

## Periodical Review: Summary of Information from the Jihadi Forums

### The Second Half of July 2011

This report summarizes the most prominent events brought up in the Jihadi online forums in the second half of July 2011. Following are the main issues raised in this report:

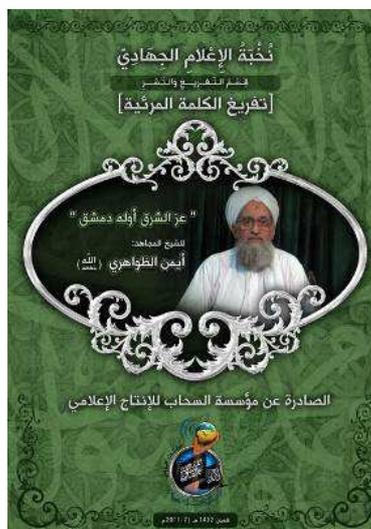
- Ayman Al-Zawahiri publishes his first tape since being appointed as Al-Qaeda's leader.
- The Emir of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula swears allegiance to Al-Zawahiri.
- The Military Commander of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula threatens to move the campaign to Saudi Arabia.
- Al-Qaeda's future strategy was published in sections by "Asad Al-Jihad2".
- Will a new Al-Qaeda branch be founded in the near future in the Al-Sham region?
- The Jihadi forums enlist support for the uprisings in Syria.

## New publications

### Ideology

- The "As-Sahab" Jihadi media institute published a video by Ayman Al-Zawahiri, the first since he was appointed as Al-Qaeda's leader in mid-June 2011. On the tape, Al-Zawahiri encourages the Syrian people in their protests against Bashar Al-Asad's regime. For example, he stressed that the Syrian people must show a determined stand and act against "The leader of the band of criminals, descendant of the traitors, the most corrupt, and head of the butchers, partnering with the U.S. in the war on Islam in the name of fighting terrorism and guarding Israel's borders".

Al-Zawahiri further noted that one should be vigilant of the United States' attempts to get into the good graces of the demonstrators in order to protect its interests in the region, which include ensuring safety on Israel's borders. In light of this, Al-Zawahiri demanded that the Mujahideen and the demonstrators adhere to their plan to bring down the corrupt governments and liberate Islam's lands until the flag of Jihad is hoisted over Jerusalem.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.atahadi.net/vb>

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published an announcement on the upcoming publication of an animated clip that illustrates the harsh reality faced by the Mujahideen in order to protect the religion of Islam, such as coping with the tyrannical Arab rulers. According to the organization, these clips are meant to serve as an alternative to the various TV channels poisoning the minds and souls of Muslim children and youth.<sup>2</sup>



- A publication by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, provided by the "Al-Andalus" media production institute.<sup>3</sup> The video, published in honor of the month of Ramadan, looks at the Arab uprisings against the regimes in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Syria and Libya. This is an attempt to demonstrate that Al-Qaeda's goal is identical to the goal of the rebels – bringing down the tyrannical regimes.<sup>4</sup>
- The "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" Jihadi forum published a 101-page book titled: "The Scales of Justice Regarding the Permit to Kill the Infidels' Children and Women", by Sheikh Abu Al-Hassan Al-Azdi.<sup>5</sup> In the book, Al-Azdi justifies allowing the blood of the infidels' children and women, in view of

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

<sup>3</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb>

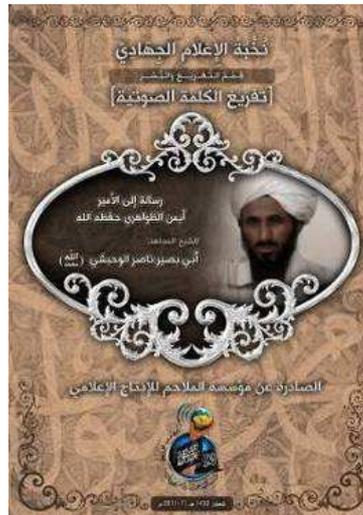
<sup>4</sup> <http://www.elkhabar.com/ar/politique/261304.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>

the massacre carried out by the heretics against Muslim women and children.

### Strategy

- The "Al-Malahem" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published an audio clip titled "A Message to the Emir Ayman Al-Zawahiri", by the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, Sheikh Abu Basir Naser Al-Wahishi.<sup>6</sup> In the audio clip, Al-Wahishi swears his allegiance to Ayman Al-Zawahiri, while at the same time stressing Yemen's dire situation in view of the military campaign led by the U.S. against the country.



- The "Al-Malahem" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published an audio clip by the organization's military commander, Sheikh Abu Huraira Al-San'ani, in which he undertook to defend the honor of Saudi women and threatened to move

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

the campaign to Saudi Arabia and to operate against the Saudi Royal Family.<sup>7</sup>

- The GIMF Jihadi media institute published the first part of a research report titled "Our War Has Yet to Begin: Al-Qaeda's Strategy Between the Stage of the Sinking of Islam's Moon and the Stage of the Rising of Islam's Sun", which was 13 pages long and written by "Asad Al-Jihad2", a prominent writer on Jihadi forums.

According to the writer, the Islamic nation was forced into a war that could not be avoided, threatening its identity and future. This is due to the repeated attempts of the enemies of Islam to harm the religion by various means. Therefore the Mujahideen, led by Al-Qaeda, have taken upon themselves the duty to save the nation from the machinations of the enemies of Islam for over a decade. He calls this period the "Sinking of Islam's Moon" phase, during which many sacrifices were made for Islam. However now, a decade later, the Islamic nation is facing a completely new stage he calls the "Rising of Islam's Sun" phase, meaning that the Islamic nation is facing a welcome change expressed in a massive return to the Islamic religion. Many Jihadi theaters have been opened, which receive many Muslims to their ranks in a wave of Arab revolutions, and it is the start of the demise of the traitorous regimes and the onset of the feeling of the true meaning of liberty.

According to the author, the war between the Muslims (led by Al-Qaeda), and the heretic nations (led by the U.S.), reached its apex with Bin Laden's death. In his opinion, Bin Laden's death marked another buffer point between the two periods, as well as providing the incentive for him

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

to write a research paper so that he can clarify what will be the next strategy that will serve the Muslim nation in its true future war.

In order to succeed in this mission, "Asad Al-Jihad2" clarifies that over the previous two months he worked under a very tight schedule, which he dedicated to reading dozens of new research papers dealing with Al-Qaeda. The writer also discusses the methodology he used when writing the book, the sources he used, as well as the book's structure which is comprised of three chapters.

It should be noted that in the book's third chapter, which discusses the strategy and policy that should be taken, the writer discusses the manner in which weapons of mass destruction can be obtained and against which countries should these weapons be used as a tool for spreading Islam.<sup>8</sup>



- The surfer Abu Hafs Al-Sunni Al-Sunni compares the first generation of Jihad supporters with the second generation, in several fields.

In the field of propaganda: the first generation founded forums, fought the Americans and expelled them from Muslim regions, destroyed enemy

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>

sites and hurt their economy. Now, the second generation must develop the forums and expand them. They must use Da'awa in order to increase the target audience and its support. In order to attract supporters, educate them and guide them so they become Mujahideen, it must refrain from acts that raise disapproval. They must shatter the negative image surrounding the Mujahideen and portray them as people with morals. They must train the public for Jihad using "an emotional burden of faith" by presenting video segments on the forums that show the pain of the Muslim nation, as well as Quranic verses encouraging Jihad and warning against abandoning it. They must come closer to the street, speak in its language and give private and family lessons. This is an attainable objective, especially when the second generation of the Mujahideen has the ability for Da'awa and has security awareness. They must print religious verses which are no longer than two pages, and distribute them amongst the public.

In the field of religion: the second generation does not have extensive religious knowledge. Therefore, he calls on them to deepen their religious knowledge of fundamental issues such as heresy and faith. They must memorize the Quran; immerse themselves in the Prophet's Hadiths and know the Hadiths. Chatrooms with religious and educational content should be opened on the forums; emphasis should be placed on the Arabic language in view of the accusations against the Mujahideen that they focus only on Jihad and forget the rules of the language. Religious books dealing with Jihad must be studied. In addition, a stratum of religious clerics advocating Jihad should be created.

In the technical field: the first generation was well-versed in the field of computerization and hacking, in electrical equipment and in creating powerful explosives. Therefore, the second generation must become more sophisticated in terms of technology and science in view of the developments that will not spare anyone who is left behind. It must learn many sciences such as physics and chemistry. Informative forums such as the "Al-Shumukh" forum have to be founded in order to train the modern Mujahideen. Anything new created by the enemy must be studied so that the Jihad brigades will be able to use it, such as weapons and surveillance and tracking equipment.

In addition, the writer calls on the second generation to acquire knowledge so that they can contradict the ideas of the people of heresy, clarify the truth about the Salafi-Jihadi way, refrain from use of defamation and use proof in order to contradict the enemy's way. He addresses the second generation of the Mujahideen and calls on them to educate the public and their acquaintances in the way to discard the heretics by reviving the concept of Al-Wala' wal-Bara'. The heretics' shame must be exposed and fighting them has to be encouraged. Religious knowledge has to be acquired in order to refute the heretics' doubts regarding Islam. Books and magazines exposing the heretics' shame should be studied, especially those of the Freemasons movement, as according to him most of the Arab leaders belong to the movement. Diligent activity should be taken in order to destroy the infidels' economy and their resources by setting fire to their forests and destroying vital water and electricity installations. The heretics' forums, not only the Jihadi ones, should be used to expose their injustice. The women and children

must be educated to hate every heretic and not to get enticed by ideas pertaining to the others' rights and dialogue with the other side, causing Islam to be a religion that cannot defend itself. In conclusion, he calls on them not to declare every religious cleric with whom they have a disagreement, as a heretic.<sup>9</sup>

**Al-Wala Al-Bara is a principle which, according to fundamentalist sources, means universal loyalty between Muslims and the complete disavowal of anyone who is not Muslim or who deviates from the principles of the religion.**

- A surfer on the "Al-Jihad Al-'alami" forum writes that following the killing of Bin Laden, the Israeli and Western media have publicized reports that Al-Qaeda will disband. This is said to be because Ayman Al-Zawahiri is Egyptian and therefore the Al-Qaeda branches, especially in the Arabian Peninsula, will not accept him as the organization's new leader. However, everyone has been proven wrong and the branch in the Arabian Peninsula has sworn its allegiance to the new leader. The surfer clarifies that Al-Qaeda came out stronger and more united after Bin Laden's death, which also brought about an increase in the number of the organization's supporters.

He emphasizes that the Islamic nation is expecting the announcement of a new Al-Qaeda branch in the Al-Sham countries, whose center will be in Damascus. According to him, "in Al-Sham there are wolves prowling for Jewish prey in Palestine and they will not be satisfied until the hoisting of their black flag signed with the seal of the Prophet Mohammad over the

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<sup>9</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb>

walls of Jerusalem, Jaffa, Haifa, Beersheba, Ashkelon, Gaza and Rafah, and until the founding of the State of Islam and the implementation of Allah's rule...".<sup>10</sup>

That same surfer gives the people of Al-Sham a message, praising them for their struggle, explaining that the West and Israel bemoan the loss of one of their "agents" after having lost Mubarak. He is not impressed by the sorrow the West expresses over the killing of the Muslims in Syria, in view of it carrying out that same behavior in Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia. According to him, the West does not lift a finger for the good of the Muslims in the Caucasus, East Turkistan and Nigeria. The West is attacking the rights of Muslim women in Europe and is drafting racial laws. In conclusion, he calls on the people of Al-Sham to declare Jihad.<sup>11</sup>

- Sheikh Abu Ahmad Abd Al-Rahman Al-Masri, a veteran Jihad writer with Egyptian citizenship, raises a discussion on the question of whether the Abdullah Azzam Brigades were influenced by the revolution in Syria or did they influence it.

He opens with the statement that the Islamic nation desperately needs religious clerics of stature, as today there are only low level religious clerics that are not ideologists. He writes of the West's attempts to use the revolutions in the Arab world to continue instilling the concept of secularism, with the aim of ensuring its interests in the region. He also claims that the West is continuing to fight Islam.

He is surprised by the calls of Muslims not to stand with weapons alongside the revolution of the Syrian people so that the enemies do not exploit it. He views them as having deviated from path of the Sharia and

<sup>10</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb>

<sup>11</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb>

as being partners to the killing of Muslims together with President Assad.

This is at a time when the enemies are trying to change the face of the revolutions in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia in their favor.

He explains that these days the Jihadi movement is undergoing a period of change in perceptions, but he calls to beware of it and to adhere to the path of truth. This follows calls made by Jihad advocates to change strategies and alliances. According to him, new ideas began appearing instead of the religious outlooks. He bemoans the fact that following the revolutions in the Arab world, several leaders of the Jihadi movement legitimized groups that approve of secularism, in light of the viewpoints that permit them to go on a joined path. Thus, the Jihadi forums were infiltrated by ideas of errant sheikhs, increasing the misunderstandings and disrupting the path of Jihad.

He mentions the opinions of sheikhs who called for a continuation of the non-violent response to the events in Syria, and attacks them. He also attacks the announcements made by the Abdullah Azzam Brigades regarding the situation in Syria, which he says do not strongly enough stress the need for Jihad against the Syrian regime.<sup>12</sup>

#### *Instructional and Guidance Publications*

- One of the members of the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum posted correspondence, which received high ratings from the forum management, containing a detailed explanation of how to assemble a bomb, which was accompanied by photographs. According to the writer,

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<sup>12</sup> <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>

this is a very simple method of assembly of home-made bombs that can be used quite extensively.<sup>13</sup>



#### *Promoting the Myth of the Shahid*

- Saleh Abu Muhammad, who is in charge of propaganda at the Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb organization, eulogized the no. 2 man in the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria, Mu'awiya Abd Al-Qahar Belhaj. He joined Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb in 2006, was recently killed in east Algeria, and was the son of Ali Belhaj.<sup>14</sup>
- The "Al-Malahem" institute for media productions, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published the seventh chapter of the series titled "The Shahids of the Arabian Peninsula", which is the biography of the shahid Talout Al-Sana'ani, also known as Usama bin Ahmad Hafidhullah Al-Amrani.<sup>15</sup>
- The "Al-Furqan" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of the "Islamic State of Iraq", published a video titled "The Martyr's Knight 9". The video

<sup>13</sup> [www.shamikh1.info/vb](http://www.shamikh1.info/vb)

<sup>14</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb>

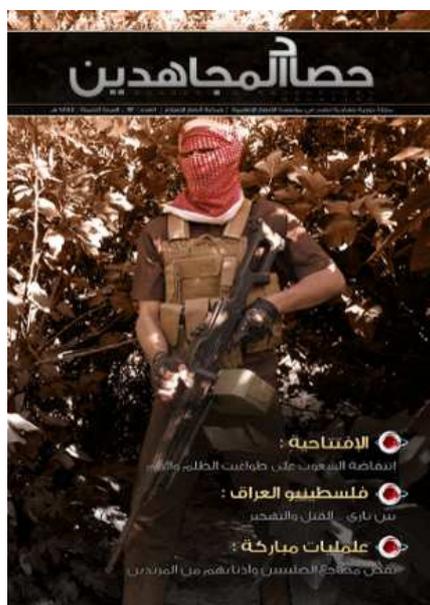
<sup>15</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb>

is dedicated to the "Soldiers of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus" and praises them for the Jihad they are leading against Russia.<sup>16</sup>



### Magazines

- A new issue (the 57<sup>th</sup> edition, which is 25 pages long) was published of the "Hisad Al-Mujahideen" Jihadi magazine, which is produced on behalf of the "Ansar Al-Islam" group, a Salafi Jihadi group in Iraq.<sup>17</sup>



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

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

## Reports from the field

### Afghanistan - Pakistan

- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum quoted reports from the Arab media, claiming that the Mayor of Kandahar, in south Afghanistan, was murdered.<sup>18</sup>

### Iraq

- A surfer addressed the "Islamic State of Iraq" organization, suggesting it should exploit the events in Syria as this is an opportunity that will not present itself again. According to him, the organization should carry out a survey within Syria and get to know everything, including important institutions. He suggests that the organization recruit reliable collaborators and train them for the next stage. Thus, the "Islamic State of Iraq" organization will create firm ground for itself for the ruling of Syria's territory.<sup>19</sup>
- The "Islamic State of Iraq" organization published a report on 32 terrorist attacks carried out by the organization's operatives in the Al-Anbar Province.<sup>20</sup>
- The "Islamic State of Iraq" organization published a report on 24 terrorist attacks carried out by the organization's operatives in the Diyala Province.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

<sup>19</sup> <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

The Maghreb

- A surfer warns that Moroccan Intelligence has put the Facebook page and official website of Sheikh Muhammad Al-Fizazi, under surveillance.<sup>22</sup> Al-Fizazi is considered to be the ideologist of the Salafi Jihadi movement in Morocco.



- The "Al-Andalus" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, published an announcement titled "The Bassiknou Invasion of Mauritania". In the announcement the organization claimed responsibility for the raid on a military post in the Bassiknou region of Mauritania. According to the organization's message, this post is considered to be the command center of the Mauritanian army and of a military unit from France. The raid resulted in the death and injury of the base's soldiers.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>22</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

Al-Sham

- The "Al-Ma'asada" Jihadi media institute published a joint announcement along with the "Shumukh Al-Islam", "Al-Fidaa" and "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" Jihadi forums, and together with the "Al-Yakin" Jihadi media center and the "Al-Ansar Al-Baridiya" Jihadi media group, titled "Assistance to our people in Syria and warning against the government's ruses regarding the brothers' release".

According to the announcement, the Syrian government wishes to thwart the Syrian revolution and therefore continues to make false accusations against Salafi groups, claiming that they are responsible for the killing of Syrian citizens, when in actuality the Syrian government is responsible. Therefore, the announcement emphasizes that all of the people of Syria in general, and the youth identifying with the idea of Jihad in particular, must come out against this false propaganda so that it does not hurt the ranks of the revolution, weaken it or even eliminate it.<sup>24</sup>

- The "Ma'asadat Al-Mujahideen fi Filastin", a Palestinian Salafi Jihadi group, claimed responsibility for setting fire to the Jerusalem Forest and its surroundings on July 17<sup>th</sup> 2011.<sup>25</sup>

Egypt

- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum published photographs which showed posters of Bin Laden in "Al-Tahrir" Square in Cairo.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

### The West and the rest of the world

- Surfers praised the terrorist attack in Oslo, and noted that this is revenge for the participation of its forces in the fighting in Afghanistan and the defamation of the Prophet Muhammad. According to them, "The blow was a decisive one exposing the fragility of the security systems in Europe". They warn that other countries in Europe are also targeted for the war against Islam, and explicitly mention France and Britain. They address the Mujahideen and call on them "to eliminate artists, ministers and company managers in France, London, Finland and Norway", to set fire to forests in France and Britain, to track every entity hostile to Islam, threaten them and terrorize them, to cut off power and internet lines, destroy the oil installations using explosives and to terrorize the hearts of the countries' leaders, especially Sarkozy. Furthermore, there is a call for physical and moral preparation for Jihad.<sup>27</sup>

It should be noted that there was extensive discussion of the earlier terrorist attack in front of the Norwegian Prime Minister's Headquarters in Oslo, and that informative reports as well as video aired on the international media outlets surrounding the event were posted.

- A surfer on the "Al-Jahafil" forum succinctly presented the stages he believes should be completed in order to carry out a terrorist attack in Europe. He lists them: procuring a passport for entering the country as a tourist, purchasing a sharp knife in the target country and murdering "the enemies of Allah... Over one hundred people can be murdered. All you have to do is walk around and select the victims. Thus the attack is carried out. Is there anything easier?"<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> <http://www.aljihad.com/vb>

<sup>28</sup> <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>

- One of the members of the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum called on the members of the various Jihadi forums, and especially the "Shumukh Al-Islam", "Al-Fidaa" and "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" Jihadi forums, to take up arms and attack the Jews and the Christians in crowded places such as markets, especially in Europe and the United States. This also refers to Muslims operating in the service of the Muslim governments.<sup>29</sup>
- That same surfer also declared that a war must be launched against Belgium, and threatened to carry out terrorist attacks on its soil due to the legislation promoted by the Belgian parliament regarding the ban on wearing a veil.<sup>30</sup>
- Surfers wish for the month of Ramadan to be the month of Jihad – Jihad of the soul, and social, political and military Jihad.<sup>31</sup>

### General reports

- The "Sada Al-Jihad" media center, which is a branch of the GIMF, referred to reports quoting sources close to Abu Usama Al-Gharib, who is imprisoned in Austria. These sources report that Umm Sayf Allah Al-Ansariya (also known by her German name, Filiz Gelowitz), was forbidden from wearing a veil or covering her head whilst held in a German prison. These sources report that Al-Ansariya is harassed and maltreated by the prison guards.

It should be noted that she was sentenced to more than two and a half years in prison for being member of a Jihadi group and for aiding in the field of propaganda. Her husband, Fritz Gelowitz, was sentenced to 12

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

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

<sup>31</sup> <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>

years in prison for planning a Jihadi operation. The media center calls for revenge to be taken on the "Crusaders" in retaliation.<sup>32</sup>



<sup>32</sup> <http://aljahad.com/vb>