

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Forums

The Second Half of July 2012

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

- The emir of the Islamic State of Iraq announces that jihad in Iraq has entered a new phase, of more intense assaults on the installments of Shiites and their allies. He also promises a wave of attacks in the US, more violent than those of September 11, 2001.
- Mevlevi Sengin, a senior leader of the Haqqani Network, urges Turkey's Muslims to fight the enemies of Allah in Afghanistan and elsewhere.
- The Pakistan Taliban threaten to attack Burmese interests in Pakistan, to avenge the alleged persecution and slaughter of Muslims by the Burmese regime.
- Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi Al-Nadhari, a senior member of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), encourages Muslims living in the West to perform individual acts of jihad.
- Ansar Bet Al-Maqdes [Supporters of Jerusalem], a new Salafi-jihadist group, takes responsibility for blowing up the Egypt-Israel gas pipeline in the Sinai Peninsula.
- The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem, a Salafi-jihadist group active in the Sinai Peninsula, publishes a video clip calling for jihad against Israel and the Jews, and video clips showing two of its operatives.
- Hussam Abd Al-Raouf, a member of Al-Qaeda's strategic council, proposes a detailed program for turning Egypt into an Islamic theocracy.
- Shumukh Al-Islam, a leading jihadist Web forum, renews its activity after a hiatus.

New Publications

Ideology

- To mark the beginning of Ramadan, Sheikh Abu Saad Al-Amili published an article emphasizing the importance of the holy month. During Ramadan, he claims, preparing for jihad, waging jihad, and dying a martyr's death are particularly exalted.¹
- At the beginning of Ramadan, Sheikh Abu Saad Al-Amili addressed supporters of jihad and the mujahideen everywhere, and particularly in Egypt. He posed the questions: What will happen after the Arab revolutions, which surprised everyone? What will happen to the people who forged them, to the targeted rulers and their cronies, to supporters of jihad? The supporters of jihad were unprepared for these revolutions, and were therefore incapable of welcoming them. By the end of the revolutions in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya, most supporters of jihad had been released from prison, and were no longer being hunted. They took only a small part in these revolutions, and therefore could not influence or contribute to them, let alone lead them. They also could not reap the fruits of revolution. Sheikh Al-Amili therefore wished to advise them how to behave during this "post-revolutionary era" in the Arab world – particularly, how to deal with the rise of Islamist forces. He suggested that supporters of jihad be fair in their judgment of the Arab Spring, and admit that it had brought many blessings: people no longer cowered in fear, but rather had risen up to overthrow tyrants. It was this that had led to the release of prisoners, after long years. At the same time, Al-Amili warned that jihadist activity remained somewhat lifeless in many countries, chiefly Egypt. He explained this as arising from the trend toward moderate Islam, marked by a plethora of Islamist slogans and heretical ideas about secularism and democracy. The public, he claimed, is duped by this situation into feeling a temporary reprieve from oppression and suffering. As this trend grows, Al-Amili pressed, supporters of jihad in Egypt must strengthen their footing, and from a sure footing, impress upon the people the ideology of jihad. Furthermore, supporters of jihad must realize that the mujahideen have limited resources, and that this is a period of rehabilitation. They must therefore unify their ranks and establish a solid infrastructure to accommodate the masses awaiting them in the streets. Given the current

¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

circumstances, they must not impose their ideas or oppose other factions in Egypt. This is not a sign of weakness! Rather, it shows a canny assessment of reality. No benefit can be derived from dragging rivals into conflict or even debate. The Egyptian people need an "additional allotment" of da'wa [propaganda about the Unity of God] – but only if it is fed them patiently and wisely. Supporters of jihad must take to the streets, mingle with the people, and make them want to commit to, and sacrifice for, Islam.

Al-Amili decried democracy and elections, which he claimed cause Islamists to follow an errant path. Even if they don't admit it, he claimed, this is the aim of Islam's enemies: to cause moderate Islamists to seemingly come to power, while real power and decision making remain in their hands. According to Al-Amili, the enemy wants the next battle to be fought between moderate Islamists and jihadists, particularly Al-Qaeda – a protracted battle that will exact a high price. This is why leaders of jihad everywhere must show immense wisdom. As for Egypt, Sheikh Al-Amili said sadly that Salafi-jihadists and other supporters of jihad were shocked to discover that the newly-elected president of Egypt had turned his back on shari'a [Islamic law], and stood with the Christians, secular people, and denizens of modernization, on the pretext of preferring national unity to faith. Indeed, nationalism had been the focus of his election campaign! Followers of tawhid [pure monotheism] in Egypt must challenge his stance, and gather as many supporters as they can. They must seize more positions and leadership roles. They must not be tempted by the provocations of their rivals and enemies. They must exercise self-control and act wisely, patiently, with a view to the future. They must not let their enemies drag them into battles for which they are ill prepared. They must vigorously spread their ideology, and take advantage of the circumstances [which now allow them freedom of expression and movement] to establish infrastructure and train believers to further expand their ranks. This may take time. But the chief goal is to establish a "generation of educators, martyrs, molders of souls, and faithful soldiers...You must be leaders, teachers, mentors and soldiers rolled into one...No longer can you rely on one leader alone to represent you, one leader whose disappearance stops all activity and disperses you...This tactic will not empower you or train you to guide others to Allah...Today, we need people who can engage in da'wa [proselytizing]! Who can perform independent acts of jihad, without being

... tied to any one leader or group...". Sheikh Al-Amili stressed cooperation and coordination among the mujahideen; they should learn from each other's experience, and implement this experience in Egypt, too. The mujahideen should unite, secretly share their knowledge, and overcome their differences. As it is, each faction in Egypt is acting alone. This is leading to disunity – a harbinger of defeat. It is important to become integrated into society, to lose oneself among the public, to feel their problems and concerns, to earn their trust, to make sure they are attentive to the message [of jihad] and, ultimately, join those who truly defend Islam. This is how the supporters of jihad must behave, according to Al-Amili – and not like the Salafists in Egypt, who have been quick to play the democratic game and show loyalty to the oppressive military council, which works not for the good of the Egyptian people but for the good of foreign elements, chiefly the Jews. The mujahideen must stay on the true path, spread their beliefs, find their way into the hearts of the public, and lead the public to support them openly and in secret, for the good of Islam and to the detriment of the despots and their collaborators. Yes, the mujahideen must have knowledge, Al-Amili admitted. They must be supported by a cadre of religious scholars who can judiciously answer the people's questions about Islamic law. The mujahideen should cultivate scholars who are not part of "the establishment", or who oppose jihad. The mujahideen must cajole and earn their sympathy, so that they, too, will guide the public toward sacrifice for Islam. The mujahideen must tell of their deeds for Islam – both through the Internet and, where there is no Internet, through printed publications. These must be directly and indirectly disseminated to clerics and scholars, with [security] precautions. In summary, Al-Amili urged his audience not to ignore the benefits accruing from the Arab revolutions. Rather, he said, they must exploit them for Islam and the true path – especially now that there is room for da'wa and action. They must be wary of divisions among those who would effect change in the correct Islamic way, as it is the enemy's wish to sow divisiveness among jihadists and their leaders. Supporters of jihad must therefore seek their many points of commonality, and strengthen them through cooperation and consultation. Pluralism of ideas is healthy; it is a source of strength for believers in the Unity of God [tawhid] – as long as they are not loyal to purveyors of evil and errant ways. Sheikh Al-Amili asked that the mujahideen in Egypt be allowed

to chart their course without outside intervention, for they have access, he said, to religious scholars and forward-thinking wise men. He thanked those active in disseminating jihadist propaganda, whom he claimed bear the greatest burden. He urged them to continue their important work, and cleave to the truth. Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein supported the comments of Sheikh Al-Amili, which they said accurately reflect reality – unlike the comments of other [sheikhs], who prepare their fatwas [religious-legal rulings] ahead of time.²

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Fajr published an article by Sheikh Abu Obeidah Abdallah Al-Adam titled, “Awakening the Apostates...The Way to Prevent It”. Al-Adam suggests how to fight the Awakening movements in Iraq, which he claims are influencing the behavior of jihadists toward the Western Crusader enemy, as reflected, for example, in the former’s cooperating with the latter. Al-Adam therefore suggests examining each stage of jihad, and explaining the religious-legal justification for the actions taken at each stage.³



The cover of the article by Sheikh Abu Obeidah Abdallah Al-Adam

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Masadah published an article by Sheikh Abu Saad Al-Amili titled, “Throw That which Is in Thy Right Hand: Quickly Will It Swallow Up that which They Have Faked”. This title is based on a verse in

² <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

³ <https://178.211.43.114/~shamikh/vb> (Arabic).

Chapter Ta Ha of the Qur'an (20:69), which describes Moses' appeal to Pharaoh to free the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt.⁴ According to the Qur'an, Moses demonstrated the power of Allah to Pharaoh's witches, and derided their magic tricks. While the witches were convinced of Allah's might, Pharaoh persisted in stubbornly refusing to acknowledge God's supremacy.

In the article, Al-Amili uses the story related in the Qur'an as a metaphor for the relationship between the Muslims and their enemies in this day and age. According to Al-Amili, just as the witches of Pharaoh tried to deceive Moses with their tricks so, too, do the witches of today – whom Al-Amili casts as the ulama'a [religious scholars] who kowtow to tyrannical leaders – try to deceive the Muslims and divert them from the true religion. To this end, they establish madrassas [religious schools], universities and institutes that train a new generation of ulama'a to serve under the same rulers.

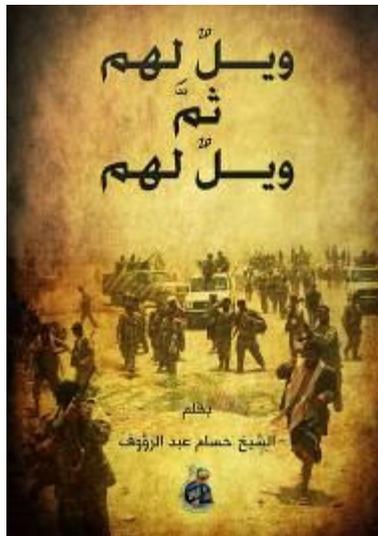
According to Al-Amili, da'wa [missionary work] is a weapon in the battle that now rages between the mujahideen and their enemies – among them, other Muslims who have joined ranks with the enemy, even if inadvertently. Al-Amili sees an immense gap in the religious training of scholars who support the mujahideen, and scholars who are graduates of the various religious universities and institutes established by the deceivers. The latter, he claims, offer insufficient religious training. Moreover, Al-Amili warns that many clerics and preachers have obtained diplomas and certificates by means of trickery and forgery. This has enabled unworthy and ill-trained clerics to deceive the Muslim public. According to Al-Amili, these clerics *know* they have not been sufficiently trained; this is why they avoid conflict with jihadist scholars who support the mujahideen, on various pretexts. What is most calamitous, he says, is that the oppressors exploit these ill-trained clerics to mislead the Muslim Nation. Nevertheless, Al-Amili is certain that these clerics cannot hold sway in the face of the truth.⁵

- The jihadist propaganda organ Nukhbat Al-Ilam Al-Jihadi published an article titled, "Woe to Them, and Woe to Them" by Sheikh Abd Al-Raouf Hussam, a member of the strategic council of Al-Qaeda and the editor of Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan's magazine, *Vanguards of Khurasan*. Al-Raouf published this

⁴ From the Yusuf Ali translation of the Qur'an, available on the Haroun Yahya Web site: http://www.harunyahya.com/bilgi/kurani-kerim#verses_container (English; accessed August 12, 2012).

⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

article in light of the harsh battles being fought between the mujahideen and the Crusader enemy in Yemen, who is using his entire arsenal of weapons, in the air and on the sea, against the mujahideen. In the article, Al-Raouf protests the enemy's mendacious propaganda about the mujahideen, such as the claim of Yemeni security forces that the mujahideen are attacking innocent civilians. According to Al-Raouf, this is not the reality. At the same time, however, Al-Raouf clarifies that the article is geared not for the Yemeni security forces or Army or the tribes allied with them; rather, it is directed at all those who serve the oppressive rulers of the states that purport to be Islamic, whether their role is lofty or lowly. Throughout the article, Al-Raouf emphasizes the good character of the mujahideen, whose faith is righteous, compared to that of the supporters of the Yemeni regime. He notes, for example, that it was the mujahideen who protected Sunnis from the attacks of the Shiite Houthis, even as Yemeni tribes did not lift a finger to help [the Sunnis]. Al-Raouf suggests that those who are aiding the Yemeni regime take stock of their soul, and admit who has really and truly helped the Sunnis. Lastly, Al-Raouf denigrates Yemen's ulama'a [religious scholars] for supporting the regime.⁶



The cover of the article, "Woe to Them..."

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

Jihadist Discourse Concerning the Arab Spring

- The jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published a video clip titled, "The Revolutions of Change", which covers the chain of events leading to the revolutions that began in early 2011, which have come to be known as the "Arab Spring".⁷



The banner advertising the video clip, "The Revolutions of Change"

- The jihadist public relations group "The Best of Jihadist Propaganda" published an article titled, "If I Were in Mursi's Place and Sitting in His Chair" by Hussam Abd Al-Raouf, a mujahid, member of Al-Qaeda's strategic council, and the editor of Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan's magazine, *Vanguards of Khurasan*.⁸ According to Al-Raouf, Mursi's election as president of Egypt reflects the will of the people, and proves that the democratic process has succeeded in Egypt. At the same time, he claims that the revolution in Egypt is not yet over. Al-Raouf feels the revolution should continue, and a presence be maintained in Tahrir Square until the existing constitution has been nullified. According to Al-Raouf, the efforts of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) to keep political power must be acknowledged – and defeated, through a democratic process which, although it led to the election of Mursi, has yet to grant Mursi the power to make changes.

Al-Raouf then delineates the strategy he would follow, were he president of Egypt, to transform Egypt into an Islamic state:

1. Establish a Shura Council comprising ulama'a [religious scholars], which will address the ills of the Egyptian state and society.

⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

2. Establish shari'a [Islamic law] as the constitution.
3. Establish a new, modest, presidential residence.
4. Eliminate the luxuries granted the president, his secretaries, and the Shura Council.
5. Close Egypt's embassies in the countries from which it derives no political, economic or military benefit.
6. Cancel all national holidays, to increase the budget.
7. Re-examine all of Egypt's international agreements in light of shari'a.
8. Encourage Arab and Islamic tycoons to invest in Egypt, for example in its transportation system.
9. Free all Islamist political prisoners.
10. Eradicate oppression in Egypt, and ensure all residents a fair trial.
11. Revive da'wa [proselytizing], which was discredited by traitorous governments and rulers.
12. Rehabilitate the judicial and education systems, including Al-Azhar. For example, place Al-Azhar under a new waqf [religious endowment], which will enable it to function independently, without capitulating to the dictates of the state or regime.
13. Purge cultural institutions and the media, and re-establish them on principles of morality and purity.
14. Islamize tourism, so that it accords with Egypt's Islamic lifestyle and culture. While tourism strengthens Egypt's economy, the 15 million tourists who currently visit Egypt annually bring with them debauchery and licentiousness, which contravene shari'a and upset Muslims. Arab and Muslim tourists – and even foreign tourists – should be encouraged to visit Egypt, but on condition that they respect the society and behave appropriately, as is fitting under shari'a. "This may be hard to accept at first," by residents accustomed to frequenting clubs and foreign tourists accustomed to desecrating holy sites, "but they must respect our lifestyle, just as they do when they visit the Vatican or any other holy place".
15. Urge Egypt's citizens, including its civil servants, to take stock of their commitment to keeping the fundamental commandments of Islam, such as prayer, fasting and pilgrimage. They must understand that anyone who forsakes these is considered an apostate, who should be put to death.

16. Re-assign women who currently work outside the home to jobs that can be done at home, such as sewing, weaving prayer rugs, building games for children, and assembling wristwatches or other electronic devices. Women can be taught new techniques [for this type of work] via television. By sending women back home, Egypt will reduce the staggering unemployment rate among young men and lower the crime rate, which has risen as a result of unemployment.

17. Improve welfare and other state services such as the government hospital system, transportation and commerce. Eliminate taxes on the poor and those with low income, and instead collect charitable donations and commercial taxes. Objectively and neutrally audit the illegally-amassed finances of civil servants, from the lowliest clerk to the president.

18. Quiet the ethnic and religious tensions between Muslims and Christians and set boundaries for the Coptic Church, to prevent a Christian state from being established within the [Muslim] State of Egypt. In addition, collect a per capita tax [jiziya] from Christians, as ordained by shari'a. Christians must not be allowed to hold administrative or leadership positions, nor may they rule over Muslims, lest they exploit their position, as dictated by the Church. Rather, they must be lowered to the [subordinate] place God intended for them.

19. Ensure ample food and housing for every resident. Employ agronomists and irrigation experts to increase the yields of flour, rice and other foods, and employ experts in animal husbandry. Housing is Egypt's most pressing problem. Millions of Egyptian men and women who have reached marriageable age have no place to live – not to mention that some live in shantytowns. Housing must top the state's agenda. New housing and cities must be built, and linked to existing [major] cities, which will provide education, food and health services. The new housing must be affordable, especially for the lower classes and the poor. Assistance may be accepted from Arab states to finance this project.

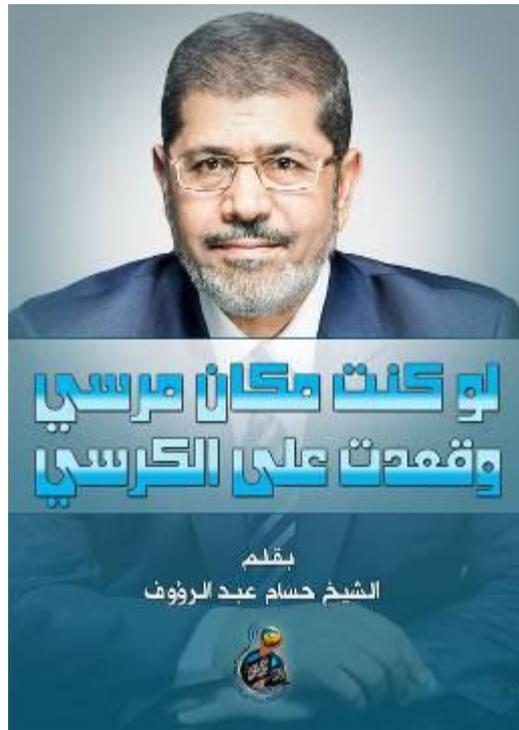
20. Solve the problem of low income. Increase the wages of civil servants and service providers, so they can live decently without having to take a second or third job to support their families.

21. Increase local manufacture of armaments, and prepare the army for war. Do not accept military aid from the US, but rather rely on local weapons

manufacturers, even if their quality is not as high. As the people of Afghanistan and the mujahideen of Iraq have shown, complete faith in Allah and determination are sufficient to overcome the enemy. Upon reaching maturity, a citizen will be conscripted, and will serve in the Islamic Army [not the army of the tyrants]. Conscripts will be prepared to embark on jihad. The "Ministry of Defense" should now be called the "Ministry of War and Peace", as Islam dictates offensive, as well as defensive, jihad. The current name of the ministry reflects weakness.

Toward the end of this article, Al-Raouf indicates that later, he will address foreign policy issues, such as relations with the US, the European Union, the Zionist entity in Palestine, and Arab and Middle Eastern countries.

This article is unique in detailing the economic, social and cultural components of the future Islamic state. To date, prominent global jihad activists who have proposed a model of the future Islamic state have addressed only its religious underpinnings and security needs.⁹



The cover of the article, "If I Were in Mursi's Place..."

⁹ See for example an attempt of this sort by the Somali group Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in February 2011: ICT's Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group, "A Model of the Islamic State: The Case of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen", 28/11/11, <http://www.ict.org.il/ResearchPublications/JihadiWebsitesMonitoring/JWMMGInsights/tabid/320/Articlsid/1005/currentpage/1/Default.aspx> (English).

Strategy

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein reported trying to purchase a laser for \$300, with the aim of using it to blind helicopter pilots. He wrote that he had intended to purchase quite a few lasers and send them to the Free Syrian Army, but the laws of his country (which he did not name) prevented him from doing this. He therefore appealed to his fellow Web surfers in the Gulf States or Turkey to purchase and send laser devices to the rebels in Syria. He asked that they contact him through two other forum participants, one of whom claimed to have spoken with Web surfers from Syria, who said they urgently needed this device. Another Web surfer, from a foreign country, reported having Syrian friends who had joined jihad there. He asked for more information about the device, so that he could purchase it and send it to Syria, and perhaps also to the Islamic State of Iraq. This contributor later wrote an update, in which he reported that his [Syrian] friends had not been enthusiastic about the laser. He therefore had decided to be more cautious in the future, as he did not know whom to trust. He advised other supporters of jihad to be wary, also.¹⁰

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- The Web site Valiat Dagestan published a number of instructional video clips about weaponry under the heading, "An Easy Lesson for the Mujahideen". The video clips were prepared by an unknown group calling itself KavkazSHariat_VilDag Media. The lessons included definitions, "grocery lists" of necessary ingredients, directions for assembly, safety warnings, and demonstrations. Some of the videos give precise instructions for preparing explosives using powder¹¹ and liquids.¹²
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted a list of links to guidebooks and video clips on how to assemble explosive devices and belts.¹³ Another member of the forum posted a guide to making simple explosive devices.¹⁴

¹⁰ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹ <http://vdagestan.com/uchebka-mudzhaxida-izgotovlenie-detonatora.htm> (Russian).

¹² <http://vdagestan.com/video-uchebka-mudzhaxida-izgotovlenie-vzryvchatogo-veshhestva.htm> (Russian).

¹³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



Sample illustrated explanations of how to make an explosive device or belt

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam offered the mujahideen in Azawad, northern Mali, suggestions regarding the type of weapons that could be of use to them in their war effort.¹⁵



Weapons of interest to the mujahideen in northern Mali

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted a video clip about the preparation of hexamine, an organic, heterocyclic chemical compound that is used in making explosives.¹⁶

¹⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

اخواني المجاهدين هذا فيديو لتحضير مادة الهيكسامين

صورة الفيديو



An illustrated guide to making the noxious chemical hexamine

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam suggested organizing all of the information and explanations about making chemical weapons, to help the mujahideen.¹⁷

مقارنة بين المركب والخليط

<p>مثال آخر:</p> <p>خليط كبريت ومسحوق الحديد</p> <p>يتكون من ذرات كبريت وذرات حديد (مختلطة مع بعضها دون اتحاد)</p> <p>وجدنا سابقاً أنه يمكن فصل الحديد عن الكبريت بواسطة مغناطيس، أي أنه في هذا الخليط يظل كل من الحديد والكبريت مختلفاً بصفاته الخاصة</p> <p>بشكل عام يحتفظ كل عنصر (مركب) في الخليط بصفاته الخاصة</p>	<p>مثال</p> <p>الماء (مركب)</p> <p>يتكون الماء من جزيئات كل منها مؤلفة من ذرات هيدروجين وأكسجين</p> <p>في المركب يفقد الأكسجين والهيدروجين صفتيهما الخاصة (لا يستطيع أكسجين الماء مثلاً القيام بتفاعل التفاعل بوجود لهب)</p> <p>بشكل عام: يفقد كل عنصر في المركب صفاته الخاصة</p>
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Illustrated instructions for making chemical weapons

- The supervisor of the "Voice of the Caucasus" section of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted links to two video clips in Russian, which explain how to assemble detonators and explosives.¹⁸

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

¹⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

صناعة الصاعق



mp4 3gp

From a video clip on preparing explosives*Cyber-jihad*

- Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein reported hacking into Web sites that are hostile to the mujahideen. One visitor to Hanein, who was identified as being active in the Islamic State of Iraq, announced that he had hacked into other Web sites (in addition to those cited in the previous report). For example, he took responsibility for hacking into and changing the main page of a Web site of Shiite religious-legal rulings [fatwas]. Other visitors to Hanein congratulated him for his initiative; he thanked each and every one of them individually. Still other visitors to Hanein asked him to hack into additional Web sites; they even gave him the url of a Shiite Web forum. Another contributor asked him to hack into the Syrian site Syriatruth (<http://www.syriatruth.info/>), which he claimed promoted secularism. The hacker visited the site in question, and discovered that it was affiliated with the opposition to the Syrian regime. The contributor who had made this request stated that, nevertheless, the site was secular and [therefore] opposed to the mujahideen. Yet another visitor to Hanein asked the hacker which program he had used to identify weak points in the sites he had hacked into and, in general, which was the best program for doing this. This visitor added that he had infiltrated the Iranian Web forum maghz (<http://www.maghz.com>). Other contributors to the site urged him to continue hacking into enemy sites, and sent the urls of hostile Web sites to his private inbox; they urged him to make similar reports in celebration of Ramadan. When a Web surfer asked him to hack into the Pakistani Shiite Web site pakshia (<http://pakshia.com>), the hacker responded that this site was run from a private server, and was practically impossible to hack into.

Another Web surfer asked him to teach his methods, and assemble a team of hackers. The hacker announced that he had hacked into Cincinnati 9/11 Truth, a site that denigrated the mujahideen (<http://cincinnati911truth.org>).¹⁹

- It was reported that someone had hacked into the Web site of Myanmar's (Burma's) Ministry of Tourism, following the killing of Muslims in that country. Web surfers expressed their desire that Muslim hackers organize and attack all of the Internet sites in Burma.²⁰

Promoting the Myth of Martyrdom

- On July 22, 2012, the Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF) published a video clip by Sheikh Abu Hamza Al-Masri titled, "Suicide Attacks", which was translated into German. The video clip stresses the significance of suicide attacks in Islam. The video quotes British-Egyptian Salafi-jihadist Sheikh Abu Hamza Al-Masri, who was arrested by British authorities for his involvement in an attempted terrorist attack against the World Trade Center in New York City in 1994; after a long legal battle, Al-Masri was extradited to the US in 2010. According to Al-Masri, this is the age of suicide attacks, which he claims are a successful means of instilling fear in the hearts of the enemy. In effect, the video clip encourages individuals to join jihad and sacrifice their lives for Allah.²¹

¹⁹ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁰ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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



The cover of a German-language DVD about suicide attacks

- Jundallah Studo, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, published a videotaped eulogy in memory of a Turkish mujahid named Abu Zubayr Al-Turki, who fought against the Pakistani Army and was later killed while fighting in northern Afghanistan. His date of death was not given.²²



The late Abu Zubayr Al-Turki

- Al-Jundiyyah Al-Majhulah, a woman member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, reported that Muhammad Abu Yasin, also a member of a

²² http://www.furqon.com/images/stories/videos/shahid_zubayr.avi (Turkish)

jihadist forum, had been killed while fighting the regime of Bashar Al-Assad. According to Al-Majhulah, Abu Yasin had used the names Awasef Al-Qaeda and Jundi Dawlat Al-Islam when writing to jihadist forums.²³ A member of the Web forum Al-Fida reported the death of Sheikh Muhammad Al-Shajrawi, also while fighting jihad in Syria.²⁴



The martyrs Muhammad Abu Yasin (left) and Muhammad Al-Shajrawi (right)

- A supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Hanein announced the death of Zaid Saleh Al-Hourani (aka Abu Musab Al-Hourani), a Jordanian citizen originally from Jericho. Al-Hourani had served five years in a Jordanian prison, prior to which he had been in Iraq, where he worked as an intermediary, sending mujahideen to Sheikh Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi. In 2012 he fled to Khurasan where he fought the Pakistan Army, and was wounded. He was again wounded in a US bombing raid, but later recovered. In May 2012, he left Khurasan for Afghanistan, where he fought against US forces until his death in July 2012.²⁵

²³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁵ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



Abu Musab Al-Hourani

- The Salafi-jihadist movement in Egypt announced that a mujahid named Muhammad Ibrahim was killed while fighting in the Syrian arena.²⁶



Muhammad Ibrahim

- The Global Islamic MediaFront (GIMF) published a biography of the martyr [shahid] Majid Issa Al-Anazi (aka Abu Talha Al-Hafrawi), who was killed in the Iraqi arena of jihad.²⁷ Earlier, on May 4, 2012, the jihadist media outlet Al-Furqan had published his biography.
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam who is participating in its online course on jihadist propaganda noted that a Lebanese Muslim with French citizenship calling himself Husam Al-Sham – the name means “The Swordpoint of Al-Sham [Greater Syria]” – was martyred on July 25, 2012. The martyr’s real name was not cited, although photographs of him were

²⁶ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

posted. Husam Al-Sham was thought to be one of the first supporters of the revolution against the Syrian regime. Before joining jihad in Syria, Al-Sham had been involved in online jihadist propaganda, as well as in charitable and aid organizations. Husam Al-Sham was killed when Syrian state forces bombed the Syria-Lebanon border. A Web surfer wrote in response that he remembered that the martyr Husam Al-Sham had come to Pakistan in August 2010 to help residents affected by severe flooding. He had then intended to travel to Waziristan to join the mujahideen, but was prevented from doing so by the Pakistani authorities.²⁸



The martyr Husam Al-Sham

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Noor published a death announcement and eulogy for Nidal Al-'Ashi Abu Hureira Al-Maqdisi, a member of the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist Army of Islam, which is active in the Gaza Strip. He was also on the Shura Council of the jihadist Web forum Sanam Al-Islam.²⁹



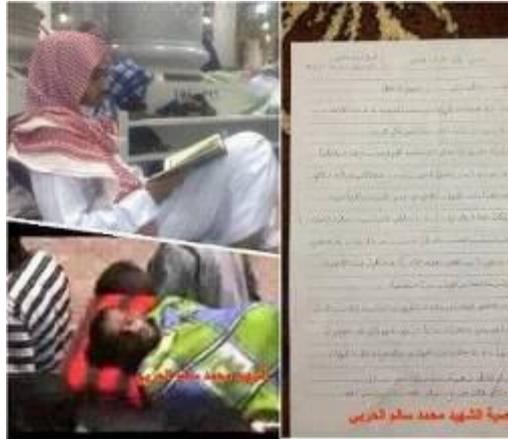
A eulogy for martyred Palestinian Salafist Abu Hureira Al-Maqdisi

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam reported that a Syrian citizen named Muhammad Salem Al-Harbi was killed while fighting the

²⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

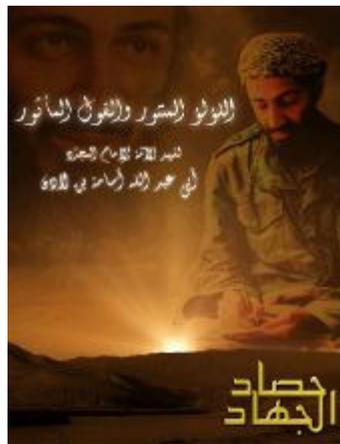
²⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Syrian regime, on July 28, 2012. The shahid's last will and testament was published alongside this announcement.³⁰



The body of Muhammad Salem Al-Harbi (left) and his will (right)

- The administration of the jihadist Web forum Hasad Al-Mujahideen published a 485-page compendium of the speeches and sermons of former Al-Qaeda leader Sheikh Osama bin Laden. Hasad Al-Mujahideen called this, its first publication, a gift to Muslims everywhere but especially to the mujahideen, so that they could live and preserve Bin Laden's legacy.³¹



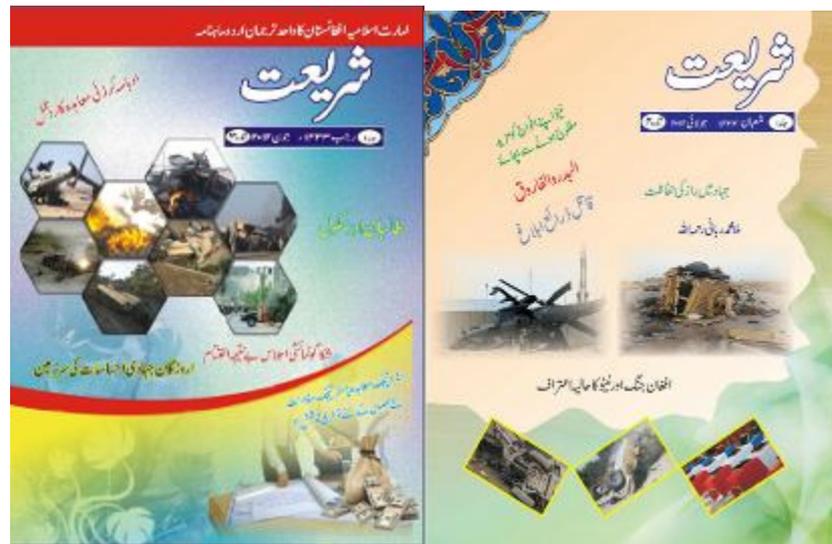
A compendium of Osama bin Laden's speeches and sermons

³⁰ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³¹ <http://hassadalmojahideen.net/vb> (Arabic).

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published Issue No. 3 for June 2012 (52 pp.) and Issue No. 4 for July 2012 (52 pp.)³² of the magazine *Shariat*, in Urdu.³³



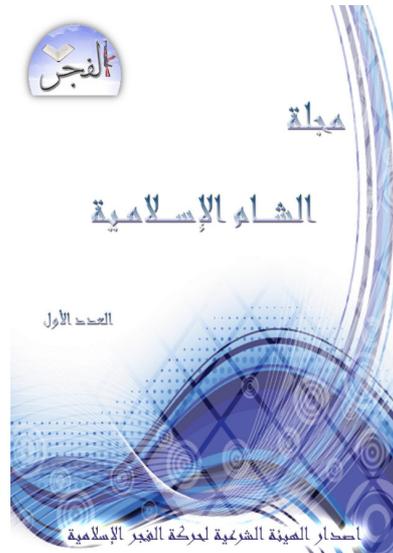
Left to right: The June and July Issues of *Shariat*, respectively

- The Islamist movement Al-Fajr, a Syrian Salafi-jihadist group founded on April 19, 2012 and apparently led by Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi, published the first issue (25 pp.) of a new jihadist magazine titled *Islamic Al-Sham [Greater Syria]* on its Facebook page. Articles cover faith-related issues such as the Oneness of God [tawhid], and praise the commandment to jihad.³⁴

³² <http://www.jhuf.net/showthread.php?15569-Shariat-Monthly-Islamic-Magazine-July-2012> (Urdu and English).

³³ <http://www.theunjustmedia.com> (English).

³⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/AlfajrArmy> (Arabic).



The first issue of the magazine, *Islamic Al-Sham*

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

- The jihadist Web forum Al-Fida published a video clip translated into Turkish titled, "Eid Al-Adha in Afghanistan: The Turkish Mujahideen".³⁵



The banner advertising the video clip, in Turkish, about Turkish mujahideen in Afghanistan

- The jihadist Web forum Al-Fida and the Turkish-language jihadist Web forum Jihadmin published a video clip bearing a message to the Turkish people from Mevlevi Sengin, a senior leader of the Haqqani Network and the army commander responsible for Paktika Province in Afghanistan. In the video,

³⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

which has Turkish subtitles, Sengin calls on the Muslims in Turkey to fulfill the commandment of jihad and fight the enemies of God alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan and the mujahideen in other arenas. According to Sengin, the US is about to retreat in shame from Afghanistan. When this happens, the Taliban will work to establish a worldwide caliphate. After they have turned Afghanistan into an Islamic state, the Taliban will continue jihad until Islam has been imposed throughout the world. Sengin notes that the Taliban are fighting alongside Al-Qaeda, and that jihad will continue.³⁶



Mevlevi Sengin discusses jihad in Afghanistan

- Dhabih Allah Mujahid, the spokesman for the Islamic State of Afghanistan, announced the "...execution of Afghani hero Abd Al-Sabur". On January 20, 2012 Al-Sabur, an Afghani soldier, fired live ammunition at French soldiers who were serving alongside the Afghans in Kapisa Province, killing four French soldiers and wounding 17 others. Some two months later, another soldier died of his wounds. In mid-July 2012, Al-Sabur was given a drumhead court-martial and sentenced to death by a military court. In response, the spokesman of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan issued a statement lauding Al-Sabur's act and calling it "heroic". The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan stood behind him and other heroes, the spokesman said, and threatened revenge against any who harmed him.³⁷

³⁶ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic); <http://jihadmin.com/tr/video/afganistan-video/taliban-komutani-mevlevi-senginden-turk-halkina-mesaj.html> (Turkish).

³⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Iraq

- The Islamic State of Iraq published a report detailing all (63) of its actions in Salah Al-Din Province and northern Baghdad between May 25 and July 3, 2012.³⁸
- On July 21, 2012, the jihadist media outlet Al-Furqan published an audio statement by Sheikh Abu Bakr Al-Husseini Al-Quraishi Al-Baghdadi, emir of the Islamic State of Iraq. The title of the statement is taken from a verse in Chapter Al-Tawba of the Qur'an (9:32): "Fain would they extinguish Allah's light with their mouths, but Allah will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the Unbelievers may detest (it)."³⁹ In this statement, Sheikh Al-Baghdadi extols the might of the Islamic State of Iraq, which has not collapsed despite the efforts of its enemies, and which has implemented Islamic law. He notes that jihad continues in Iraq, and that people continue to join it. He reveals that while he had never aspired to head the Islamic State of Iraq, circumstances dictated that he do so. He claims that many have long awaited his first speech since taking the reins; he now asserts the increasing strength of the Islamic State of Iraq, which, as it enters the seventh year since its founding, has expanded to control additional territory, as most Sunnis have anticipated. He blesses the Sunni tribes and the men who fight jihad, and urges the tribes to continue supporting jihad and the mujahideen. He exhorts Sunni tribes that support the US to disavow their errant ways, saying that, contrary to the expectations of the enemy, the Islamic State of Iraq will accept their repentance. To the US, he says: Your war against the Muslims is useless; you will be roundly defeated. Your economy is on the verge of collapse, and the morale of your soldiers and citizens is in tatters. Sheikh Al-Baghdadi also warns that the mujahideen have vowed to strike at the US more violently than did Osama bin Laden on 9/11; soon the US will be struck to its marrow. Al-Baghdadi warns the Shiites that the Sunnis will torment them. He reassures mujahideen throughout the world that the Islamic State of Iraq is in superb form. He consoles them that defeats in other arenas are but temporary, and do not mean the infidel has won. He blesses the Muslim Nation and the mujahideen in Iraq on the occasion of Ramadan,

³⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁹ From the Yusuf Ali translation of the Qur'an, available on the Haroun Yahya Web site: http://www.harunyahya.com/bilgi/kurani-kerim#verses_container (English; accessed August 16, 2012).

and urges them to draw closer to Allah and join jihad. He remembers the people of Syria in his prayers, and exhorts them to fight until they can establish an Islamic state, in which shari'a [Islamic law] will rule.

Al-Baghdadi heralds the dawn of a new phase in the struggle of the Islamic State of Iraq, which he calls "Operation Destroying the Walls" (it began with a series of terrorist attacks on July 23 in Baghdad and elsewhere, in which 90 people were killed). He reminds his listeners that the release of prisoners, and the assassination of judges and their bodyguards, top the agenda of the mujahideen in Iraq. He calls on young men throughout the world to join jihad in Iraq, strengthening the Islamic State of Iraq and vanquishing the Shiites. He asks religious scholars to acknowledge the State's ideology, policy and methods.⁴⁰



The banner posted by Al-Fida advertising the audio statement of the Emir of the Islamic State of Iraq

- In the wake of its emir's statement (see previous item above), the Islamic State of Iraq announced "The First Wave of the Operation 'Destroying the Walls'". The War Ministry of the Islamic State of Iraq, said the announcement, was answering the call of Emir Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi to embark on a new phase of jihad, dedicated to eradicating the targets of Shiites and the Sunni traitors who collaborate with them: government headquarters, security installations, military bases. Moreover, two days after the emir's statement, the Islamic State of Iraq took responsibility for the simultaneous attacks on July 23, 2012 in six Iraqi provinces, in which over 90 Iraqis and others were

⁴⁰ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

killed.⁴¹ The jihadist web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published photographs of these attacks.⁴²



From an recent attack in Iraq heralding a new operative phase of jihad

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein challenged the Islamic State of Iraq's media outlet, Al-Furqan, for publishing photographs of one of the organization's leaders, Abu Abdallah Al-Muhajir, in a way that served the enemy's intelligence agencies: once with his face visible, and once with his face obscured but his location, Anbar Province, cited. The visitor wondered whether this was a deliberate tactic of Al-Furqan, or a serious error that endangered the mujahideen in Iraq. Another Web surfer reassured him that Al-Muhajir's face was well known, and that Al-Furqan had acted deliberately and with due consideration, as the Islamic State of Iraq had clearly stated.⁴³
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein posted the names of officers and others who had tortured Sunni prisoners in Iraq. His purpose, he claimed, was to enable jihadists to catch the perpetrators and avenge each and every prisoner. Subsequently, another Web surfer wrote an unusual response on Hanein, which indicated that he was a Shiite: he quoted the wish of Caliph Ali Ibn Abu Talib, who is revered by the Shiites, that the Sunnis scatter and disappear. Like the rest of the Shiites, he wrote, he was not afraid to die; he wished discord and death on the Sunnis. Needless to say, these comments

⁴¹ <https://178.211.43.114/~shamikh/vb> (Arabic).

⁴² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴³ <http://haein.info/vb> (Arabic).

did not go without a reaction. Contributors to Hanein cursed the Shiite visitor, and asked forum administrators not to post such comments.⁴⁴

The Arabian Peninsula

- The jihadist press agency Madad, which functions under the auspices of Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen, published additional video clips in the series "An Eye on Events", which focuses on developments in the Yemeni arena. Video No. 16 covered the release of a French citizen who had been kidnapped by Ansar Al-Sharia while serving in an aid delegation to Yemen.⁴⁵



The liberation of a French aid worker, from a video issued by Madad, Ansar Al-Sharia's press agency

- The jihadist media institution Al-Malahem, which functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published an audio statement by senior AQAP member Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi Al-Nadhari, titled, "The Mujahideen in the Cities". Speaking to the mujahideen in the cities dedicated to promoting Islam, Sheikh Al-Nadhari extolled the virtues of jihad for Allah's sake. He praised all followers of jihad: the mujahideen and those who shelter them, those who stand guard against the enemy, those who sacrifice their lives for Allah, and those who engage in da'wa [missionary work] and propaganda. He extolled their virtue, noting that they wage jihad from within the home and heart of the enemy. He exhorted mujahideen in the cities to rely on Allah alone, citing Islamic sources. In summary, he stressed: **If a Muslim wishes to fight jihad but is prevented from joining other mujahideen, individual jihad is the ideal for him.** He must trust in Allah,

⁴⁴ <http://haein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

prepare himself, choose a target, and secretly weave his plot.⁴⁶ This audio statement was translated into multiple languages, Spanish among them.⁴⁷



Banners advertising the audio statement, "The Mujahideen in the Cities" in Arabic (left), and in Spanish (right)

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida drew the attention of his fellow Web surfers to a list of top political, civil, military and security personnel in Yemen, which was posted on a Yemeni forum. The writer (re-)published this list – a "pool" of targets for mujahideen in the Arabian Peninsula – as "a gift on the occasion of Ramadan".⁴⁸



Among the senior Yemeni officials listed: advisor to the prime minister Yasin Said Naman (left); and Governor of Aden Wahid Ali Rashid (right)

- Visitors to the global jihad Web forum reacted to an article published in the *Los Angeles Times* on June 21, 2012, which discussed the need to change the

⁴⁶ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

tactics being used – for example, drones (unmanned aircraft) – to confront Al-Qaeda in Yemen, which had withdrawn its operatives from the areas in which they had been concentrated.⁴⁹ This topic appeared to truly engage visitors to the site, perhaps because many Al-Qaeda members had been killed by drones. One Web surfer even commented that he had discussed this topic with others – but inconclusively, as drones are guided to their target electronically, such that their hits are precise. The main question that had arisen in his conversations with other Web surfers was *who* was passing information about Al-Qaeda operatives to Western agents, enabling them to use the drones to carry out assassinations.⁵⁰

Al-Sham [Greater Syria]

- The jihadist Web forum Sinam Al-Islam announced an “open session” for forum visitors with the “Political Council of Fath Al-Islam: Syrian Branch”, during which visitors would be apprised of events in Al-Sham, in general, and in Syria, in particular, and of the state of jihad and the mujahideen.⁵¹ During the “open session”, visitors to Sinam Al-Islam would be able to pose questions to prominent Salafi-jihadist sheiks, whose responses would be posted on the site at a later date.
- Fath Al-Islam reported killing 30 Alawite soldiers near Aleppo on June 18, 2012, when it blew up a troop truck.⁵²
- The Ibn Taymiyyah Islamic Brigade, which is part of the Syrian Salafi-jihadist Islamic Al-Fajr movement, apparently led by Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi, published the following announcements during the latter half of July 2012:
 - On July 18, the Brigade fought alongside other jihadist brigades against Syrian regime forces in Al-Bab. Ultimately, the jihadist forces liberated the city. One of the Brigade’s commanders, Abu Musaab (Abdallah Al-Karaz), was killed during the fighting.⁵³

⁴⁹ <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-us-yemen-aircraft-20120621,0,2783668.story> (English).

⁵⁰ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵¹ <http://www.snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁵² <http://www.snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁵³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- On July 20, six Syrian security personnel were abducted when the Brigade laid a successful ambush for a military vehicle. The site of the abduction was not reported.⁵⁴
- Liwa Al-Islam [The Banner of Islam], a jihadist group of unknown provenance active in Syria, took responsibility for an attack on national security headquarters in Damascus on July 17, 2012. A security guard, a member of President Bashar Al-Assad's inner circle, detonated a bomb during a security meeting, killing Minister of Defense Daud Abdallah Rajiha; Deputy Minister of Defense and Assad's brother-in-law and right-hand man Asaf Shawqat; and advisor to the Vice President for Security, General Hasan Turkmani, who had previously served as Minister of Defense.⁵⁵



The logo of Liwa Al-Islam

- During the Second half of July 2012, the Al-Nusra Front, a Salafi-jihadist group active in Syria and affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published the following announcements:
 - Announcement No. 35, taking responsibility for a number of attacks in Idlib and environs.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁵ <http://dawaalhaq.wordpress.com/2012/07/18/%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B1-%D9%88%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%88-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85-%D8%A5%D8%AD%D8%AF%D9%89/>; see also Liwa Al-Islam's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/IslamicBrigade> (both in Arabic).

⁵⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- Announcement No. 36, taking responsibility for a number of attacks in Aleppo and environs.⁵⁷
- Announcement No. 37, taking responsibility for infiltrating a Syrian Air Force base near Al-Qamishli, in northeastern Syria.⁵⁸



Attacks perpetrated by the Al-Nusra Front

- Announcement No. 38, taking responsibility for a number of attacks in Damascus and environs. For example, the Al-Nusra Front reported capturing Samer Adra, the head of the research department of the Palestinian Branch of the Syrian security apparatus. After interrogating him, they executed him.⁵⁹
- A visitor to the global jihad Web forum warned the Free Syrian Army and the mujahideen in Syria against assenting to a quiet transfer of power in Syria, like the one that had occurred in Yemen, which would leave Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad unpunished for massacring his people. The writer expressed his belief that the mujahideen should choose, in consultation [shura] and not through elections, the next leader of Syria. He recommended establishing a council of respected, forthright people, who would select a trustworthy and righteous successor as a leader whom everyone would obey. It would then be necessary to implement Islamic law, and remove all doubts about the matter. He warned against accepting aid or funds from "outside" – i.e. from the UN or Arab leaders who opposed the mujahideen. He also warned that the younger generation should be trained for jihad against the enemies: the Shiites and their collaborators, Israel, the West, Arabs who have forsaken Islam. The writer reminded his readers that a UN delegation was slated to visit the key sites of conflict, once it had received clearance from the Syrian regime. He urged the Free Syrian Army and mujahideen not to cooperate with

⁵⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

this UN delegation but rather to foil its efforts, whose sole aim is to “undo” the revolution and reinstate injustice.⁶⁰

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted a photograph of Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi, which he claimed was taken deep inside Syrian territory. The photograph shows Al-Tartusi holding a weapon.⁶¹



Somewhere in Syria? Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi with a gun by his side

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam discussed the possibility that Syrian security forces would use chemical weapons against the rebels and mujahideen. He insisted that the mujahideen must be prepared for a chemical attack – for example, they must know how to use a gas mask. However, added the contributor, since the best defense is a good offense, it would be better [for the rebels] to take control of Syria’s chemical weapons and use them against the Syrian regime and its allies: Iran, Russia and China. He suggested distributing the appropriated chemical weapons along the borders with Russia and China, where they can be used to attack Russian and Chinese targets.⁶²
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam asked site visitors to weigh in on the possibility that rebels would attack the Russian naval base in Tartous, Syria. He also asked their opinion on whether the current battle in Aleppo was to the benefit or detriment of the rebels. Several Web surfers wrote in support of an attack on the Russian naval base in Tartous, claiming that it played a significant role in the assault on the residents of Syria. They claimed that such an attack would require precise, well-informed preparation.

⁶⁰ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

One site visitor wrote that he would support an attack on the Russian naval base if it would lead to a clash between Russian and Chinese war ships, and NATO ships. Other Web surfers wrote that the enemy at hand was a greater priority than the enemy who was farther away – in other words, efforts should be focused on striking the Alawites in Syria. Another contributor expressed the fear that an attack on the Russian naval base would lead to serious Russian reprisals against the residents of Syria; he recommended considering such an attack after the revolution in Syria had ended.⁶³

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida posted photographs which he claimed documented the presence of Salafi-jihadist soldiers on the Syria-Iraq border.⁶⁴



Salafi-jihadist soldiers, purportedly on the Syria-Iraq border

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida reported that on July 6, 2012, Salafi-jihadists in Jordan visited Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi in prison. Al-Maqdisi, a senior Salafi-jihadist, is serving time in a Jordanian prison on conviction of supporting terrorism. During the visit, Al-Maqdisi said he would welcome the establishment of a Shura Council for Salafi-jihadists in Jordan. There is dissent within the Jordanian Salafi-jihadist camp regarding the formation of a Shura Council, as some consider the selection of candidates tantamount to democratic elections, which Salafi-jihadists oppose. Those who had visited Al-Maqdisi published a letter in which they described their visit, including their initiative to establish a Shura Council, and Al-Maqdisi's response to it.⁶⁵

⁶³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁵ <http://www.alfidaa.biz/vb> (Arabic).

- The jihadist media institution Ibn Taymiyyah published a videotaped interview with Sheikh Ahmad Ashush, a senior Egyptian Salafi-jihadist, who was released from prison in 2011, in the wake of the popular rebellion in Egypt. In the interview, Ashush discussed the Salafi-jihadists in the Gaza Strip and the complex approach that should be taken toward the Hamas government. For example, Ashush sees the Salafi-jihadists in the Gaza Strip as a welcome addition to the war against the Jewish conqueror of Palestine. He added his hope that Sheikh Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi, the leader of the Salafi-jihadist group Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, would be released from the Hamas prison where he has been languishing since 2009.⁶⁶



A banner advertising the interview with Sheikh Ahmad Ashush

- A new Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group named Ansar Bet Al-Maqdes [Supporters of Jerusalem] took responsibility for a series of explosions, beginning in 2011, of the Egyptian pipeline that traverses the Sinai Peninsula, carrying natural gas to Israel and Jordan.⁶⁷ The group admitted its role in the bombing of the pipeline in a video clip titled, "If You Return, We Will Return", which appeared on jihadist Web forums on July 24, 2012. To date, the gas pipeline has been sabotaged 15 times; this was the first time anyone had taken responsibility for the sabotage. The most recent bombing was on July

⁶⁶ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

22, 2012. This video clip constitutes the first photographed documentation of the bombing of the Sinai gas pipeline.

The video features a spokesman for Ansar Bet Al-Maqdes, who claims that the previous Egyptian regime's provision of natural gas to Israel was high treason; it has been continued by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF), on the strength of the Camp David Peace Accord. The spokesman claims that the Egyptian people are disadvantaged by the gas deal with Israel: not only are their resources being plundered, but Israel is getting stronger at their expense.

The video also reports that Ansar Bet Al-Maqdes was established after Al-Qaeda leader Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri called for a cessation of the transfer of gas to the State of Israel, and immediate annulment of the relevant contract, which was a detriment to Egypt's economy.

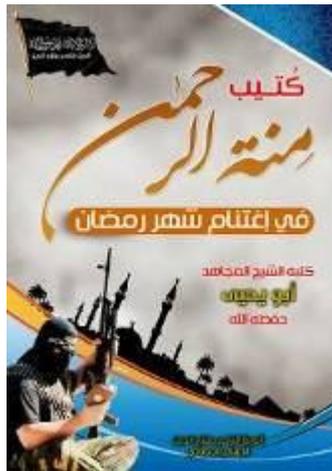
The video then records the sabotage of the gas pipeline, which consists of laying explosive devices alongside it in the dark of night, and detonating them later. By blowing up the gas pipeline, the group claims to be causing Israel real financial hardship: "We have struck a mortal blow to the economy of the Zionist entity, raising electricity and other prices, and diminishing the Zionists' military budget".

According to the video, SCAF's announcement that it had ceased sending gas to Israel was a lie. The only thing that had stopped the transfer of gas was the sabotage; and though SCAF was quick to repair the pipeline after each incident, the mujahideen continued to blow it up. The video also shows Ayman Al-Zawahiri praising the mujahideen for blowing up the gas pipeline.



The logo of the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group Ansar Bet Al-Maqdes (left), and members of the group outlining a plan to blow up the Egypt-Israel gas pipeline (right)

- Sheikh Abu Yahya, a member of the Al-Nasser Salah Al-Deen Brigades, a military arm of the Popular Resistance Committees – an umbrella organization of armed Palestinian groups in the Gaza Strip – extended Ramadan blessings to the Muslim Nation. He praised the virtues of the holy month, adding that acts of jihad should proliferate during Ramadan, when the reward for them is multiplied.⁶⁸



Ramadan Blessings to the Muslim Nation, from the Al-Nasser Salah Al-Deen Brigades

- The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem, a jihadist group active in the Sinai Peninsula, published a new video clip titled, "The Jews Are Afraid Because the Time of Promises Draws Nigh".⁶⁹ This group first made itself known in an announcement issued on June 19, in which it declared its establishment and took responsibility for a terrorist attack perpetrated on June 18 inside Israel. The attack consisted of an ambush laid by three members of the group, who had infiltrated Israel from the Egyptian-held Sinai. The group ambushed a vehicle of the Israel Ministry of Defense carrying Israelis who were working on the Sinai border fence, blew up a roadside bomb, and shot rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) at the vehicle. One Israeli citizen was killed in the attack and another was slightly wounded. Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers then stormed the terrorists and killed two of them.⁷⁰

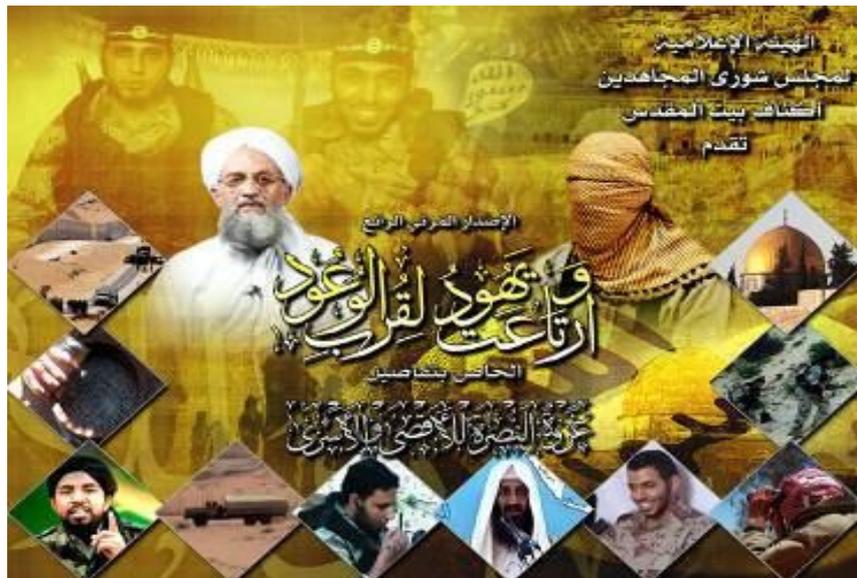
⁶⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁰ For more information about these events, see:

<http://www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=nABqT5MnO4Q%3d&tabid=344>, pp.17-22.

The new video clip encourages the Muslim Nation to join jihad against the State of Israel and the Jews, and contains portions of a video clip that was posted on the Internet after the June 18 terrorist attack, in which the group's leader, who calls himself Abu Osama Al-Muhajir, is seen sitting with group members and declaring the group's intention to attack Israel and the IDF. Later in the vide, Al-Muhajir appears alone, expounding on the necessity of opening new jihad fronts in neighboring countries from which to attack the Jews. The video then showcases the two terrorists (an Egyptian and a Saudi) who prepared and participated in the June 18 attack. Both of them are seen in training, and stating that joining the Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem is an important part of jihad against the Jews and the State of Israel.



A banner advertising the video clip about the Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem



From the video clip: The leader of the group, known as Abu Osama Al-Muhajir (left), and the two terrorists killed during the attack (right)

- The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem published a press release,⁷¹ in which it warned that “certain elements” (e.g., intelligence agents, the media, persons with “ulterior motives”) would like to thwart it and portray it in a false light. Consequently, the group clarified the following:
 - The only authorized information about the group is published by its propaganda arm through the Markaz Ibn Taymiyyah jihadist media institution and uploaded onto the jihadist Web forums Shumukh Al-Islam, Ansar Al-Mujahideen, and Al-Fida.
 - The Mujahideen Shura Council is not active on any other Internet site or social network, and is not connected to any url that bears its name.
 - The Mujahideen Shura Council was astonished that, on July 21, 2012, the Web site www.alquds.com published interviews purportedly conducted with its leaders:⁷² “We insist we have no direct or indirect connection to the content of this article...If such interviews were indeed conducted, then the Web site and its editors were duped by a band of liars who deliberately falsely identified themselves as leaders of the Shura Council”.
 - The Mujahideen Shura Council asks that all media use reliable sources, and precision, in reporting the news. The media should show integrity and honesty.

Africa

Mali

- Sanda Ould Bouamama, a spokesman for Ansar Al-Din in northern Mali, reported that the Movement of Tawheed and Jihad in West Africa, which is also active in the area, had released three foreigners – one Italian and two Spaniards⁷³ - who were abducted in October 2011 from a refugee camp near Tindouf, Algeria. It is possible that they had since been moved to northern Mali, which has been under the control of the two above-named groups since March 2012.

⁷¹ <http://ww.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷² <http://www.alquds.com/news/article/view/id/372423> (Arabic).

⁷³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida reported that mujahideen from Burkina Faso and Niger joined the Movement of Tawheed and Jihad in West Africa in Gao, northern Mali, on July 17, 2012.⁷⁴
- Reports abounded of the destruction of historic heritage sites in Mali by Ansar Al-Din, and the harsh criticism of it by "the infidel and apostate" press. One visitor to the global jihad Web site rebuffed this criticism, and wondered where the press was when Muslim graves were being desecrated by Crusaders and Jews in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, India, Turkistan, the Caucasus, Somalia and Europe. Where was the press when Muslims were being killed in Burma?, he asked. He defended Ansar Al-Din's actions, explaining that the destroyed sites were "sites of heresy" and not heritage sites.⁷⁵
- The Web site Kavkaz Center published an article about the methodical, systematic revolution that was turning northern Mali into a "realm of shari'a [Islamic law]". The article also addressed arguments in the Western press, chiefly from Britain's *The Guardian*, about the extensive territory (comparable to the size of France) in northern Mali that has been conquered by the mujahideen, and which may or may not be being exploited as a training ground for Al-Qaeda. War is being waged in this territory on a daily basis against anything that contravenes Islam (e.g., warehouses of tobacco, drugs, alcohol) – despite the efforts of the West. The ranks of the mujahideen continue to grow, thanks to the young volunteers who are spreading Islam and volunteers from neighboring countries like Algeria. According to the article, the West is not expected to intervene in any significant way to stop these events, as Afghanistan and Syria are presently its chief concern. Mali can therefore develop unimpeded.⁷⁶

Egypt

- The jihadist public relations group "The Best of Jihadist Propaganda" published an article titled, "If I Were in Mursi's Place and Sitting in His Chair" by Hussam Abd Al-Raouf, a mujahid, member of Al-Qaeda's strategic council, and the editor of Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan's magazine, *Vanguards of*

⁷⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁵ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁶ <http://www.kavkazcenter.net> (Russian).

Khurasan.⁷⁷ In it, Al-Raouf lays out a detailed plan for turning Egypt into an Islamic state. For an extensive review of the content of this article, see ***Jihadist Discourse Concerning the Arab Spring*** (p. 8 ff., above).

- Salafi-jihadists in Egypt reported the release from prison of Sheikh Ahmad Salam Mabruk, formerly a senior leader of jihad in Egypt.⁷⁸



Ahmad Salam Mabruk

Somalia

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen published a number of news items about its activities in Somalia, its achievements in fighting enemy forces, and its aid and support to the local population.⁷⁹



Distribution by the Al-Ihsan charitable association, affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, in Buloburde, Hiran Province, Somalia of pumps for using river water to irrigate agricultural land

⁷⁷ <http://aljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁸ http://ansarsharia.blogspot.co.il/2012/07/blog-post_1825.html (Arabic).

⁷⁹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen's senior qadi [judge], Abdallah Al-Haq, announced that Al-Shabab had executed three of its members, whom it found guilty of spying for American and British intelligence services. According to Al-Haq, all three admitted to the charges against them.⁸⁰

The Caucasus

- The Web site Imarat Kavkaz was unique in highlighting the concern of the Turkish government for the Chechen refugees who had been living in refugee camps in Turkey for the past 13 years. According to the site, the Turkish government has housed the refugees from three camps on the outskirts of Istanbul – Umraniye, Beykoz, and Fenerbahce – in subsidized apartments in Izmir, and in an additional act of goodwill, has even promised to grant them Turkish citizenship within one year.⁸¹
- The Web site Imarat Kavkaz presented evidence of Russian concern lest the “Arab Spring” spread to the Caucasus. For example, the site reported on a press conference attended by a senior official from the Russian Embassy in France, who stated that the Arab Spring involves revolt not only against dictators and tyrants [in the Arab world], but also in other areas, such as the Caucasus. Imarat Kavkaz cited the Russians’ concern about the spread of “radical elements”, who might direct their struggle “against the entire world”. The site recalled the first (and so far the last) official appeal to the “infidel regime” in the Caucasus to release [Muslim] prisoners. The demonstration, held on May 19 and attended by some 400 demonstrators, devolved into a melee when some threw rocks at the Russian forces, who opened fire and also arrested 11 demonstrators.⁸²
- The Web site Valiat Dagestan summarized the activities of the mujahideen in the Caucasus for the past month. According to the data, a total of 60 acts of jihad were carried out in the Caucasus, killing 49 enemies of Allah and injuring 56, martyring 23 mujahideen, “neutralizing” 23 supply convoys and destroying eight buildings. The number of acts of jihad for July were almost identical to those of the previous month (June); however, in June, only 34

⁸⁰ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸¹ <http://www.shamilonline.org/ru/2009-08-18-08-08-27/11354-----l-r-----,html> (Russian).

⁸² <http://www.shamilonline.org/ru/2009-08-18-08-08-27/11494--l-r-.html> (Russian).

"enemies" were killed and 27 wounded, while 18 mujahideen were martyred. Also in June, 159 men and four women were abducted.⁸³

- Muhammad, the military commander of Tatarstan announced that the mujahideen there had renewed the oath of loyalty they had first taken in 2007 to Caucasus Emir Dokku Abu Usman. They promised to obey those of his orders that accord with the Qur'an and Sunnah.⁸⁴



Mujahideen in the Caucasus

The West and Elsewhere

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida calling himself Abu Muslim Al-Rami posted a video clip titled "Myanmar, the Oozing Wound". It was given prominence by the forum's administrators.⁸⁵

⁸³ <http://www.shamilonline.org/ru/2009-08-18-08-27/11432-----1433----21---19--2012-.html> (Russian).

⁸⁴ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



The banner advertising the video clip, "Myanmar, the Oozing Wound"

- Ihsan Allah Ihsan, the spokesman for the Pakistan Taliban, threatened to interfere with the interests of Myanmar (Burma) in Pakistan if the latter's government did not sever its ties with Myanmar in protest against the Asian country's alleged massacre of Muslims in Rakhine State (formerly Arakan) in western Myanmar.⁸⁶



Ihsan Allah Ihsan

- Unverified reports have been received that Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri ordered 500 fighters to be sent to Myanmar to help the Muslims there. They got as far as Bangladesh, from which they planned to enter

⁸⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Myanmar. Web surfers doubted that Bangladesh would grant them entry, however, given that it had failed to help Myanmar's Muslims, and had taken steps against Islamist elements in Bangladesh itself.⁸⁷

- In a Friday sermon delivered on July 20, 2012, Sheikh Hani Al-Sibai, a Salafi-jihadist sheikh and Egyptian exile who heads London's Al-Maqrizi Center for Historical Research, addressed the tragedy visited on the Muslims in Rakhine State (formerly Arakan) in Myanmar (Burma). According to Al-Sibai, the Myanmar government kills and exiles many Muslims – a crime that the world ignores.⁸⁸
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted photographs of members of Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad in the Philippines.⁸⁹



With their backs to the camera: Members of Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad in the Philippines

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam discussed the recent Olympic Games in London, citing with satisfaction the dread that had gripped Britain lest a terrorist attack occur during the Games. He gloated that all it took was a few intimidating words on jihadist Web forums to sow fear and anxiety in the British government. He noted that the British government had spent a fortune on security for the Games, as reflected in its placing defensive missiles on London's rooftops. This was also evidence of the mujahideen's having terrified their enemies, especially since they had proven they were

⁸⁷ <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

capable of carrying out a large-scale attack, such as those in New York on September 11, 2001, and in Madrid and London.⁹⁰

Discussion of the Terrorist Attack in Burgas, Bulgaria (July 18, 2012)

- On July 18, 2012, a bus filled with Israeli tourists in the resort town of Burgas, Bulgaria, exploded, killing five. As of this writing, no organization has taken responsibility for the attack. Web surfers saw the attack as another in the string of acts of individual jihad, like Muhammad Merah's murder of Jews in Toulouse in March 2012. They praised the attack in Burgas, which they claimed was perpetrated on behalf of the Palestinian people. Acts by a "lone wolf", they wrote, embarrass Israel and the West, since any information about them or their perpetrator(s) is destroyed in the attack. Other Web surfers expressed concern lest the Arabs and Muslims "pay" for the attack, while still others insisted that it was the Arabs and Muslims who were already paying the price in any case. Following the attack, the media published a photograph from the Burgas airport security camera of a suspect in the attack, who was initially identified as Mahdi Ghazali, a former prisoner at Guantanamo Bay. However, later reports refuted this suspicion. Many Web surfers wondered whether Al-Qaeda was really behind the attack, but others wrote that regardless of who had perpetrated it, any attack that kills "Jews and Crusaders" should be praised.⁹¹

Women and Jihad

- The jihadist media center Al-Yakin criticized Saudi Arabia for sending Saudi women to London to participate in the judo and athletic competitions in the

⁹⁰ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹¹ <http://aljahad.com/vb>, <http://hanein.info/vb> (both in Arabic).

Olympic Games. According to Al-Yakin, the Saudi regime's infringement on shari'a [Islamic law] proves that its loyalty is to the West.⁹²

- The Al-Maqrizi Center for Historical Research in London, headed by Hani Al-Sibai, published a notice in which Saudi Arabian women asked Saudi ulama'a [religious scholars] and clerics to pressure the Saudi regime to free their loved ones from prison.⁹³
- **Miscellaneous**
- The Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF) published blessings on the occasion of Ramadan, and wished for the success of the mujahideen and their supporters.⁹⁴
- In honor of Ramadan, the jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published a series of audio statements titled, "Ramadan Lessons" by Sheikh Khalid Al-Husaynan Abu Zaid al-Kuwaiti, formerly a preacher in Kuwait. Lesson No. 4 was titled, "Evidence of Strength in the Life of the Believer";⁹⁵ Lesson No. 5 was titled, "Explain the Traditions, O Lord, I Beg that You Guide Me";⁹⁶ Lesson No. 6 was titled, "Curtailling Arrogance";⁹⁷ Lesson No. 7 was titled, "Broken Hearts";⁹⁸ Lesson No. 8 was titled, "The Importance of Character";⁹⁹ Lesson No. 9 was titled, "The Joy of Jihad";¹⁰⁰ Lesson No. 10 was titled, "Explain the Traditions, O Lord, That I May Not Lose Your Favor";¹⁰¹ and Lesson No. 11 was titled, "Do a Reckoning with Your Soul".¹⁰²
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida solicited the opinions of his fellow Web surfers regarding the best venue for jihadist public relations: Facebook pages, or Twitter accounts. He also asked them whether they thought it better to disseminate excerpts of video clips produced by the mujahideen, which explain their ideology and methods, or to disseminate documentary films that cast the enemy and its allies (such as some ulama'a [religious

⁹² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁷ <http://www.aljihad.org/vb/> (Arabic)

⁹⁸ <https://178.211.43.114/~shamikh/vb/> (Arabic).

⁹⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

scholars]) in a degrading, humiliating light, compared to the mujahideen, who embody the truth.

One Web surfer responded that everything the questioner suggested was worthy. However, he added, YouTube and Facebook are the best ways to reach the masses, and are a good channel for posting new links to jihadist publications. According to this respondent, at all stages of propaganda dissemination one should use the computer security program Tor, which camouflages details about the user's computer.¹⁰³

- After over a month's hiatus during which it changed servers, the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam has returned to full activity. It posted a banner in celebration.¹⁰⁴



Shumukh Al-Islam is happy to announce that it's up and running again

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen posted a photograph of an Israeli citizen named Ziyad Iraqi Abu Ahmad, whom he alleged was collaborating with Israel's Shabak and therefore should be assassinated.¹⁰⁵
- Israel's Jaffe Center published a study asserting that some 12,000 Muslims are serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), about 1,000 of them Egyptians who immigrated to Israel. In response, one visitor to the jihadist forum Hanein wrote that most of these Muslims were Bedouin or Circassians who love to carry a weapon and thrive on tribal conflict – and who are also threatened with being pushed off their land. Other visitors to the site added that Muslims who serve in the IDF do not hold sensitive jobs, and so are a

¹⁰³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁵ <http://as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

threat only to their own Nation, not to Israel. One contributor called them a "worm that consumes the body of the Muslim Nation from within". Others claimed that the IDF uses these Muslims as a human shield, as indicated by the many among them who are killed; this also happens to Muslims serving in the US Army.¹⁰⁶

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam solicited the opinions of his fellow Web surfers as to why only small percentages of people were exposed to jihadist propaganda, despite the extensive use of social networks and Internet forums to disseminate it. For example, Shumukh Al-Islam itself only has 15,000 members, while the Web sites of Salafist and other groups that promote the implementation of Islamic law garner more than 300,000 visitors. The writer asked his fellow Web surfers to suggest solutions to this problem, "so we can break the barrier of isolation between us and our Nation, and guide them to the right path". One Web surfer responded that one of the main problems is that online jihadist propaganda does not make its appeal in a comprehensible manner. Why don't jihadist Web sites run competitions on topics of culture, or use language in a suitable register – such as colloquial Arabic?, he asked. Another Web surfer wrote that while jihadist public relations institutions excel in their propaganda materials, publication and dissemination are weak. He suggested establishing institutes that would expand dissemination. Shumukh Al-Islam's woman supervisor also weighed in, stating that da'wa [proselytizing] and propaganda was not being presented in a way palatable to common people. For example, she claimed, these people need explanations for some of the terminology and ideas appearing on jihadist Web forums, such as tawhid [pure monotheism], or why democracy is considered polytheism. In other words, she suggested, propaganda should be simplified for the masses. Moreover, very few – only two – people are responsible for disseminating propaganda materials, a quantity that is clearly insufficient. Another member of Shumukh Al-Islam claimed that, unfortunately, propaganda was being geared for supporters of the mujahideen instead of for the masses [i.e. it preaches to the converted]. Moreover, the hymns published on jihadist Web forums are suited to the previous generation of mujahideen. He claimed that propagandists should produce materials that arouse positive feelings and foster solidarity so as to

¹⁰⁶ <http://hanein.info/cv> (Arabic).

gain more sympathy from the public, the majority of which is not devoutly religious. Further, he suggested that jihadist media institutes also take responsibility for disseminating the materials they publish.¹⁰⁷

- While the Olympic Games were being held in London, members of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam renewed their threats to disrupt the Games – threats first posted in April 2012. One member, who is participating in the forum's online course on jihadist propaganda, claimed that London is rife with Al-Qaeda sleeper cells ready to act at a moment's notice. Another member who is also participating in the forum's online course quoted news items stating that London had become a fortified city given the massive defenses it had deployed in response to threats to interfere with the Olympic Games.¹⁰⁸



The shadow of a threat over London

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).