

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Forums

The First Half of July 2012

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

- The deputy consul in Aden, who is being held captive by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), appeals for a second time to the Saudi authorities to release Muslim women prisoners, in exchange for his release.
- The Al-Nusrah Front takes responsibility for a series of terrorist attacks against the Syrian regime's security forces.
- Ansar Al-Din publishes a new propaganda video of its battles against its enemies in the Azawad region of Mali.
- A new Nigerian Salafi-jihadist group, Jamat Ansar Al-Muslimin fi Bilad Sudan [Supporters of the Muslims in the Land of Sudan], officially declares its establishment.
- Boku Haram takes responsibility for a July 8, 2012 terrorist attack against Christians and Nigerian security forces in Plateau State, Nigeria, in which 22 Christians, two of them Nigerian MPs, are killed.
- Jihadist Web forums highlight the plight of Muslims in Myanmar (formerly Burma), who are being persecuted and exiled by the Myanmar authorities. They call for jihad in Myanmar.
- Reports abound that Abu Hafs Al-Mauritani, the former mufti of Al-Qaeda, has been released from the prison in Mauritania to which he was extradited after ten years in an Iranian prison.
- Jihadmin, a new Turkish-language jihadist Web forum, is launched.

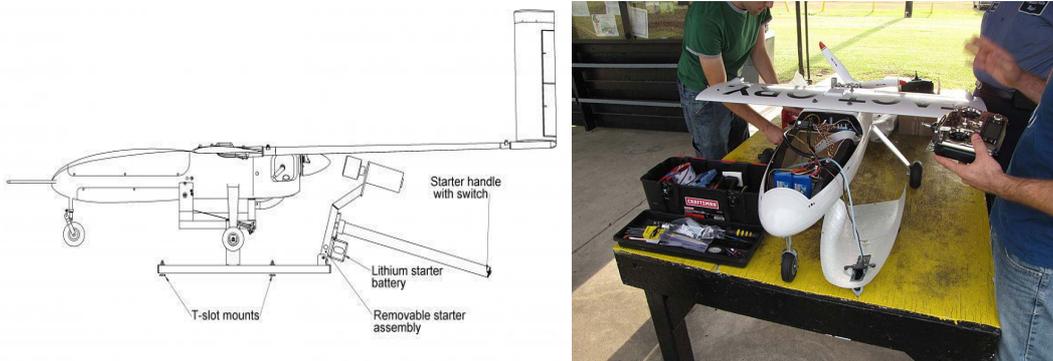
New Publications

Ideology

- During the first half of July 2012, the senior leadership of Al-Qaeda made no declarations of any kind. The last statement to be published by a senior Al-Qaeda official was that made by the group's leader, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, on June 17, 2012.¹

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Hassad Al-Mujahideen published a guidebook on how to construct a drone (an aircraft that needs no pilot). He claimed it is relatively easy to build a drone equipped with radar and weapons against other drones and even helicopters using materials that can be purchased on the open market. The contributor recommended establishing a team of people with different skills to accomplish this task. He then provided detailed instructions, with diagrams and video clips, for building a drone.²



An illustrated guide to building a pilotless light plane (drone)

Promoting the Myth of Martyrdom

- A woman supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Al-Jihad Al-Alami reported that an Egyptian citizen named Ahmad Rifaat was killed in Syria while fighting the regime there. According to the supervisor, Rifaat was released from an Egyptian prison after the revolution in Egypt, and left to join jihad in Libya; he returned to Egypt after the demise of Muammar Qaddafi. Subsequently, he joined the mujahideen who were fighting the Alawite security forces in Syria,

¹ See: <http://www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=nABqT5MnO4Q%3d&tabid=344>, pp.2-3.

² <http://hassadalmojahideen.nrt/vb> (Arabic).

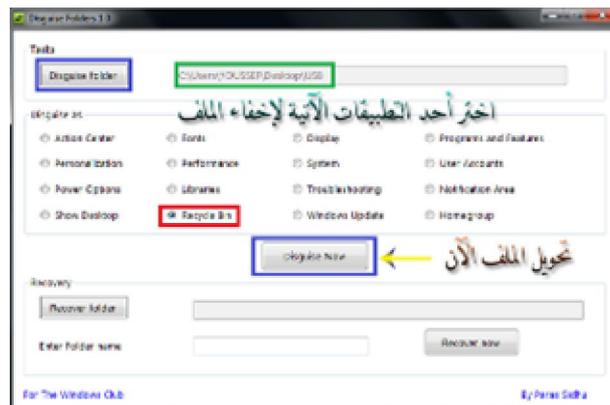
and was killed on July 7, 2012. A video clip of Rifaat fighting in Libya was appended to this thread.³



Ahmad Rifaat

Cyber-Jihad

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida suggested using the computer program Disguise Folders 1.0 to conceal computer files from the prying eyes of foreigners and intelligence agents. Disguise Folders 1.0, he claimed, would protect the content of the files. The contributor subsequently gave a detailed, illustrated explanation of how to use this program.⁴



How to use Disguise Folders 1.0

³ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Members of jihadist Web forums reported that the Boston, Massachusetts Bar Association Web site had been hacked into, as had the Web site of a municipal authority in Colombia.⁵

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published new issues of its jihadist magazines in Arabic, English, and Urdu, which cover jihad in Afghanistan: Issue No. 74 for July 2012 of the Arabic-language magazine *Al-Somood*;⁶ Issue No. 42 for July 2012 of the English-language magazine *In Fight*;⁷ and a new issue in Urdu, for July 2012, of *Nawai Afghan Jihad*.⁸



The most recent issues of, from left to right, *In Fight*, *Al-Somood*, and *Nawai Afghan Jihad*

- Issue No. 39 is published of the magazine *Al-Waqi*, which contains a selection of news items about mujahideen in various arenas of jihad, and key international news items.⁹

⁵ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶ <http://www.alsomod-iea.info> (Arabic).

⁷ <https://www.alqital.net> (English and Urdu).

⁸ <http://nawaiafghan.blogspot.co.il> (Urdu).

⁹ <http://snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).



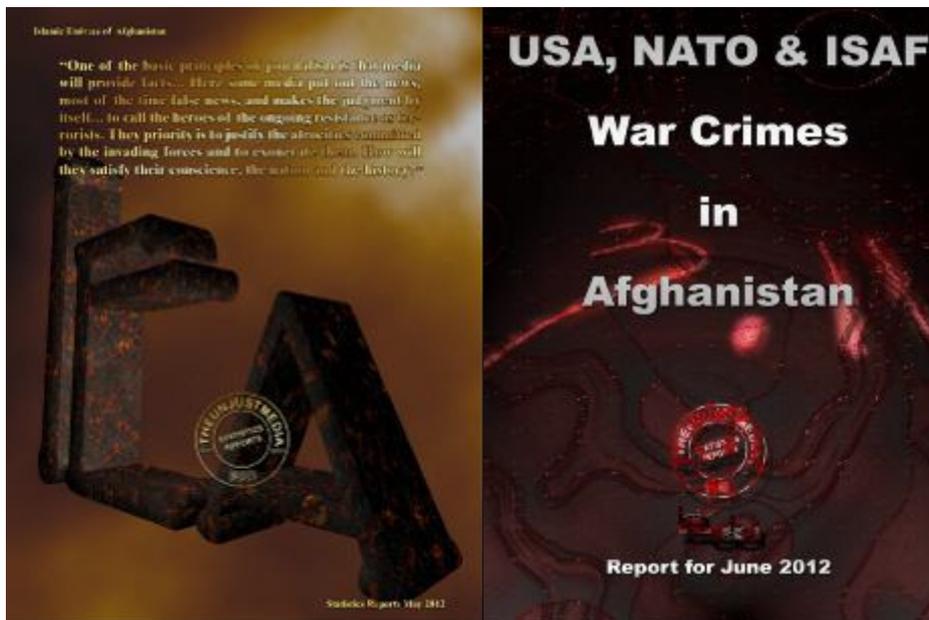
Issue No. 39 of *Al-Waqi*

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published a statistical abstract summarizing its activities in June 2012, including the casualties and property damage sustained by its ranks and those of the enemy; a map of the areas where attacks were perpetrated; and the types of attack perpetrated. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan also published a report on the alleged war crimes of the US, NATO, and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.¹⁰

¹⁰ <http://theunjustmedia.com> (English).



Banners advertising the publications of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The supervisor of the Caucasus section of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen reported that Din Muhammad, a member of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's political council, had attended a conference hosted by Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan on June 25, 2012. Din Muhammad discussed the problem of Afghanistan, and noted that the Afghanistani Taliban would be willing to renew talks immediately with Washington and the Afghan authorities, provided the US fulfills its commitment to release Taliban prisoners from its base in Guantanamo, Cuba. According to the supervisor, the participation of Din Muhammad in the conference constitutes the first international appearance of a senior representative of the Emirate. One Web surfer disagreed, however, noting that the Taliban had participated in a similar conference in 2011 at Doshisha University in Kyoto.¹¹

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



Participants in a conference at Dhoshisha University, Kyoto, on the fate of Afghanistan

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen reported the death of another forum member, Abu Abd Al-Rahman Al-Asir Al-Urduni, while fighting jihad in Afghanistan.¹²

Iraq

- The Islamic State of Iraq published a report detailing its (118) military activities in the northern province, primarily against Shi'ite security forces, between April 24 and May 26, 2012. It also reported on an additional (45) military activities, carried out in Kirkuk Province between February 28 and May 17, 2012.¹³
- Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein praised the Islamic State of Iraq's declaration of its intention to re-take control of areas that the Shi'ites had captured with the help of Sunni collaborators, and expressed their wish that the Islamic State of Iraq would impose its rule on all of Iraq. Further, they cited the disgruntlement of Sunnis at the presence of armed Shi'ites in Sunni territory, who were being protected by Sunnis serving in the Iraqi Army and internal security forces. Other Web surfers warned of the danger from Sunni collaborators, and cautioned readers to neither trust nor forgive them.¹⁴
- Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein criticized the structure of the Islamic State of Iraq's periodic reports on its military activities, claiming that the reports are too terse. They asked for more information than that currently

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

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

¹⁴ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

provided – date, location, weaponry and outcomes – especially when a “quality” action has been perpetrated. They also protested against the listing of tens of actions in one report.¹⁵

The Arabian Peninsula

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Malahem, which functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published a video clip in which the Saudi Arabian deputy consul in Aden, Abdallah Muhammad Khalifah Al-Khalidi, addressed Saudi authorities. This was the second video clip in which Al-Khalidi, who was abducted by AQAP in late March 2012, asked the Saudis to capitulate to the demands of his captors to secure his release; the first was published in mid-May 2012.¹⁶

In this video clip, published on July 2, 2012, Al-Khalidi appealed directly to Saudi King Abdullah bin Abd Al-Aziz, Foreign Minister Saud Al-Faysal, and Emir Muhammad bin Naif. He asked that they meet AQAP’s demand for the release of Muslim women prisoners in Saudi Arabia, in exchange for his release. Al-Khalidi also begged the Saudi people not to forget him.¹⁷

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen reported an item published by a Yemeni news agency, which claimed that Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) had established a training camp in Wadi bin Ali in the Hadramaut region of Yemen.¹⁸

Al-Sham [Greater Syria]

- During the first half of July, the Al-Nusrah Front published the following announcements:
 - Announcement no. 20, denying any connection with Muhammed Hussam Sadaaqi, a suicide attacker who blew himself up at the Al-Rifai Mosque in Damascus. According to the Al-Nusrah Front, news of the attack was propagated by the regime in an effort to discredit the Front by falsely attributing to it an attack on a mosque full of worshippers.¹⁹

¹⁵ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁶ See: <http://www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=645KA3X3mDA%3d&tabid=344> , pp.11-12.

¹⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁸ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Announcement no. 21, taking responsibility for 11 terrorist attacks in the environs of Damascus during April and early May 2012. For example, on April 4, 2012 the Al-Nusra Front succeeded in assassinating Wahid Haydar, one of the shabiha [the regime's brutal henchmen], as part of its covert effort at targeted killings.²⁰
- Announcement no. 22, taking responsibility for nine attacks perpetrated in early June against Syrian security forces in the vicinity of Damascus.²¹
- Announcement no. 23, taking responsibility for nine attacks perpetrated in early June against Syrian security forces in Damascus.²²
- Announcement no. 24, taking responsibility for the detonation of a car bomb on June 8, 2012 in front of police headquarters near Damascus, which were thronged with security personnel and shabiha.²³



Police headquarters near Damascus targeted by the Al-Nusra Front

- Announcement no. 25, taking responsibility for seven attacks against Syrian security personnel in Aleppo.²⁴
- Announcement no. 26, taking responsibility for an attack against a Syrian security patrol, comprising five cars and a bus, in the Al-Maysar Neighborhood of Aleppo on June 7, 2012. The terrorist boarded the bus and shot at the 24 security personnel on board.²⁵

²⁰ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

²¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

²³ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

²⁵ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Announcement no. 27, taking responsibility for a suicide attack in which a booby-trapped car was rammed into an internal security forces building in Idlib's industrial zone on June 8, 2012.²⁶
- Announcement no. 28, taking responsibility for an attack on a checkpoint in Daraa.²⁷
- Announcement no. 29, taking responsibility for a raid on two military posts in Dayr Al-Zawr, during which several Syrian security personnel were killed and weapons were taken.²⁸
- Announcement no. 30, taking responsibility for a suicide attack against military security headquarters in the Al-Salihyya area of eastern Dayr Al-Zawr.²⁹
- Announcement no. 31, taking responsibility for a suicide attack on June 14, 2012 against a national security forces branch in Zaynab neighborhood of Damascus. A suicide attacker named Mu'awiya Al-Damaskai drove a van into the building, exploding on impact.³⁰
- Announcement no. 32, taking responsibility for infiltrating and destroying Al-Ekhbariya Al-Soriyah Television on June 27, 2012, near Damascus. According to the Al-Nusrah Front, the news channel was a propaganda arm of the Syrian regime, and deserved to be targeted.³¹



The remains of Al-Ekhbariya Al-Soriyah Television

²⁶ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

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

³⁰ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

³¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Announcement no. 33, taking responsibility for several attacks in and around Damascus between June 20 and July 12, 2012, including the assassination in Damascus on July 9, 2012 of Haytham Muhammad bin Jamil, an Air Safety Officer and his son.³²
- Announcement no. 34, taking responsibility for several attacks in and around Aleppo, including a series of assassinations of Syrian security personnel.³³
- The supervisor of the Web forum Al-Jihad Al-Alami urged snipers to assassinate two Arab-Israeli Communists. Web surfers seconded his appeal, and suggested that followers of tawheed [the Unity of God] in the territories occupied since 1948 [that is, Israel] perform the deed.³⁴
- During the latter half of June, the Al-Jihad Al-Alami Web forum opened a chat room where the Palestinian Taliban³⁵ could post announcements. Established in the Gaza Strip in 2009, the Palestinian Taliban now numbers some 100 members.³⁶ Since its establishment, the group has done the following:
 - Called on those who have been spying on the mujahideen for the enemy, drug dealers, and prostitutes to return to religious belief and observance.
 - Warned Shi'ites against disrespecting the Prophet Muhammad, his wives and disciples.
 - Urged implementation of Islamic law [shari'a] rather than Western laws.
 - Praised the mujahideen's attacks against Israel, and fired rockets at Israeli territory.
 - Supported the struggle of the Syrian people against their tyrannical regime.

³² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

³⁴ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁵ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁶ <http://www.france24.com/ar/20110512-taliban-gaza-report-islamists-salafists-afghanistan> (Arabic).



The logo of the Palestinian Taliban

Africa

The Maghreb [North Africa]

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen reported the release of three Salafist sheikhs from Tanja Prison in Morocco. He also posted a video of their release.³⁷



A video of the release of three Salafists from Tanja Prison, Morocco

- A discussion developed on the jihadist Web forum Hanein of the promise by Abdelhakim Belhadj, leader of the Islamic Homeland Party (Al-Watan Party) in Libya, to implement Islamic law [shari'a] if he wins Libya's July elections. Web surfers wrote in to say they believed Belhadj's promise, even though they felt this was not the right way to go about things. Other contributors expressed

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

their lack of faith in Belhadj, claiming that one who had borne arms but not worked previously to implement shari'a would not now do so even if he won the election.³⁸

Mali

- Ansar Al-Din published a video clip titled, "The Conquest of Azawad",³⁹ in which the group is shown fighting its enemies in the Azawad region of northern Mali. Beginning in March 2012, Ansar Al-Din, which has ties to Al-Qaeda, has gradually taken control of northern Mali. In April 2012, Ansar Al-Din fought alongside Tuareg rebels to conquer Timbuktu. Since then, the paths of the jihadists and the Tuareg have diverged: the Tuareg have been evicted from the region, while Ansar Al-Din has come to control Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal –cities in northern Mali that are sacred to Islam.



A banner advertising the Ansar Al-Din video

- The Islamist-jihadist media outlet Haqq quoted an interview with a qadi [judge] from Timbuktu by Sahara Media, the Mauritanian Press Agency. The qadi praised the arrival of the mujahideen in Timbuktu, calling it a positive development. He reported that shari'a [Islamic law] was now being implemented, and that the city's foreign ways had been superseded by the Islamic way of life. The qadi cited a few remaining challenges facing

³⁸ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).
³⁹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Timbuktu, among them the need to train more jurists; the need to resolve conflicts about pastureland; and the need to counter a biased campaign maligning the mujahideen. The qadi was also asked about the nature of the relationship between the residents of Timbuktu and Ansar Al-Din. They have a good relationship, the qadi claimed, and despite the difficulties, residents and mujahideen are cooperating. For example, he reported that Ansar Al-Din had established a judicial council in Timbuktu, composed of men who were not members of the group as well as of those who were.⁴⁰

- Ansar Al-Din is known to have destroyed UN-declared World Heritage Sites in Timbuktu and northern Mali – acts condemned by Morocco and France. In response, Web surfers castigated these two countries, and blamed the previous government of Morocco for using US funding to promulgate Sufism and distance people from the true Islam. The current government of Morocco, they wrote, was only ostensibly Islamic; in fact, it was a puppet of the regime.⁴¹
- In early July 2012, The Tawhid and Jihad Movement in West Africa freed three of the seven diplomats it had kidnapped in early April 2012 from the Algerian consulate in Gao.⁴²
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published photographs of mujahideen fighting the National Front for the Liberation of Azawad in Gao, Mali.⁴³



Left to right: Fighting to liberate Gao; "The joy of the Muslims at seeing the mujahideen" on the liberation of Gao

⁴⁰ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴¹ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴³ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

Egypt

- The election of Muslim Brotherhood candidate Muhammad Mursi to the Egyptian presidency at the end of June 2012 continues to be a "hot topic" on jihadist Web forums.⁴⁴ In early July 2012, the three leading jihadist Web forums – Shumukh Al-Islam, Al-Fida, and Ansar Al-Mujahideen – published a joint announcement claiming that jihadist propaganda should adopt a unified approach to the topic, one reflecting patience and tolerance. They stressed the primacy of da'wa [missionary work] at present, and urged an end to the criticism of divergent views and to conflict with [non-Salafist] Islamist groups. They recommended that Salafists cooperate with other Islamists, as is permitted, while showing them the error of their ways and guiding them.⁴⁵
- The jihadist media institution Al-Farooq published the second in a series of video clips titled, "Supporting Shari'a" by Dr. Iyad Qunaibi.⁴⁶ The Western-educated Dr. Qunaibi, formerly a lecturer at the Balqa Applied University in Salt, Jordan, 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 the current video, Qunaibi extols the virtues of implementing shari'a.

Nigeria

- Abu Qaqa, the spokesman for Boku Haram, took responsibility for an attack against Christians and Nigerian security forces attending a funeral in Plateau State, Nigeria, on July 8, 2012. The attack killed 22 Christians, two of them Nigerian MPs. Abu Qaqa promised that Boku Haram would continue to pursue representatives of the regime.⁴⁷
- On July 7, 2012, jihadist Web forums posted an official announcement in which Jamat Ansar Al-Muslimin fi Bilad Sudan [Supporters of the Muslims in the Land of Sudan] declared its establishment. The group also published a video clip in which its emir, Abu Yusuf Al-Ansari, declared its mission: to help

⁴⁴ See: <http://www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=nABqT5MnO4Q%3d&tabid=344> , pp.27-31.

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

⁴⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁷ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

and defend Muslims, particularly in Black Africa; engage in missionary work [da'wa] for the right path; respond immediately to attacks on Muslims and avenge their perpetrators; and restore Muslim honor. Jihad, he said, is the means to these ends. He then stated that the group had been established to redress the injustices and increasing violence against Muslims in Nigeria. Various terrorist groups had been waging a stubborn campaign of oppression against the Muslims and Islam in Nigeria for the past 40 years, he claimed, while the Nigerian government turned a blind eye, unwilling to defend Muslim rights "because the government is not Muslim". The announcement claimed that the Nigerian government had a shared interest with Crusader forces, including Britain, in fighting the Muslims and Islam. The group therefore asked all Muslims to help it wipe out the tyrannical Nigerian regime.⁴⁸



The logo of Jamat Ansar Al-Mulsimin fi Bilad Sudan

Somalia

- In honor of Ramdan, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen distributed aid packages to 5,000 needy families in Jowhar, Shabelle Dhexe Province, and 500 families in Hiran Province.⁴⁹
- The supervisor of the Al-Jihad Al-Alami Web forum reported that a Somali soldier in Mogadishu killed a Muslim woman when she refused to take off her niqab [face veil]. Veiled Muslim women were being humiliated like this every day, he reported. He also reported that Somali security forces were arresting people throughout Mogadishu on trumped-up charges of affiliation with Al-Qaeda, and torturing them. The detainees would then only be freed in exchange for hefty ransom payments, which found their way into the pockets of senior Somali officials. Detainees who did not have the money to pay the ransom were threatened that they would be humiliated and mistreated by collaborators with the Somali government. One Web surfer wrote indignantly

⁴⁸ <http://www.hassadalmojahideen.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

that were the Muslims to be detaining Somalis, the latter would be receiving fair treatment.⁵⁰

The Caucasus

- The Kavkaz Center Web site published a video clip in Chechen in which the emir of the Caucasus Emirate, Dokku Othman, appealed to Chechen Muslims in particular, and to Muslims worldwide. The video constitutes an escalation of Dokku Othman's stridency: in it, he declares that Muslims in the Caucasus can no longer stand on the sidelines of the struggle; the time has come for them to choose whether they are on the side of true Islam, or that of the enemies of Islam. Calling himself the "brother" of Muslims everywhere, Dokku Othman extends his hand in peace and fellowship, as no Muslims have harmed him and he has not harmed them. At the same time, Dokku Othman cautions that he will not suffer any "third party" to the struggle – even Allah would not suffer this, he says.⁵¹ The video was translated into Russian by the Web site Valiat Dagestan.⁵²
- The Web site Valiat Dagestan published the latest, extensive instructions for the prayer rituals of those engaged in jihad, as issued by the Shura Council headed by the emir of Galiachnik Province. The Shura Council allowed some latitude in the prayers of the mujahideen, defined the rules for communal prayer among them, elucidated which prayers should be said in times of danger or captivity, and concluded with sample cases and rulings.⁵³



⁵⁰ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵¹ <http://www.kavkazcenter.com/russ/> (Russian).

⁵² <http://vdagestan.com/obrashhenie-amir-ik-dokku-abu-usman-bolshe-net-putej-libo-k-musulmanam-libo-k-kafiram.htm> (Russian).

⁵³ <http://vdagestan.com/molitva-na-dzhixade.htm> (Russian).

Mujahideen in the Caucasus at prayer

- The Web site Valiat Dagestan posted an opinion paper by an author calling himself, "Seeking to Do Allah's Will", which contained advice and tips on matters of security for new volunteers to the ranks of jihad. The author wrote that while the armies of infidels are motivated by fear of punishment, the mujahideen are motivated by fear of God; this should help the volunteer make the transition to the secretive life of the jihadist. The volunteer must take these precautions: he must not reveal his intentions; he must be vigilant and alert; and he must prevent his relatives from leaking information about him.⁵⁴
- The jihadist media outlet Sada Al-Kavkaz, which functions under the auspices of the Caucasus Emirate, published a video clip on the lives of mujahideen in the Al-Jabl region of Dagestan.⁵⁵



Caucasus mujahideen in a forest in the Al-Jabl region

- In June, the Web site Imarat Kavkaz published an article about the anti-jihadist propaganda of a group calling itself "The Robin Hoods". Pursuant to it, the Web site Valiat Dagestan published an "exposé" of the group, which included a video of volunteers whose faces and identifying details were revealed. According to the exposé, The Robin Hoods are local men, whom Valiat Dagestan calls "puppets" [marionettes] and thugs of the regime. In the

⁵⁴ <http://vdagestan.com/dlya-novobrancev-nekotorye-aspekty-bezopastnosti-na-dzhixade.htm> (Russian).

⁵⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

video, a group of Muslim men goad and challenge The Robin Hoods, calling them cowards.⁵⁶

- The blog Chemodan Mujaheda [The Mujahid's Toolbox] posted a brief excerpt of an interview with Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, the founder of the Salafi-jihadist camp in Jordan, who is currently serving time in a Jordanian prison for having ties with terrorists in Chechnya. In the interview, Al-Maqdisi discusses jihad in the Caucasus, saying he is familiar with and respects the methodology of jihad being used there at present, and comparing it to that being used in Somalia. He adds that anyone following developments in the Caucasus respects the determination of the mujahideen there, and wishes them success.⁵⁷

The West and Elsewhere

- Since late June 2012, jihadist Web forums have been giving increasing attention to the Muslim population in Myanmar (formerly Burma). They report that Myanmar's Muslim population – about 10% of its total population – is being exiled and killed, while the Islamic world stands silent. Arab and Gulf states are blamed, for example, for not giving the Muslims in Myanmar financial aid. The Al-Farooq Media Institution, which usually focuses on Egypt, produced a video clip called, "The Tragedy of Burma" to express support for the Muslims there and urge them to wage jihad and not heed appeals to demonstrate peacefully. Jihadist Web forums also posted reports on the activities and statements of the military regime in Myanmar against Muslims. Web surfers responded with calls for revenge. Jihadist Web sites also posted horrific photographs illustrating the war to destroy and disgrace the Muslims in Myanmar, and banners expressing support for the Muslims.⁵⁸

⁵⁶ <http://vdagestan.com/video-robingudov-razoblachili.htm> (Russian).

⁵⁷ http://chemodanmudjahida.blogspot.co.il/2012/07/blog-post_11.html (Russian).

⁵⁸ <http://hanein.info/vb>; <http://aljahad.com/vb> (both in Arabic).



A banner advertising the video clip, "The Tragedy of Burma"

Miscellaneous

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida reported the launching of a new jihadist forum named Jihadmin, which will publish content in four languages: Arabic, English, Russian, and Turkish. As of this writing, the forum contains threads in Turkish only.⁵⁹



The logo of the new jihadist Web site

- A visitor to the Web forum Al-Jihad Al-Alami related that most of the supporters of jihad had been drawn to it by propaganda, especially visual publications. Since the mujahideen cannot appeal to the public themselves, this obligation falls to the supporters of jihad, especially in countries such as Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, where jihad can only be promoted by propaganda, and not warfare. Moreover, propaganda is necessary to deflect the distortions and harsh accusations of the infidel media. This contributor makes the helpful

⁵⁹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

suggestion of using flyers and DVDs, which can contain up to 30 items, to promote jihad. Propaganda materials should speak to the heart, but should avoid complex issues. They should touch on all arenas of jihad. Propaganda should be disseminated in the streets, central squares, parking lots, and anywhere people congregate.⁶⁰

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida reported that Abu Hafs Al-Mauritani, the former mufti of Al-Qaeda, had been released from prison in Mauritania. Al-Mauritani had been detained by Iranian security forces in the wake of the attacks of September 11, 2001, and held in Iran for some 10 years. Following an extradition request in 2011, he was sent to Mauritania, where he was held until his release in early July 2012.⁶¹



Abu Hafs Al-Mauritani

- A supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen named Gharib asked forum visitors to vote on the loveliest banner, as part of a design competition intended to promote the mujahideen.⁶²

⁶⁰ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



A banner entered in the competition showing two suicide terrorists, members of The Council of the Mujahideen in the Environs of Jerusalem, who attacked the Egypt-Israel border on June 18, 2012

- Hani Al-Sibai, an Egyptian exile living in London and the director of the Al-Maqrizi Center for Historical Studies, sent a message to young people imprisoned at Guantanamo, addressing the question of whether it is permissible to be tried before courts that do not follow Islamic law [shari'a]. The question had been posed by the young detainees' interpreter, who had reported that the detainees were refusing to stand trial in an American court, because American courts do not rule according to the laws of Allah. The detainees have been obstinate in their stance, despite efforts to persuade them otherwise. The interpreter asked in their name for a fatwa [religious-legal ruling] on the matter. Al-Sibai began by writing that his opinion would not be binding on anyone. He then clarified that a Muslim must not attend a trial for a matter that contravenes the laws of Allah. At the same time, he wondered whether the young detainees and others like them elsewhere in the world, east or west, had any choice. After all, [a non-Islamic] regime would not allow them to be tried before a shari'a court. Al-Sibai therefore ruled that, under duress, and in order to defend himself against injustice, injury, and infringement of his rights, a Muslim may appeal to a court that is not a shari'a court, if no shari'a court is available. Anyone who claims that this is forbidden, increases the Muslim's distress and suffering, and asks him to relinquish his blood [life], honor, property and rights. Al-Sibai noted that Islamic law requires Muslims to defend their religion, themselves, their honor

and their property, and to throw off all injustice. He anchored his ruling in documents by Islamic scholars.⁶³

- The jihadist media outlet of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published a video clip titled, "The Awestruck Hearts". It is the fourth in a series titled, "Thoughts on Purity on the Path", by AQAP member Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi Al-Nadhari (aka Muhammad Al-Murshidi). In it, Al-Murshidi discusses to the various types of awe that typify believers, such as the fear of not performing the commandments.⁶⁴
- Reports have been swirling that Abu Yahya Al-Libi has been assassinated, and interviews have been published in which his relatives apparently confirm his death. In response, Web surfers wonder why Al-Qaeda has yet to make any official announcement in this regard. They also wonder how they could have learned this news, if it has yet to be published by Al-Qaeda's media outlet, Al-Fajr.⁶⁵

⁶³ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁴ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁵ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).