



Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Web Sites

The Second Half of July 2013



International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT)

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Highlights

This report summarizes notable events discussed on jihadist Web forums during the second half of July 2013. Following are the main points covered in this report:

- Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri calls to the Muslims to show initiative and act against the US anti-Muslim policy, manifested – according to him – in the mass killing of Muslims. In his view, one should also strive to liberate Palestine from the Jews so that it can be included in the Islamic caliphate that is to be established in the region.
- Sheikh Ibrahim Rubaish, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb’s Mufti, gives an official declaration on the death of Sheikh Al-Shari and eulogizes him. Al-Shari served as the deputy leader in Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and was killed by an American drone, apparently at the beginning of the year.
- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, Al-Qaeda’s affiliate in Iraq, claimed responsibility for the break-in into 2 large prisons near Baghdad – the Abu Gharib Prison and the Al-Taji Prison – on July 21st 2013. This break-in resulted in the release of several hundred prisoners, most of them Al-Qaeda members.
- Sheikh Abu Bakr Al-Julani, leader of the Al-Nusra Front in Al-Sham, Al-Qaeda’s affiliate in Syria, called to all of the Jihadi groups fighting in Syria to act together to eradicate the Syrian regime and to establish the Sharia. Furthermore, he threatened the Lebanese Hezbollah and the Shiite population in the area to stop their support of the Syrian regime and their actions against the Sunni population and promised that they will pay for it.
- A new Salafi Jihadi organization called “In the Name of the Preachers for Sharia in the Land of Two Niles” has announced its establishment. Apparently, the focus of its activity is in Sudan.
- The discourse in the Jihadi forums points to the existence of an internal rift in the Shabab Al-Mujahideen movement, Al-Qaeda’s affiliate in Somalia. Sheikh Abu-Zubayr, the movement’s leader, was accused of promoting a self-serving policy designed to serve only his personal goals and expressed in the elimination of opposition from amongst its ranks while ignoring the main goal which is the implementation of the Sharia.

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New Publications

Ideology

- The Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published an audio statement titled "64 Years Since the Small Disaster" (that is, the Six Day War of 1967), by Al-Qaeda leader Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri. Al-Zawahiri accused the US of two crimes: (1) adopting a policy of exploitation, oppression and aggression towards the Muslim prisoners in Guantanamo, in contradiction to the values it advocates – that is, liberty, human rights, and democracy. Al-Zawahiri swore before God to free all of the Muslim prisoners at Guantanamo and elsewhere, including Sheikh Umar Abd al-Rahman, Aafia Siddiqui, and Khaled Sheikh Muhammad; (2) incessant use of surveillance aircraft over Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen and other Muslim countries. Al-Zawahiri stressed that their use proved the failure and defeat of the US in region. According to him, the US drone "killing spree" only antagonized the Muslims, as if "[the American] war is not a war against Al-Qaeda but rather a war against the Muslim Nation". Al-Zawahiri then called on Muslims everywhere to stop the crimes perpetrated by the US and its allies against Muslims in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, and Mali, stating, "Every Muslim everywhere must defend the Muslim blood being spilled by the US and its allies, the Muslim honor that has been violated, the Muslim homes and villages that have been destroyed, and Muslim money that has been stolen".

Subsequently, al-Zawahiri broached his main topic: The defeat of the Arab armies in the 1967 war against Israel exposed the corruption and decadence of the Nasser regime in Egypt and the secular Baath regime in Syria, which touted anti-Israel rhetoric but ultimately willingly relinquished the majority of Palestinian territory to the Jews. Hezbollah also relinquished territory when it retreated from the Israel-Lebanon border, leaving it to the "foreign occupation" of "international forces". He added that the popular protests in Syria against Bashar al-Assad's regime revealed the true face of Shi'ite Hezbollah, which is a tool in the Iranian plan to subjugate the Muslim Nation to the will of its supreme leader through massacre, oppression, torture – and with the backing of corrupt governments.

Al-Zawahiri then noted that, today, the rulers who have come to power since the Arab Spring revolutions continue to forfeit the Palestinian and Muslim land. The Muslim Nation must oppose these usurpers and occupiers,

and reinstate the caliphate on Palestinian land. Al-Zawahiri urged that the Islamist-jihadist revival be exploited to this end.¹



A banner for Al-Zawahiri's speech "64 Years Since the Small Disaster [Naqsha]"

- The jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published a collection of essays by Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a prominent Jordanian Salafi-jihadist who is incarcerated in a Jordanian prison. The first essay in the collection, titled "Pages from the Notebook of a Prisoner", commemorated the February 25, 1994 massacre of 29 Muslim worshippers at the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron by Baruch Goldstein, a Jewish doctor from Kiryat Arba. The second essay was about France's invasion of Mali. In the third essay, al-Maqdisi's described his experience in prison. The fourth essay provided insights into the military coup in Egypt, chiefly that the implementation of shari'a [Islamic law] can only be accomplished by wielding the Qur'an and weapons, and not by casting ballots in democratic elections.²
- The jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published a collection of essays titled "Lessons in Monotheism [Tawheed] and Jihad" (52 pages) by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi al-Nadhari (aka Muhammad al-Murshidi), a senior member of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).³ The essays concerned the heresy of the UN, religious-legal permission to kill heretics, the meaning of heresy, and differences among the various groups opposing Islam.
- The jihadist media institution Fursan Al-Balagh published an article titled "The Islamic State and the European Theocratic State Are Not the same", by Abu Nuseiba al-Maqdisi.⁴
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted a position paper titled "Islam and the True Democracy", which claimed that modern democracy has supplanted Islamic law in this generation. The poster stressed his opposition to this outlook, and insisted that Islam is based on democratic principles.

¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

One forum supervisor admonished the poster for mistaking democracy for the principle of consensus [shura] and advised him to seek guidance in understanding Islam, adding, "May Allah forgive you".⁵

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein clarified the conduct of the future Islamic state that he hoped would be established by the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham. For example, he asked how the Islamic state would cope with anyone who disagreed with certain religious rulings, such as those regarding the exposure of a woman's face. He wondered whether the Islamic state would exert force against anyone who was at odds with its rulings, or whether it would respect multiple views. Also, he wondered how rule would be transferred from one emir to the next, if the former died or became incapacitated. Would succession be determined by legal will? By election?

This post generated many responses. One respondent noted that the questions should be posed not to the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sha" but rather to "every Islamic state wishing to implement Islamic law", to which he urged a return.

The author of the post explained that the world had changed, such that the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham would have no choice but to expand personal and public freedoms through shari'a [Islamic law]; if it did not do so, it would not survive.

Yet another forum visitor berated the writer of the post for asking supporters of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham to address "future strategic" matters they could not understand. He suggested consulting an "authoritative leader", or asking forum management to hold a media conference with representatives of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham.

Still other site visitors accused the writer of the post of igniting a "civil war".⁶

- A discussion developed on the jihadist Web forum Hanein concerning the civil war in Syria and the legitimacy of killing Shi'ite women and children. The poster of this thread explained that Sunni mujahideen who survived the Al-Qusayr campaign were filled with a desire to avenge their brothers' deaths. Although fatwas had been issued that allow the killing of enemy women and children, this poster did not support it.

⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶ www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic).

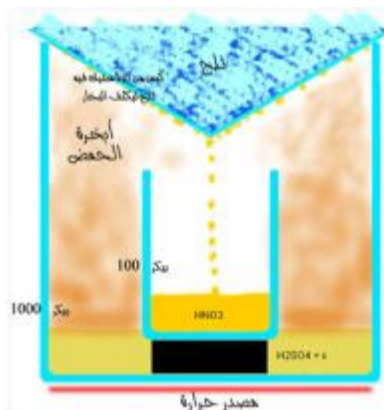
In response, another site visitor insisted that it is permissible to kill enemy women and children. Moreover, he added, perhaps this is what would convince the Shi'ites "to stop killing our women and children".

A forum visitor who vehemently opposed killing women and children asked defiantly, "how would you feel if your children were killed?". Yet another forum visitor wrote that killing heretical women and children, especially Shi'ite women and children, is a noble act of jihad, because the Shi'ites were killing Sunni women and children. He added that the Shi'ites exaggerate the killing of Sunni women and children, as they believed that the Sunnis would not do them similar harm.

One site visitor insisted that the topic is controversial, and that the mujahideen must choose their preferred path, adding, "and Allah knows best".⁷

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- The director of the military section of the Snam Al-Islam Web forum published a collection of 14 video and text guides, containing the following:
 - How to obtain and use raw materials to manufacture explosives.⁸



From a guide to creating explosives

- How to make bombs using the charges manufactured by the mujahideen in Afghanistan.⁹
- How to make gunpowder, using a ratio of 16 grams of potassium nitrate plus four grams of sugar and three grams of coal.¹⁰

⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

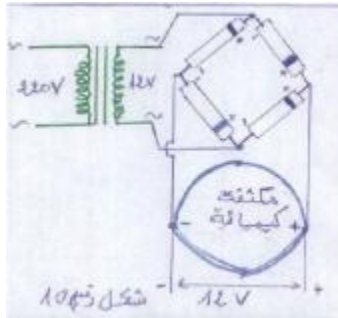
⁹ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).



Using gunpowder to make an explosive device

- The director of the military section of the Snam Al-Islam Web forum published a tips on personal security and surveillance, which were translated from a file that originated with the FBI. The guide covered how to move with stealth, security in times of peace, and security in the home.¹¹
- The director of the military section of the Snam Al-Islam Web forum published a collection of 11 guides on military topics, including remote control devices and various explosives and bombs.¹²



From a guidebook that appeared on the jihadist Web forum Snam Al-Islam

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The Al-Bayareq media institution, which functions under the auspices of Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia, published an anthology commemorating Sheikh Abu Sufyan Said al-Shihri, the deputy leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). According to an announcement published in July 2013, al-Shihri was killed in a drone strike in early 2013. This commemorative anthology includes audio segments, articles, and other media featuring al-Shihri.¹³

¹¹ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹² <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

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



A banner for the anthology

Magazines

- Issue No. 87 for July-August 2013 of the Arabic-language magazine *Al-Sumud* was published by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.¹⁴

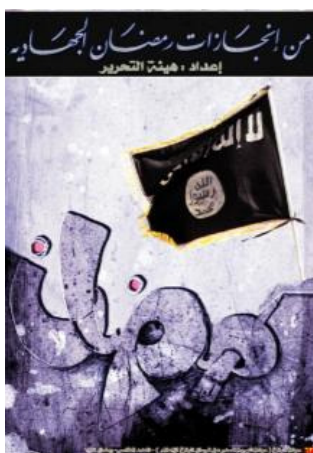


The cover of Issue No. 87 of *Al-Sumud*

- Issue No. 5 of the *Fursan Al-Balagh* (69 pages) has been published.¹⁵ This issue includes articles and essays by prominent jihadists such as Abu Yahya al-Shinqiti, a member of the Shari'a Committee of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), and covers the incompatibility of democracy and Islam. The issue also contains a eulogy of Sheikh al-Shihri, the deputy leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula; the US and its Shi'ite allies Hezbollah and Syria, which are enemies of the Muslim Nation; and the virtues of Ramadan as a focus for jihad.

¹⁴ <http://alsomod-iea.info/> (Arabic).

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



From the latest issue of *Fursan Al-Balagh*

- Hafidat Safiyya [Hafida's Progeny], a jihadist women's group, published the second issue of a magazine for women: *Women Prisoner*".¹⁶



From the second issue of *Women Prisoners: The legend in the upper left-hand corner of the image says "Jihad Nation", and the signposts point to various arenas of jihad, such as Afghanistan*

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

*The Pakistan-Taliban reported sending mujahideen to Syria to fight alongside the rebels against Bashar al-Assad's regime and establishing a base in Syria, where they expect to be joined by other forces.*¹⁷

*The Pakistan-Taliban attacked a prison in northwestern Pakistan, freeing some 250 prisoners; in the course of the armed confrontation, at least 12 people were killed, six of them police officers.*¹⁸

¹⁶ July 28, 2013

¹⁷ <http://www.aljazeera.com> (English).

¹⁸ www.aljazeera.com (English).

Two major terrorist attacks were perpetrated in Pakistan: on July 25, 2013, at least five men were killed and about 40 were injured in an explosion that occurred near a building belonging to Pakistani Intelligence; on July 27, 2013, at least 57 people were killed and about 150 were injured in two explosions in the market of Parachinar in northwestern Pakistan. Also, a new Pakistani president was elected: Mamnoon Hussain, a businessman who enjoys the support of the current ruling party.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai is expected to visit Pakistan in an attempt to mend the relationship between the two countries and win Pakistan's support in the war against the Taliban. In addition, the Afghan parliament decided to close the Ministry of the Interior for security reasons¹⁹ after a suicide bomber on a donkey blew himself up in the middle of a NATO military convoy, killing three soldiers.²⁰

- The Umar jihadist media institution, which operates under the auspices of the Pakistan-Taliban, published a video clip titled "Announcements from the Official Spokesperson, Ihsanullah".²¹
- The Global Islamic Media Front published an Arabic translation of a video clip showing an interview with Pakistan-Taliban Emir Hakim Allah Mahsud, which was initially issued by the Umar jihadist media institution. In the interview, Mahsud stressed that jihad was equally important in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Afghani government defers to its American occupier, and the Pakistani government is a US puppet, he stated, adding that he is open to the possibility of negotiations with the Pakistani government if they are serious and promise to elicit the desired result, from the Taliban's point of view. However, he added, he sensed that such negotiations would be doomed to failure, because of Pakistani deference to the US. Mahsud then outlined the Taliban's plan for the period following the US retreat from Afghanistan, which is slated for 2014. Mullah Omar, leader of the Afghanistan-Taliban and head of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan will oversee this strategy, he stated, adding, "We support the current strategy of Mullah Omar...". Mahsud also discussed the nature of the relationship between the Afghanistan and Pakistan Taliban and Al-Qaeda; jihad in Pakistan and Kashmir; India's persecution of Muslims in Kashmir; and the considerable achievements of the Arab Spring revolutions.²²

¹⁹ www.aawsat.net (Arabic).

²⁰ <http://www.aljazeera.com> (English).

²¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- On behalf of the Afghanistan-Taliban, the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published the eighth video clip in the series, "The Convoy of Victory". This installment, in Arabic, appeared in two segments; it reviewed the actions of the Taliban and praised its martyrs.²³



Martyrs of the Afghanistan-Taliban

The Arabian Peninsula

The strength of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) continues to erode as it persists in attacking its own members, whether of the rank and file or more prominent. On July 17, 2013 AQAP announced the death of its deputy emir, Sheikh al-Shihri, in an American drone strike, apparently in late 2012 or early 2013. Subsequently, the Yemen Air Force initiated a number of aerial sorties to eliminate AQAP operatives in Abyan Governorate. Despite suffering defeat, AQAP promised to continue its activity and to perpetrate terrorist attacks as revenge for the elimination of their leader. On July 20, 2013, several Yemeni security officers were killed by a roadside bomb that targeted a military convoy in Al-Mukalla, the capital of Hadramaut Governorate in southeastern Yemen. This attack took place about a month after AQAP had attempted to declare Al-Mukalla an Islamic emirate.²⁴ On July 26, 2013, AQAP killed the former director of Al-Mahfad in Abyan. Yemeni security forces foiled a break-in into Sana'a Prison. At the same time, tension increased between Yemen's Shi'ite Houthi minority and its Sunnis, and clashes between Houthis and the Muslim Brotherhood broke out in Dhamar and in Sana'a, the capital.²⁵

- Al-Malahem, the media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published a videotaped eulogy of Sheikh Abu Sufyan Said al-Shihri by AQAP Mufti Sheikh Ibrahim al-Rubaish. Al-Shihri, AQAP's deputy leader, was eliminated by an American drone, apparently in early 2013.²⁶

²³ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁴ <http://arabic.rt.com> (Arabic).

²⁵ <http://english.alarabiya.net/en> (English).

²⁶ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



A banner eulogizing AQAP leader al-Shihri

- Tarjuman Al-Asawrti Lil-Intag Al-I'ami, a previously unknown jihadist media institution, published the first installment in a series titled, "Monotheism's Renunciation of Infidel Rule". The article cast aspersions on the Saudi regime, which it claimed collaborates with the US, of which it is a puppet, and distorts Islamic law [shari'a], confusing it with "democracy".²⁷



An excoriation of the Saudi regime

- Self-styled jihadist strategist Abdullah ibn Muhammed, who owns a popular Twitter feed, said that the arrest of Islamists such as Muhammad al-'Arifi, is evidence that Saudi Arabia has officially joined the Emirates and Jordan in their war against the Muslim Brotherhood. He contended that Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and Jordan want to ensure that Islamists do not come to power there or in Egypt and Syria. He called them "an axis opposed to the Arab Spring revolutions". According to Ibn Muhammed that the [Muslim] Nation must renounce the dictates of the West. This, he said, was the joint responsibility of religious clerics, mujahideen and intellectuals.²⁸
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein – apparently from Saudi Arabia – posted a thread in support of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Iraq. The thread

²⁷ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb> (in Arabic).

²⁸ <https://twitter.com/Strategyaffairs>; <http://www.almanar.com.lb> (both in Arabic).

prisons, and the assassination of guards at checkpoints near the prisons were involved in the break-in.³⁵

Abu Gharib Prison was once the US's central detention facility in Iraq, and was renowned as a center of torture. Today it houses operatives of Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). According to Al-Jazeera, the AQI break-in was a very serious challenge to the Iraqi government. Iraqi legislator Shawan Muhammad Taha stated that "This immense breach of security indicates that senior commanders have failed to redress the deteriorating security situation. The terrorists are the ones currently taking the initiative, not the security forces".³⁶



A banner taking responsibility for a break-in into two prisons in Iraq

- A report detailing 42 military actions carried out in southern Iraq during February 2013.³⁷
- A report detailing 28 military actions carried out in Kirkuk Province during February 2013.³⁸
- A report detailing 39 military actions carried out in Baghdad Province during February 2013.³⁹
- Following the combined terrorist attack of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham in which prisoners were liberated from Abu Gharib and Al-Taji Prisons, a visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein asked forum members whether they had any information, names or photographs for the prisoners who had been liberated. He purported to be asking this on behalf of the sons of those prisoners who did not manage to escape, who wished to learn the fate of their loved ones.
Forum visitors responded that citing the names of liberated prisoners would only place them in greater danger. They added that 67 people had died in the breakout from Al-Taji Prison; because their corpses had been mutilated

³⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁶ <http://www.haaretz.co.il> (Hebrew).

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

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

³⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

and left in the sun for an entire day, until they turned black, they could not be identified.⁴⁰

- A visitor to the Hanein Web forum posted a notice declaring the establishment of The Shura Council of the Salafi Squadrons in Iraq – a response to the alleged deteriorating state of the Sunni community, which is reportedly suffering from government abuse, deportation and killing – especially in Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk and Diyala Provinces. A partial list of the entities comprising the council was published.

In response to this notice, one visitor to the forum stated that clearly, all members of the Council were Salafi-jihadists. Another added that he had been in Iraq since 2004 but had heard of only one of these constituent groups, which he did not name. Yet another visitor responded that the previous one may be “operating on the moon”. One forum visitor posted a news article surveying the notice, while others discredited its reliability.⁴¹

- A visitor to Hanein, a popular jihadist Web forum, uploaded a post claiming that the dispute between the Iraqi Salafi-jihadist Ansar Al-Islam and Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham arose because the latter had deployed a network of spies in Mosul. He also implied that some were also members of Ansar Al-Islam.

In response, one site visitor claimed that the dispute actually arose because members of Ansar Al-Islam were stealing money from Muslim merchants, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham fought back, provoking violent clashes between the two groups. He categorically denied the existence of spies among the ranks of Ansar Al-Islam, adding that anyone engaging in such a disgraceful act would have been cast out of the group. “We do not want to fight or kill them”, he wrote, “we want them to stop stealing money, or else the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham will not remain silent”.⁴²

The Activity of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham in Syria

- During the latter half of July 2013, the Al-Furqan jihadist media institution, which functions under the auspices of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, published the following:
 - The second video clip in a new series, initially launched during the first half of July 2013, titled “Those Who Believed, Emigrated and Fought”.⁴³
The video clip focuses on Abu Mua’d al-Kazakhstani, who came from

⁴⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <http://www.aljazeera.net> (both in Arabic).

⁴¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴² <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <http://www.youtube.com> (both in Arabic).

⁴³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Kazakhstan to fight jihad in Syria. In the video, al-Kazakhstani appeals to Muslims, especially those in Kazakhstan and Kirgizstan, to fight jihad in Iraq, Afghanistan and especially in Syria. He explained that it was easier to reach Syria than other arenas of jihad, such as those in the Caucasus. He denounced the regime in Kazakhstan, which prevents Muslims from practicing Islam “properly”. He also urged that the issue of Muslim prisoners not be taken off the agenda. The video concludes by documenting two operations: the assassination of an Iraqi Army officer, and the assassination of a collaborator with Iraqi Army intelligence in northern Baghdad.



The banner for the video

- A video clip titled “Media Coverage of a Da’wa Camp in Aleppo Province”.⁴⁴



The banner for the video

- A video titled, “The Qur’an Shows the True Path...and the Sword of Victory”, which documents the group’s da’wa [proselytizing] in Aleppo Province.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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



The banner for the video

- The Al-Itisam jihadist media institution, which handles propaganda for The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, published photographs from the so-called Jarables Emirate in Aleppo Province.⁴⁶



Photos of jihadists in Aleppo Province, Syria

- Visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum closely follow the activity of Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), which now calls itself the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, in Syria. In this context, they upload videos, photographs and position papers dealing with the group's activity. One of the more disturbing posts recently uploaded shows a member of the group shooting someone, execution-style – allegedly as dictated by Islamic law [shari'a]. This cruel video was later removed from the Internet.⁴⁷

Given its aggressive enforcement of shari'a in some areas of Syria – for example, the murder of a young boy in front of his mother in early June – it is not surprising that harsh accusations have been leveled against the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham. To ameliorate this image, visitors to the Ansar Al-Mujahideen and Hanein jihadist Web forums have uploaded videos depicting the group in a more positive light. These videos show group members holding parties for children and adults in Aleppo Province, while peacefully promoting Salafi-jihadist ideology.⁴⁸

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

⁴⁷ www.hanein.info/vb (Arabic).

⁴⁸ www.as-ansar.com/vb; <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>; <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <http://www.sada.pro>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch> (all in Arabic).



A frame from the video clip of the execution (left) and a photograph of members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (right)

Syria

Assad's forces are advancing in their campaign against the rebels, and have obtained control of several key locations, including the center of Homs Province and the Damascus area.⁴⁹ During a battle in the city of Khan Al-Assal in Homs Province, the Syrian army lost 150 soldiers in two days. Fifty of them were executed by armed rebel groups, including the notorious Al-Nusra Front, an Al-Qaeda affiliate.⁵⁰ For its part, the Syrian Army butchered 50 Al-Nusra Front rebels in a battle near Damascus.⁵¹

Meanwhile, the Kurds in northern Syria are trying to protect their territories from both the Syrian Army and the rebels. Kurds loyal to the Committees for the Protection of the Kurdish People (YPG) banished the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham from a number of Kurdish cities, including the strategic Ras Al-Ain in Hasakeh Province. Subsequently, clashes between Kurds and Jihadists flared, spreading to a number of flash-points in Raqa Province and fomenting a crisis between Arabs and Kurds.⁵²

The media report that residents of Lebanon and Egypt have begun developing xenophobia toward Syrian refugees. In Egypt, the refugees have been accused of interfering in the political crisis, and in Lebanon, they have been accused of taking jobs away from locals.⁵³

- During the second half of July 2013, the Al-Manara Al-Bayda media outlet, an arm of the Al-Nusra Front, issued the following:
 - Announcements Nos. 336 and 356 taking responsibility for operations against Syrian security forces.⁵⁴

⁴⁹ <http://english.alarabiya.net/en> (English).

⁵⁰ <http://english.alarabiya.net/en>; <http://sana.sy/eng> (both in English).

⁵¹ <http://english.alarabiya.net/en> (English).

⁵² <http://english.alarabiya.net/en> (English).

⁵³ <http://english.alarabiya.net/en> (English).

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

- Video No. 14 documenting a raid on two Syrian security posts and a terrorist attack against a state security building. This video is part of a series titled, "The Beginning of the End".⁵⁵



Another video in the series, "The Beginning of the End"

- An audio statement titled "The Future Is Better Than the Past" by Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Julani, leader of the Al-Nusra Front.⁵⁶ In it, al-Julani states that control of Syrian lands was contested – by the Jews, the Babylonians, and the Romans – until the dawn of Islam and the coming of the Prophet Muhammad. The goal of jihad, he said, is to restore Islam's glory and centrality. Although the US is trying to convince people that the best form of government is democracy, people would prefer shari'a [Islamic law] if only they understood its true meaning; shari'a will release people from restrictive and arbitrary man-made laws. Shari'a will establish justice, rebuild Syria according to Islamic principles, protect the commonweal and abolish imperialism. Al-Julani added that the Al-Nusra Front had been added to the US/Western list of terrorist organizations because of its adherence to shari'a. He claimed that if an international force is brought in to preserve the balance of power in Syria, it will ultimately be pressured into conducting itself in a tyrannical manner against the warring parties. This will lead to a political agreement, timed to suit the elections slated for mid-2014, and will amount to the replacement of one tyrant by another. Al-Julani discussed Hezbollah, calling it an extension of Iran in Al-Sham [the Levant], which commits crimes against Sunnis. He warned Hezbollah and all Lebanese Shi'ites that Iran is pushing them into a war against the Sunnis, in an attempt to salvage Assad's despotic regime – a war they have no chance of winning. Iran's leaders are trying to eliminate the Sunnah to avenge the death of Hussein in the Battle of

⁵⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

Karbala, and are using Hezbollah to contaminate Lebanese Shi'ites, decimate Islamic symbols, and end the harmony of the Muslim Nation. Hezbollah and the Shi'ites yearn for the day when they can control the Sunnis, as dictated by Iran's leaders.

Al-Julani added that the Al-Nusra Front is fighting to eliminate tyranny in Syria by attacking security facilities in Damascus, weakening Assad's rule economically – he claims the Syrian regime would have collapsed had it not received aid from Iran – and opposing the regime's bloodletting of its own people. Al-Julani urges all jihadists groups in Syria to work together for the restoration of Islam and the establishment of a shari'a regime. He denied media accusations that the Al-Nusra Front attacks innocent civilians.⁵⁷

- During the latter half of July 2013, the Al-Himm jihadist media agency published the following:
 - Video clip No. 6 documenting the baking of loaves of bread for the mujahideen in East Al-Ghawta, near Damascus.⁵⁸
 - Video clip No. 7 documenting the provision of electric power and generators in Deir Al-Zur.⁵⁹
- A visitor to the Snam Al-Islam Web forum published a message from renowned Syrian Salafi-jihadist Sheikh Abu Basir al-Tartusi to immigrants to Syria. In it, al-Tartusi warns the mujahideen in Syria not to turn their weapons against one other, but rather to keep fighting the heretic Bashar al-Assad. Al-Tartusi opposes the war between the mujahideen and secular Syrian rebels, and urges his audience to desist from them.⁶⁰
- A visitor to the Ushaq Al-Hur Al-Islamiyah jihadist Web forum posted an article stating that France had confirmed that 600 Europeans, 50 of whom are French, were fighting in Syria against Bashar al-Assad. Similarly, a post on the Hanein Web forum stated that dozens of jihadists from Belgium were fighting in Syria, and that one of them had been killed in late July, and his body sent back to Belgium. According to the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Web forum, "more than one hundred" Dutch jihadists were participating in the Syrian civil war.⁶¹

⁵⁷ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb>; <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (both in Arabic).

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

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

⁶⁰ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶¹ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb> (Arabic).



Photo of a Dutch mujahid who joined the rebels war in Syria

- Bashar al-Assad's forces have succeeded in occupying Homs and burning down one of its most important religious centers: the Khalid ibn Walid Mosque. A video documenting this, which was uploaded to the Hanein Web forum, caused deep shock among forum visitors, one of whom stated that this was happening to mosques in Syria every day. Another claimed that over 1,700 mosques across Syria had already been destroyed [due to the civil war]. Yet another visitor wrote that his heart had gone up in flames when he watched the burning of the mosque.⁶²
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein posted a video showing the Al-Nusra Front distributing food packages in the Deraa, in southern Syria.⁶³



The Al-Nusra Front feeds the hungry in Deraa

- Frequenters of jihadist Web forums discuss the rift between the branches of Al-Qaeda in Iraq and Syria. One visitor to the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Web forum posted photographs showing mujahideen from the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham standing side by side, without any of the recently-reported hostility. However, it should be noted that no details were given about when or where the photograph was taken.⁶⁴

⁶² <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <http://moheet.com/news> (both in Arabic).

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

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



Harmony between mujahideen of the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham?

- The leadership of the Pakistan-Taliban announced that “hundreds of mujahideen will fight alongside their mujahideen brothers in Syria”. One Taliban leader noted that several Pakistan-Taliban camps have been established in Syria.⁶⁵

Lebanon

- The Aisha jihadist media institution, which covers Sunni affairs in Lebanon, launched an online campaign for the release of Osama Mansur, a Sunni Muslim who was jailed in Lebanon for expressing support of the revolution in Syria.⁶⁶



Free Osama Mansur

- Members of the Al-Minbar jihadist Web forum quoted a report from Jordan’s Jerasa Press Agency, according to which Muhammad al-Rish (a brother of Samer Abd al-Rahim al-Rish, the former commander of Jund Al-Sham, who was killed in Homs) had announced the establishment of an Al-Nusra Front cell in Lebanon. Al-Rish purportedly trained several of his late brother’s friends for confrontation with the Lebanese Army. Although al-Rish resides in Tirpoli, Lebanon, he reportedly focuses his activity in the Al-Tabana area.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁷ <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

The Palestinian Authority

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted photographs from a July 26, 2013 Fatah demonstration of support for Egyptian General al-Sisi in Ramallah. According to the media, the protest was attended by dozens of participants. In response, another site visitor insisted that things had “not progressed that far”, as the Fatah had abandoned all important issues – the Jews, Syria, Muslim prisoners – and was busy criticizing the Egyptian people. He asked defiantly, “do you [Fatah] worry about the fate of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt more than you worry about the fate of Jerusalem, which is in the hands of the Jews?”⁶⁸

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

Since the military coup in Egypt that deposed elected President Muhammad Morsi, the Sinai Peninsula has become fertile ground for Islamists – and turned into a fire zone. Armed jihadists have attacked Egyptian security forces many times: on July 18, 2013, three police officers were killed in an exchange of fire with armed men;⁶⁹ on July 22, 2013, seven men – two army officers, two police officers, and three civilians – were killed in a series of violent attacks;⁷⁰ and on July 25, 2013, two Egyptian soldiers were shot and killed by armed Islamists in the northern Sinai.

In response to these violent events, the Egyptian Army launched Operation Desert Storm,⁷¹ during which 10 terrorists were killed in 48 hours, and a message was sent to Morsi’s supporters that any attempt to undermine Egypt’s security would be treated harshly.⁷² Nevertheless, on July 29, 2013, a terrorist cell launched a ballistic missile at a security installation in the northern Sinai, injuring three Egyptian soldiers.⁷³

- A supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Hanein wrote of his concern that Shi’ites were infiltrating the Gaza Strip. He wrote that the Hamas government was arresting and torturing Salafist preachers and mujahideen, until it discovered the Shi’ites’ crimes and hatred towards “our Sunni brothers” in Syria. In contrast, the Rawafid, a Shi’ite group, distributed food baskets to over 20,000 families in the Gaza Strip during Ramadan, with the support of the Iranian Imam Al-Khomeini Supply Committee. The supervisor

⁶⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <http://paltimes.net> (both in Arabic).

⁶⁹ <http://news.walla.co.il> (Hebrew).

⁷⁰ <http://news.walla.co.il> (Hebrew).

⁷¹ <http://news.walla.co.il> (Hebrew).

⁷² <http://www.ynet.co.il> (Hebrew).

⁷³ <http://news.walla.co.il> (Hebrew).

saw this as "...only the first step!...activity to disseminate Shi'ism is quickly infiltrating the Gaza Strip!!".

One visitor to the forum responded, "do you want us to stipulate that anyone who wishes to support the Palestinian people must be a Salafist Sunni...?" He added that it was necessary to distinguish between someone giving food to people under siege, and someone distributing Shi'ite pamphlets. He then listed a series of countries directly or indirectly involved in killing and persecuting Muslims: Turkey, various Arab states, African countries, European countries, Russia and the United States. "Is there a country in the world that will support you?...The entire world has been disparaging Muslims...and ensures they are distanced from their religion", he wrote.⁷⁴



Food baskets for Ramadan – or da'wa [proselytizing] for Shi'a?

The Maghreb

Libya has been playing a significant role in the civil war in Syria. UN officials estimate that representatives of local authorities in the Libya, which barely coheres as a state, realize the extent of logistical assistance emanating from Libya – including arms shipments – even if they have no direct part in it. Libya continues to serve as a transit point for mujahideen en route to Syria.⁷⁵ A resident of Tripoli stated that "Libya has entered a dark stage and become a hotbed of terrorists".⁷⁶

According to the media, during the latter half of July 2013, militia attacked various targets in Libya, some identified with the government, including a police station in Tripoli, court offices in the coastal town of Sirte, and a checkpoint on the Libyan border with Egypt. Libyan citizens complain that people are getting injured and even killed by these militias, which operate undisturbed on city streets.⁷⁷

⁷⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁵ http://magharebia.com/en_GB (English).

⁷⁶ http://magharebia.com/en_GB (English).

⁷⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB (English).

In Algeria, the presence of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) is felt mainly in the so-called "Triangle of Death" between the cities Bouria, Boumerdes and Tizi Ouzou, where AQIM operatives attempted to assassinate Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal.⁷⁸

Although Algerian security forces are stepping up activity against AQIM, and have even assassinated two of its more prominent members – Ayad Abu Abd al-Rahman and Abu al-Walid al-Tuhami⁷⁹ – they still face additional security threats from networks that smuggle fuel, arms and drugs.⁸⁰ The Algerian Prime Minister admitted that his country "is fighting a new brand of terrorism", due in part to what he called the "exceptional" organization and coordination between drug smugglers in Algeria and Morocco. Experts estimate that after the defeat of jihadists in Mali, drug smugglers may begin operating more aggressively than they have in the past.⁸¹

In Morocco, the Salafists are centered in Tangier, Marrakech, the suburbs of Casablanca, and Rabat. Although some view them as a negligible and unthreatening minority, others believe their strength lies not in their numbers but rather in their influence and solidarity.

A researcher specializing in Islamic movements said in an interview conducted during the second half of July that, "If the regime [in Morocco] falls, God forbid, the Salafists will become even more dangerous than their Tunisian counterparts...[since] they have previous experience in terrorism, and a deep hatred of modernization."

A former senior Moroccan intelligence official is particularly concerned about the Al-'Adl wal-Ihsan Islamist movement, despite its having lost some power following the death of its spiritual leader, Sheikh Abdul Salam Yassin.⁸²

Tunisia's fear of being "attacked from the rear" increases following the killing of eight soldiers in Jebel Chaambi and the assassination of opposition leader Muhammad Brahmi. Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki said, "we have entered a state where terrorism has entered the country...And once terrorism has been implanted – it is very difficult to uproot".⁸³ The Minister of the Interior said that Brahmi's assassination was the work of the Salafists, specifically Ansar Al-Sharia.⁸⁴ However, the higher the count of terrorism victims – the greater the criticism of the government, which is depicted as being incapable of properly

⁷⁸ http://magharebia.com/en_GB (English).

⁷⁹ <http://in.reuters.com/article> (English).

⁸⁰ http://magharebia.com/en_GB (English).

⁸¹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB (English).

⁸² http://magharebia.com/en_GB (English).

⁸³ http://magharebia.com/en_GB (English).

⁸⁴ http://magharebia.com/en_GB (English).

dealing with the threat.⁸⁵ According to President Marzouki, Tunisian citizens must show solidarity in fighting the "criminals" who are threatening national security.⁸⁶ At the same time, security forces continue to try to locate and rout terrorists from Jebel Chaambi.⁸⁷ In this context, state agencies are working to deport Mustapha Weld Ben Ahmed Chinguiti, a Mauritanian Salafist, who is accused of conspiring with radical groups in Tunisia "in violation of public security".⁸⁸

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen wrote that disagreements are natural, as shown by Islamic role models of the past. He added that one of the most prominent controversies today is that between AQIM and its former member, Abu Khalid Al-'Abbas (aka Mukhtar bil-Mukhtar), who has established a splinter group, Those who Sign in Blood. The visitor then cited the reference made by the head of AQIM's Political Committee, Abu Abd al-Ila Ahmad, to Bil-Mukhtar's actions. Ahmad insisted that AQIM was still one entity, despite Bil-Mukhtar's "secession". Lastly, he stated that he had raised the issue because not all of the brothers who discuss it on the Internet know what they are talking about. He recommended clarifying matters with leaders of the mujahideen, before jumping to conclusions. He added that some would "incite civil war" on Facebook and Twitter, and concluded by asserting his desire for "unity among the ranks".⁸⁹

Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia

- Al-Bayareq, the media outlet of Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia, published a statement by Sheikh Abu Iyad al-Tunisi, the group's leader, condemning Tunisian Minister of the Interior Lotfi bin Jeddou for suggesting that Salafists were behind the assassination of opposition leader Muhammad al-Brahmi, on July 25, 2013.⁹⁰ Al-Tunisi argued at length that this allegation was contemptuous; he suggested that the Minister of the Interior admit to the Tunisian people that the government was behind the assassination, and that it has a list of individuals who are marked for assassination.⁹¹
- A visitor to the Al-Jihad Al-Alami Web forum posted a proclamation on behalf of Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia, which discussed recent events in Tunisia, particularly the assassination of opposition leader Muhammad al-

⁸⁵ http://magharebia.com/en_GB (English).

⁸⁶ http://magharebia.com/en_GB (English).

⁸⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB (English).

⁸⁸ http://magharebia.com/en_GB (English).

⁸⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁰ <http://www.aljazeera.com> (English).

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

Brahmi on July 25, 2013.⁹² Ansar al-Sharia denied any involvement in this political assassination, and insisted that it does not intervene in political conflicts within a democracy – a form of government that contradicts the laws of Allah; any attempt to link it to the murder is only meant to distort Salafi-jihadism. The only way out of the crisis in Tunisia is to renew the covenant with Allah and to implement shari'a [Islamic law].⁹³

Mali

As Mali recovered from its war against the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) – the terrorists who attempted to take over Azawad in the country's north – that Salafi-jihadist group threatened to attack polling stations. MUJAO also urged Muslims not to vote. Although the elections proceeded relatively quietly,⁹⁴ the clashes between the Tuareg and black Africans that had marked the transfer of control of Kidal to the Malian Army in early July were re-ignited by the electoral process, and claimed the lives of four people. It is speculated that the rebels of the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad were responsible for the kidnapping of five people who were working at the polling stations.⁹⁵

Egypt

Supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood, Salafi-jihadism, and other Islamist movements continued to mass in protest against the military coup and Morsi's ouster. On July 26, 2013, the demonstrations turned into a bloody confrontation with the Egyptian Army, which left several hundred protesters dead and hundreds more injured. Egypt's Attorney General ordered the administrative arrest of the ousted president on vague charges, including conspiring with Hamas against Egypt.

These developments further radicalized the Muslim Brotherhood's calls for revenge against the Egyptian Army and General al-Sisi. In addition, the level of hostility against the Coptic Christian minority continued to rise, raising fears that Egypt would become embroiled in a civil war. In light of these events, Egyptian security officials have been concentrating on protecting and essential infrastructure and facilities such as roads and border crossings.

⁹² <http://www.dnd.com.pk> (Arabic).

⁹³ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com> (English).

⁹⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.com> (English).

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted a statement made by Egyptian Salafist Sheikh Abd al-Rahman Abd al-Khaliq, which first appeared on the Al-Shabakah Al-Salafiyah Web site. The Sheikh called on clerics, leaders and members of the Muslim Nation to “help the Egyptian people...who elected their president, created a constitution [and expressed] satisfaction with the police”; he added that it is a religious obligation to “resist this oppression”. The Sheikh excoriated clerics who ruled that anyone who died in the struggle was not a martyr [shahid], and called the ruling “false”. He added that the opponents [of the military coup] were fighting the greatest jihad, and making the greatest sacrifice.⁹⁶
- Following the military coup in Egypt, a visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein posted a cartoon depicting the Egyptian Army as a tyrant.⁹⁷



The caption reads, “We've made a coup from fear of civil war and now, we call for civil war until the coup is successful”

- A visitor to the Hanein Web forum posted a video clip according to which Google Earth made it possible to count the actual number of demonstrators in Tahrir Square – an embarrassment to the military regime.⁹⁸



A photo of the Tahrir Square on Google Earth

- Various Egyptian jihadist factions that adhere to Al-Qaeda’s ideology campaigned to replace the military government with Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda, as Caliph. They posted a message on an official campaign Facebook page calling on all jihadists to wage an Islamic (counter-)coup and establish an Islamic Caliphate in Egypt.⁹⁹

⁹⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <http://www.salafi.net> (both in Arabic).

⁹⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <http://www.ansarportsaid.net> (both in Arabic).

⁹⁹ <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

Somalia

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen published 15 proclamations claiming responsibility for various military operations against enemy forces.¹⁰⁰
- A visitor to Al-Jihad Al-Alami, who represented the Islamic World Issues Study Center, published an open letter from Abu-Yousef al-Gharib, a jihadist with ties to Abu-Mansoor al-Amriki, a prominent mujahid in Somalia. According to the letter, Al-Shabab had strayed from the straight path because of the stupidity of its leader, Sheikh Ahmed Abdi Godane Abu-Zubayr, who brought nothing but trouble, did not follow Islamic law, did not respect shura [consultation and consensus], and who killed anyone who opposed him. Because of these errors, no new mujahideen were coming to Somalia, and the war against the infidels was being compromised. Most recently, Abu-Zubayr had visited strife upon the Muslim Nation by assassinating Sheikhs Abu-Bakr al-Zayla'i and Mu'alem Burhan, two very prominent mujahideen; these murders followed Abu-Zubayr's failed assassination attempt against Abu-Mansoor al-Amriki. False rumors had begun to circulate that the dead sheikhs had been trying to declare war on Al-Shabab. In actual fact, the two sheikhs had been dissatisfied with the conduct of Abu-Zubayr, and had appealed to the leadership of global jihad; in response, they were killed. In addition, Abu-Zubayr and his men repeatedly arrest anyone who disagrees with them. They had already arrested Sheikh Mukhtar Robow Abu-Mansoor, a field commander and former official spokesperson for Al-Shabab; Sheikh Hassan Taher Oways, a prominent Al-Shabab leader and the former chairman of the Islamic Party; Abd al-Fatah Muhammad Ali, the loyal assistant of Hassan Taher Oways; Sheikh Abu-Mansoor al-Amriki; and even the director of the Islamic World Issues Study Center. Some of these detained brothers were recently transferred to a prison in Kenya. It is necessary to re-examine the reliability of the Al-Shabab leader, as well as his loyalty to the principles of Islam and jihad; an investigation must be carried out to ensure that he is not actually cooperating with the authorities in Somalia.¹⁰¹
- The official spokesperson of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Sheikh 'Abd al-Aziz Abu Mus'ab, confirmed that the CIA station chief in East Africa, Gary Schroen, had been killed when his convoy was attacked as it left the Mogadishu airport on July 12, 2013 – despite heavy security. A number of

¹⁰⁰ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰¹ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

senior officers – some of them US intelligence officers and others from the Ugandan Army – were also injured in the attack.¹⁰²

Sudan

- The Al-Hijratin jihadist media institution posted a video clip of a declaration of the establishment of a new Salafi-jihadist group, In the Name of the Preachers for Shari'a in the Land of Two Niles [apparently, Sudan]. The movement's spokesperson, Al-Muntasir bi-Allah, criticized the Khartoum government for the deterioration in Sudan's security and economy, and warned that political groups were trying to remove religion from public life. The spokesperson cited six Sudanese jihadists who were killed in Mali in the war against foreign forces.¹⁰³



The video's banner

The Indian Sub-Continent

- The Divisi Media Institute, which functions under the auspices of the Mujahideen in East Indonesia, published a video clip by Sheikh Abu Wardah Santoso titled, "A Message to the Muslims in Boso".¹⁰⁴



¹⁰² <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁴ <http://al-qimmah.net> (Arabic).

The West

- On July 24, 2013, Interpol issued an international warning that hundreds of prisoners had been released from Iraqi prisons in an attack by an Al-Qaeda cell on July 21, 2013. Interpol viewed the assault on the prisons as a “great threat” to global security, and clarified that many of the released prisoners were Al-Qaeda members. It asked the Iraqi authorities for photographs and fingerprints of the inmates, so as to track them. The attack, which was launched against the Al-Taji and Abu Gharib Prisons, involved suicide bombers, missiles, and 12 car bombs, and resulted in the death of several Iraqi prison guards. Iraqi Interior Ministry Spokesman Lieutenant General Sa'ed Ma'an told Agence France Press that “security forces have expanded their deployment in the areas surrounding the prisons”. He added that many of the escaped prisoners had already been re-arrested.¹⁰⁵
- Shumukh Al-Islam, a popular jihadist Web forum, launched an online campaign for the release of a 19-year-old Dutch Muslim woman, Oum Usama, from prison. Oum Usama was arrested for supporting the mujahideen in Syria. One forum visitor suggested attacking Dutch interests around the world; he suggested using guidelines from the military section of the forum for this purpose.¹⁰⁶
- Self-styled jihadist strategist Abdullah ibn Muhammed published a position paper in which he called the West “a utilitarian society” that does not respect certain principles – ostensibly in contradiction to its position towards the situation in Syria and Egypt. According to Ibn Muhammad, recent events in Egypt are a history lesson about how to “fake” democratic principles to pander to the West, and force them on a population “with fire and iron”. He claimed that the West is democratic only with respect to itself, but is tyrannical toward others. For example, the US purports to lead the “tank democracy” against Afghanistan and Iraq, but supports the “dictatorship of tanks” in Syria and Egypt.¹⁰⁷

Miscellaneous

- A visitor to the Snam Al-Islam Web forum noted that the body of Philippe Verdon, a Frenchman who was kidnapped and executed by Al-Qaeda in Mali in November 2011, had been found.¹⁰⁸ In answer to his query about the

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁶ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁷ <https://twitter.com/Strategyaffairs> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news> (English).

Islamic-legal ruling regarding the execution of prisoners, another visitor wrote that Islam dictates that prisoners must be released, either by being pardoned, by paying a “ransom”, by being exchanged for Muslim prisoners, or by performing a service to Muslims.¹⁰⁹

Facebook and Twitter

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein shared a Facebook page calling for a revolution against the Saudi regime. He claimed that the page had over 51,000 “likes”, and hoped that the Arab Spring would come to Saudi Arabia.¹¹⁰



A Facebook page denouncing the Saudi regime

- A visitor to the Ansar Al-Mujahideen jihadist Web forum directed his friends to the official Facebook page of the Afghanistan-Taliban, which contains current reports of the group’s activities and already has over 7,000 “likes”.¹¹¹



The Facebook presence of the Afghanistan-Taliban

¹⁰⁹ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <https://www.facebook.com> (both in Arabic).

¹¹¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>; <http://www.facebook.com> (both in Arabic).