornerstone of the edifice of jihad that they see before their

²⁹ The reference is to the Jewish Nadhir Tribe which dwelled in the Arabian Peninsula and was massacred by the Muslims at the behest of the Prophet Muhammad.

very eyes. It is an indelible expression of their desire, uppermost of their priorities, to implement the rule of Allah [shari'a] throughout the land, and once again enforce the law of Islam among the Servants of the Lord.

After stealing over the border and encircling the Zionist forces concentrated on the border between Occupied Palestine and the Land of Egypt – that is, in the southern Negev Desert – [the attackers] targeted a Jewish convoy of two army jeeps with an improvised explosive device, anti-tank missiles and semi-automatic weapons. Allah enabled the mujahideen to strike at the enemies of Allah. We know this from the garbled statements of the enemy commanders, Praise Be to Allah.

We authorized this infiltration, for which the righteous and the mujahideen, the believers in the Oneness of God [tawheed], were responsible. [They were heeding] the screams emanating from the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the moans of the prisoners bending under the oppression of the craven Jewish enemy. On Allah's Life, we have not forgotten [the attempts to make these lands Jewish] or the Jewish criminals' repeated attacks against the spot where Allah's Messenger ascended to Heaven. It is inconceivable that we would ignore the suffering of Muslims incarcerated in the prisons of the Jews. It is our right to assist them in any way possible. The sermons, celebrations, and declarations about our Al-Aqsa and our prisoners – who refrain from satisfying their hunger [that is, who are on hunger strike – trans.] – have become intolerable. Nothing beats iron but iron; without bloodshed, this ignominy will not be erased.

The knights of the incursion, two mujahideen, are heroes and martyrs [shahids]:

1. Khalid Salah Abd Al-Hadi Abu Salah Al-Masri [from Mersa Matruh, Egypt]
2. Adi Saleh Abdullah Al-Fudhayli Al-Hadhli Abu Hudhayfa Al-Hudhali [from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia]

We of the Shura Council of the Mujahideen from All Corners of Jerusalem part from these our two martyred mujahideen, as we know them... Their blessed incursion must be replicated:

To the Spirit of the Lion of Al-Sham [Greater Syria], Renewer of Jihad and Hoister of the Banner, the Martyred Sheikh Osama bin Muhammad Laden, may Allah have mercy on him.

To the Muslim Syrian people, the persecuted mujahid under the criminal, despotic Nusairi [Alawite] regime.

To the mujahideen, their commanders and their emirs in all arenas of Allah's jihad.

And to all of the Salafi-jihadist lions in the land of Gaza, who are oppressed.

O Lord, Deliverer and Revealer of the Qur'an, Mover of the Clouds, Swift to Understand, Vanquisher of the Tribes. Lord, vanquish the Jews and the infidels. Lord, vanquish them, shake them to their foundations, and help us.

"Our Lord! Pour out constancy on us and make our steps firm: Help us against those that reject faith."³⁰



From the video clip, L: the leadership of the Shura Council meets to declare its establishment; R: the two suicide attackers read their last testament

- The Palestinian Taliban, a Salafi-jihadist group active in the Gaza Strip, took responsibility for several terrorist attacks directed against the territory of the State of Israel, such as the firing of three missiles at Moshav Nirim on June 21, 2012, and the firing of seven 120 mm mortars into Israeli territory on June 22, 2012. The Palestinian Taliban also commended a terrorist attack perpetrated on June 18, 2012 on the Israel-Egypt border (see above).³¹
- The jihadist media outlet Ibn Taymiyyah published a video clip titled, "Prisoner of Tawhid [the Oneness of God]". The clip is part of a propaganda campaign that Ibn Taymiyyah has been conducting since late May 2012, to promote the release of Sheikh Abu Walid Al-Maqdisi. Until his incarceration by Hamas in 2009, Al-Maqdisi had headed the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group Al-Jihad wal-Tawhid.³²

³⁰ Qur'an 2 (The Cow):250. Translation accessed at: <http://www.harunyahya.com/> (English), on July 18, 2012.

³¹ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

³² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



The banner for the video clip, "Prisoner of Tawhid"

Africa

The Maghreb [North Africa]

- Criticism of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri by the leader of Tunisia's Al-Nahdha Party, Rashid Al-Ghannushi, had Web surfers up in arms against Al-Ghannushi's claim that Al-Qaeda had no intention of implementing Islamic law. Had Al-Ghannushi "adopted" [the position of] the Shiites instead of opposing them? they wondered. Web surfers condemned Al-Ghannushi for having lived in Europe, and for not representing the true Islam. They claimed that Al-Ghannushi and his cronies were the Muslim Nation's real tragedy, the reason for its destruction at the hands of the subjugating Zionist-Crusaders, whom they defend. Web surfers did not fail to mention Al-Ghannushi's affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood, which they also roundly attacked.³³
- Sheikh Abu Hani Al-Sibai, an Egyptian exile living in London where he heads the Al-Maqrizi Center for Historical Research, gave a Friday sermon that covered a variety of topics, including impediments to the articles of faith of Tunisia's Muslims and disrespectful caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad.³⁴
- A visitor to the Web forum Al-Jihad Al-Alami wondered at reports in the Algerian press that representatives of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) had allegedly met Algerian Army officials. Were these reports meant to mislead the public, and depict jihadist groups in Mali and North Africa as

³³ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

the work of Algerian intelligence? The writer asked jihadist groups to refute these reports and tell the truth.³⁵

- Abu Idris, the brother of Sheikh Abu Yahya Al-Libi, delivered a Friday sermon in Tripoli, Libya in which he pleaded with Muslims to maintain unity and obey Allah, lest the crimes of former Libyan ruler Muammar Qaddafi repeat themselves. Abu Idris is a founder of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) [Al-Jama'at Al-Islamiyyah Al-Muqatilah bi-Libya]. He was released from prison in October 2008 because of his poor health.³⁶



Abu Idris

Mali

- The jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen advertised an open session with Uld Bu Amamah, who is responsible for propaganda for Ansar Al-Din, between June 26 and June 30, 2012. Members registered with the forum were able to ask Amamah questions during the open session, to which they will receive answers at a later date.³⁷
- On June 16, 2012, a correspondent for the Spanish newspaper *L'Essor* met with representatives of the Nigerian group Boku Haram, Abu Yusuf among them, in Gao, northern Mali. Abu Yusuf reportedly touted the religious justifications for [Boku Haram's] presence in northern Mali, claiming that he and his comrades had come to help their "brothers" in the fight to impose Islamic law [shari'a] in Mali.³⁸
- The supervisor of the section on the Caucasus of the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Web forum, who calls himself Abu Hanifa Shatt Al-Arab, posted recent

³⁵ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁶ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

³⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

photographs of Ansar Al-Din operatives in Gao, in the Azwad region of northern Mali.³⁹



Members of Ansar Al-Din in northern Mali

- In a video clip, Sheikh Amar, a field commander for Ansar Al-Din, insisted that the mujahideen in Mali were determined to wage jihad and spread the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. He warned the US, France and NATO to stop interfering in the region, stating that the mujahideen would fight them if they persisted.⁴⁰



Sheikh Amar threatens the West

- The Mauritanian press agency Sahara Media reported that The Tawhid and Jihad Movement in West Africa, another Salafi-jihadist group active in Mali, had begun enforcing Islamic law in Gao, Mali. For example, it had established shari'a [Islamic law] courts, which were sentencing anyone who defied the commandments of Islam to the punishments set in the Qur'an.

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

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

Apparently The Tawhid and Jihad Movement in West Africa is cooperating with Ansar Al-Din in Mali, although the nature and extent of their affiliation is not yet clear.⁴¹

- The Tawhid and Jihad Movement in West Africa promised to embark on a series of attacks against any country that intervened in the Azwad region. In a letter to Agence France-Presse, Adnan Abu Walid Sahrawi, the group's spokesman, noted that the group's affiliates in multiple countries were prepared to attack sensitive targets of any country that fought the mujahideen in northern Mali. The Tawhid and Jihad Movement in West Africa was committed to helping young Muslims intent on raising the banner of Islam in whatever way possible, and declared open season for jihad.⁴²

Egypt

- Through the jihadist media outlet Al-Faroq, The Salafi-Jihadist Movement in Egypt announced its participation in "the activities of the second revolution" in Egypt.⁴³
- The Islamic News Agency Haqq reported that Egyptian Sheikh Mustafa Al-Adawi, a senior religious scholar, asked President-Elect Muhammad Mursi not to appoint a Christian as vice president, as this would be harmful to Sunnah. Also, Al-Adawi iterated that shari'a [Islamic law], and not the Egyptian people, is the source of legislation. He asked Mursi not to yield to the people if their wishes contravene shari'a, which he urged Mursi to follow and implement.⁴⁴



Mustafa Al-Adawi

⁴¹ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Selected responses to the election of Muslim Brotherhood candidate Muhammad Mursi to the Egyptian presidency

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan stated that Mursi's victory was a positive change for the Muslim Nation, reflecting a significant transformation in the Middle East and the Islamic world. It is also a severe blow to Zionist and US plans of expansion in the Middle East and the world. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan hoped that the new president of Egypt would be able to take this historic opportunity to defend the Muslim Nation and promote Islamic interests. Lastly, it offered to help Egypt, and thanked Al-Azhar for its fervent opposition to the American occupation of Afghanistan.⁴⁵
- Sheikh Dr. Tariq Abd Al-Haleem, a Salafi-jihadist who heads a new Egyptian Salafi group established since the revolution, which calls itself Sunnis to Save Egypt, wrote an article titled, "Mursi is President...What Next?". From Al-Haleem's perspective, since the democratic process is not anchored in shari'a [Islamic law], it is invalid and inappropriate. Nevertheless, the result of the elections – that is, Mursi's victory – is preferable to the election of secular candidate Ahmad Shafik. At the same time, Al-Haleem believes that the revolution has yet to achieve its ends: shari'a has yet to be implemented, freedom is not yet the province of all Egyptians, and actual power is still in the hands of the military. Moreover, given the response of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) to the election results, as evidenced by its calling for new parliamentary elections, the real revolution must begin. Al-Haleem then writes of the conduct of the Muslim Brotherhood since the elections, claiming that it intends to pander to secular people, relinquish the principles of Islam, and make deals with SCAF. The revolution thus misses the mark, he writes, and insists that it is necessary to fully implement shari'a and utterly reject "American Islam", which is mosque-centered, and "Tunisian Islam", like that of Al-Ghannushi (the Muslim Brotherhood's representative in Tunisia). Al-Haleem urges the Muslim Brotherhood and the Egyptian people to continue the revolution until shari'a is implemented, Egypt is striding toward correct Sunni Islam, and the Egyptian people have been freed from the bonds of the military.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁶ <http://as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Abdallah Muhammad Mahmud, a researcher at the Dawat Al-Haq Institute for Study and Research, advised Salafi-jihadists how to conduct themselves now that Muhammad Mursi has been elected as Egypt's new president.⁴⁷ Mahmud stressed at the outset that, although the Muslim Brotherhood diverges from shari'a [Islamic law] and follows a path unacceptable to Salafi-jihadists, one must act wisely and cautiously to derive benefit from the new reality created by the elections, and pave the way for the Salafi-jihadists to revive the Islamic caliphate. To this end, it is best to be aware of the following:
 - Despite disagreements with the Muslim Brotherhood, one must not side with the enemies of Allah, who have been spilling Muslim blood for decades.
 - If Ahmad Shafik, the secular candidate, had won the election, Salafi-jihadists would have been curtailed in their freedom of action and da'wa [missionary work]. For example, the Salafist Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia could not act freely under the rule of former President Ben Ali. However, since the Muslim Brotherhood's Al-Nahdha Party has come to power, Ansar Al-Sharia can act with impunity, expand its social and da'wa activities, and increase its members by the tens of thousands. One should learn from the Tunisian case, and focus on propaganda and da'wa in Egypt, which will strengthen the Salafi-jihadists.
 - Salafi-jihadists absolutely reject Western democracy. However, when Mursi uses the term "democracy", he does not mean a polytheistic democracy in which people are God's partners in making the law, but rather a democracy in which the people are free to choose their rulers. This interpretation does not contravene shari'a. Muslim history teaches that this is how things were done, for example when Othman was appointed the third caliph after consultation among the people.
 - Immediately after his election, Mursi declared that he would obey Allah and his Messenger, Muhammad. This is an historic position, one not heard since the demise of the Islamic caliphate. Mursi must therefore be helped to obey Allah. If he strays from Allah's path, one must criticize him constructively.

⁴⁷ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Salafi-jihadists must be cognizant of the difficult circumstances facing Egypt and its new president. They must not burden Mursi beyond what he can bear, so that he will be able to redress the situation.
- It is best to concentrate on da'wa and social action for the community, and be very wary of any activity that might be perceived as an impediment to the Muslim Brotherhood and the new president. Otherwise, the Salafi-jihadist movement may be harmed.
- Salafi-jihadists fighting in Israel must act wisely and choose the appropriate time to attack, so as not to create the impression that they are on a collision course with the Muslim Brotherhood, and so as not to embarrass the Brotherhood and arouse its antagonism.
- It should be remembered that the Muslim Brotherhood exists in various Islamic countries, and is not all of a piece. For example, although the Muslim Brotherhood in Iraq collaborates with the Americans against the mujahideen and participates in the democratic process, and although the Muslim Brotherhood in Afghanistan is fighting with the Americans against the Taliban, this does not mean that the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt will collaborate with the enemy. One must examine how the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt is effecting an Islamic renaissance.
- As time passes, the struggle is growing between the secular, liberal remnants of Mubarak's regime, and Egypt's Islamists. The former wish to thwart Mursi's promise of an Islamic awakening in Egypt; some are even working to remove Mursi from power. Consequently, the Salafi-jihadist movement in Egypt must help create conditions amenable to implementing shari'a and renewing the Islamic caliphate.
- Supporters of the Salafi-jihadist movement who contribute to various Web forums must stop insulting the Muslim Brotherhood. One must assume that with its ascendancy to the presidency, the Muslim Brotherhood has turned over a new leaf; the Salafi-jihadists should respond to its actions in the present and the future.

One Web surfer noted in response to this article that he agreed with Mahmud's that jihadists should be more tolerant of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt at present. With Mursi's election to the Egyptian presidency, this contributor claimed, a new stage had begun, different from previous ones. A

clash with the Brotherhood would be considered a clash against the masses. The jihadists, stressed the contributor, must concentrate on the secular camp in Egypt, which would like to overthrow the "Islamic" regime, as well as on propaganda and da'wa, and on opposing ideas – rather than individuals or political parties – that diverge from Islam. Another contributor noted that this advice is very important for Salafi-jihadists, and should be taken into consideration by sheikhs and religious scholars.

- The responses to the election of Muhammad Mursi to the Egyptian presidency of visitors to the Web forums Hanein and Al-Jihad Al-Alami reflected a number of opinions:⁴⁸
 - Fear lest the Egyptian president appoint a Christian vice president, under the influence of moderate American Islam, and to quell the Islamic reawakening. The Muslim Brotherhood was equated with American Islam; moreover, Mursi has yet to promise to implement shari'a [Islamic law], and seems to want to implement the moderate American model of Islam rather than the real Islam.
 - The feeling that Islam has not really attained power in Egypt, but rather the Muslims – more precisely, the Muslim Brotherhood – have attained power. Mursi is only "acting" for the benefit of outsiders and Egypt's Muslims, a tactic used by secular people.
 - Congratulations to the Egyptian people, and hope that Mursi will preserve their rights and keep the promises he made prior to his election.
 - The feeling that Mursi's election through a democratic process was a huge mistake, since were it not for Allah's mercy, his "Zionist" rival would have won the elections. This should be a lesson to the Muslims about the democratic system.
 - A request that Mursi fight corruption and licentiousness: prohibit alcohol, close bars and casinos, shut down anti-Islamic [television and radio] channels, free Muslims imprisoned in Coptic churches, and oppose those who oppose Muslims. Similarly, a request that Mursi not capitulate to Iran, Israel, the US and Russia or anyone who fights Islam; not to take loans from the World Bank; and not to be like other Arab rulers, who pander to Israel and the West.

⁴⁸ <http://hanein.info/vb>; <http://aljahad.com/vb> (both in Arabic).

- Harsh criticism of the celebration of Mursi's election in the Gaza Strip, during which thousands of bullets were fired in the air as an expression of joy. Web surfers blasted Hamas for using its weapons "against" those who believe in the Oneness of God [tawhid], rather than against its enemies.

Nigeria

- A visitor to the Al-Jihad Al-Alami Web forum discussed the June 17, 2012 terrorist attacks against five churches in Nigeria, in which 12 Christians were killed. Christians then killed 16 Muslims in retaliation. The contributor wondered what benefit had come of these terrorist attacks, since da'wa – efforts to convince people to embrace Islam – was not accomplished by killing. He added that the Prophet Muhammad had suffered from the Christians, but had succeeded in bringing many of them to Islam without bloodshed. A forum supervisor responded by asking whether the contributor knew how many Muslims had been killed by Christians in Nigeria, and asking that he defend persecuted Muslims and not Christian oppressors. Some Web surfers nevertheless agreed with the contributor who began the discussion, who now clarified that he did not mean that Muslims should remain silent while other Muslims were being killed or humiliated, and that the optimal situation would be for Christians to convert to Islam, as they had in the days of the Prophet, thanks to whom Muslims now fill the world. Another contributor argued that Islam tries not to harm other types of belief system but, sadly, secular and self-righteous people exploit the bombing of churches to impugn Islam and falsely accuse Muslims.⁴⁹

Somalia

- During the latter half of June 2012, the jihadist media outlet affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen issued the following:
 - A broadcast on Al-Andalus Al-Islami Radio of the last will and testament of the martyr Umar Nur, who blew himself up on June 17 at Somali intelligence headquarters in Afgooye.⁵⁰ Nur encouraged Muslims to emulate his act and defend Islam. Further, he threatened

⁴⁹ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁰ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

the enemies of Islam, promising that they would soon face additional suicide attacks.⁵¹

- An announcement that two hospitals had opened, in the Bay and Bakool regions, respectively.⁵²
- A report that additional Somali tribes, including the Huwayr Tribe, had sworn allegiance to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen⁵³ in the presence of Al-Shabab spokesman Ali Mahmoud Raji, in the city of Rama Addi.⁵⁴



A Somali tribal leader swears allegiance to Ali Mahmoud Raji, a representative of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- A documentary-propaganda film in English titled, "Under the Shade of Shari'ah", which shows how Al-Shabab Al-Muhajideen has improved the lives of Muslims in Somalia, who now enjoy economic prosperity and personal safety under the rule of shari'a [Islamic law]. The film also covers the threats to Somalia from its enemies, such as Christian Ethiopia, which is collaborating with the US in its war against Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.⁵⁵

⁵¹ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁵³ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁴ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



The opening of the documentary

The Caucasus

- The Web site Imarat Kavkaz published an announcement by mujahideen in Malgobeck regarding a shooting attack on the home of Ahmed Kotyeb, the secretary of the local defense council. The announcement called Kotyeb a traitor and enemy of Islam; the attack on him is but an example of the attacks that will be visited on all traitors. The mujahideen promised to make the enemies of Islam afraid not only to be in Muslim areas, but also to be in their own homes.⁵⁶
- Pursuant to an attack on Internet servers in early June 2012, apparently carried out by Russians, the blog Kavkaz Jihad was closed down.⁵⁷ Similarly, the Web site Valiat Dagestan reported that an attack against the main server of the Web site Kavkaz Center continued until the third week of June. According to Valiat Daegstan, at the height of that attack, access to Kavkaz Center was blocked in 60% of the world. Valiat Dagestan also reported how to circumvent blockages and access the Kavkaz Center site.⁵⁸
- The Web site Imarat Kavkaz reported an increase in Russian forces in the Caucasus, in an effort to capture jihadists. Imarat Kavkaz noted that Russian security forces had been seen on the streets of various cities, especially in the vicinity of Johare, trying to arrest women and girls wearing the black niqab [face veil] associated with the mujahideen. According to the site, security forces also arrested women wearing black gloves or a hijab [headscarf]. Imarat Kavkaz claimed that this escalation was not wholly clear to the locals,

⁵⁶ <http://www.shamilonline.org/ru/> (Russian).

⁵⁷ <http://kavkaz-jihad.blogspot.co.il> (English).

⁵⁸ <http://vdagestan.com/kavkaz-centr-po-prezhnemu-pod-atakoj-okolo-60-stran-blokirovany-sposoby-dostupa-na-kc.htm> (Russian).

who felt it had been ordered by the upper echelons of the Russian state. The site reported that locals welcomed the return of Muslims to strict observance, and would not allow the terrorist acts of the Russians to stop it.⁵⁹

- The Web site Valiat Dagestan reported that, despite insistent announcements by the enemies of Islam that Caucasian mujahideen had reached the breaking point, the mujahideen had in fact recruited new fighters, with some 30 new volunteers joining the ranks of the mujahideen in the Khasavyurt region in mid-June. The site described in detail how the volunteers had left their lodgings in groups of four, and come to the forests to join jihad. The site also reported a significant decline in the number of terrorist attacks in the arena.⁶⁰
- The Web site Valiat Dagestan summarized the month's activities of the mujahideen in the Caucasus arena: a total of 52 acts of jihad were perpetrated, leaving 15 enemies of Allah dead and 29 wounded; eight men were martyred [became shahids]. An identical number of acts of jihad had been perpetrated in May, when 30 "enemies" were killed and 116 wounded fewer than in the previous month (May 2012).⁶¹
- The Web site Imarat Kavkaz reported that a video clip purportedly uploaded to the Internet by Russia's Federal Security Forces (FSB) contained anti-jihad propaganda about a group called The Robin Hoods. In the clip, the group describes itself as a cadre of volunteer collaborators with the FSB and Russia's Ministry of Internal Affairs Forces (MVD), which have declared war on jihad. The video shows The Robin Hoods as armed, uniformed and masked men who promise to destroy the mujahideen in the Caucasus. Imarat Kavkaz treats the film as one in a series of Russian fabrications, and notes that the group does not really exist, but rather is an invention of the FSB.⁶²

The West and Elsewhere

- The Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF) published an article in German titled, "A Message to Keepers of the Faith", by Sheikh Abu Khattab Al-Muhajir, a

⁵⁹ <http://www.shamilonline.org/ru/> (Russian).

⁶⁰ <http://vdagestan.com/radostnye-vesti-za-dve-nedeli-k-mudzhaxidam-xasavyurta-prisoedinilis-do-30-novobrancelv.htm> (Russian).

⁶¹ <http://vdagestan.com/imarat-kavkaz-svodka-boevyx-operacij-modzhaxedov-za-mesyac-radzhab-1433-goda-po-xidzhre-22-maya-20-iyunya-2012-g.htm> (Russian).

⁶² <http://www.shamilonline.org/ru/2009-08-18-08-08-27/11100--lr-.html> (Russian).

German Salafi-jihadist imprisoned in Germany. Al-Muhajir encourages his fellow inmates, and urges them to be patient despite the difficulties.⁶³



Words of encouragement from Abu Khattab Al-Muhajir to his fellow prisoners

Women and Jihad

- The Al-Masadah Media Center published an article by Sheikh Abu Saad Al-Amili titled, "Women Are the Sisters of Men".⁶⁴ Al-Amili addresses Muslim women, primarily those who have yet to engage in Islamic activity, and asks them to free themselves from the chains of ignorance, and from their enslavement to corrupt infidel regimes. Without women, he says, it is not possible to achieve the longed-for liberation from the bonds of tyranny. Without women, men will not make progress or effect change. He quotes Qur'anic verses that extol women's role alongside men. He warns Muslim women against adopting Western ideas, adding that slogans about women's struggle in Islam boil down to jihad. In effect, women's jihad is first and foremost to give the mujahideen logistical assistance in the arenas of jihad. Women should be active in propaganda, education, and medicine – areas of expertise needed for jihad in this day and age. Women must share responsibility with the mujahideen, and contribute to da'wa [proselytizing] and preparation for jihad. Al-Amili reminds women that jihad is difficult, and that they will need patience and may be asked to make sacrifices, especially if they are captured and imprisoned. Women must cling to their faith, which is a source of strength and the most powerful and fearsome weapon.⁶⁵

⁶³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁴ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁵ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

- A woman supervisor of Al-Jihad Al-Alami calling herself "a woman from Morocco" posted a personal story about a close friend from childhood with whom she had shared daily life, at school and at the mosque. After many years she had again met this friend, but barely recognized her. Her friend had abandoned Islam and become addicted to drugs, and her life was one of torment and suffering. The supervisor reported trying to influence her friend to return to Islam and had even offered her help, but the friend had refused her offers. The supervisor urged her readers to adhere to the faith, and not think "it couldn't happen to me". Although the supervisor deliberately avoided saying where she was from, one of the site's visitors chastised her for identifying herself as being from Morocco, where men and women have equal rights. The supervisor confessed that, as she had written from the depths of her heart, she had failed to remember the forum's rules of security.⁶⁶

Miscellaneous

- The jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam announced a temporary cessation of its activities because of the transition to a new server.⁶⁷
- The jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published a kit which could be downloaded and used to design propaganda on behalf of the mujahideen. The kit contained PhotoShop, Kelk Software Calligraphy, photographs of weapons, and photographs of armed mujahideen.⁶⁸



A Web design and graphic kit, to be used in promoting jihad

⁶⁶ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁸ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).