

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from the Jihadi Forums

The First Half of September 2011

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

- A new tape by Ayman Al-Zawahiri was released to commemorate the 9/11 terrorist attacks; in general there was relatively little discourse on the Jihadi forums about the 10th anniversary of the attacks.
- A senior writer on the Jihadi forums predicts that the confrontation between Al-Qaeda and the U.S., alongside the uprisings in the Arab world, will lead to a real opportunity to re-establish the Islamic caliphate.
- Uncorroborated reports claiming that the Al-Qaeda's Chief of Operations in Pakistan, Abu Hafs Al-Shihri, was killed. There were also uncorroborated reports that the commander of terrorist attacks overseas, Yunis Al-Mauritani, has been arrested.
- The publication of new issues of the magazines published on behalf of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.
- A rise in the Jihadi publications discussing Libya's future in view of the collapse of the regime, at the expense of discussions on Syria, Egypt and other centers of uprisings around the Arab world.
- Extensive charity work by the Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen movement in Somalia.
- The Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus calls for financial aid.
- New Jihadi groups are establishing Facebook pages.

New publications

A decade since the September 11 terrorist attacks

It seems that this year, unlike previous years, there was less discussion about the 9/11 terrorist attacks. This lack of discourse was mainly on the part of the global Jihad organizations, but also from the writers on the Jihadi forums. The main publication was Ayman Al-Zawahiri's 62-minute video tape titled "Dawn of the Imminent Victory", which was released on the anniversary of the terrorist attacks.¹ The precise timing, again – unlike previous years, probably stems from his new position in the organization and his need to establish his leadership. The tape, published by the "As-Sahab" media institute, also contained previously unseen video segments of Osama bin Laden.

Al-Zawahiri's speech focused on two main issues: the confrontation with the U.S. and the uprisings in the Arab world. In his statements, Al-Zawahiri accused the Syrian government of heinous crimes against its people, and called on the Syrian people to continue the uprisings and the Jihad until the government is brought down. Furthermore, Al-Zawahiri expressed his support of the popular uprisings in the Arab world and called for the establishment of Islamic regimes. In addition, Al-Zawahiri mentions the situations in Afghanistan and Iraq and says that in the years after the 9/11 attacks it is clear that the victory of the Mujahideen over the "Crusader's arrogance" is imminent.

Al-Zawahiri praised the revolutions in the Arab world and stressed that the U.S. is not facing people or groups, but rather an entire Islamic nation. Furthermore, he called for advantage to be taken of the new situations created in Tunisia and Egypt, and to reinforce the Islamic faith in these places by using people of means who wish to help Islam.²

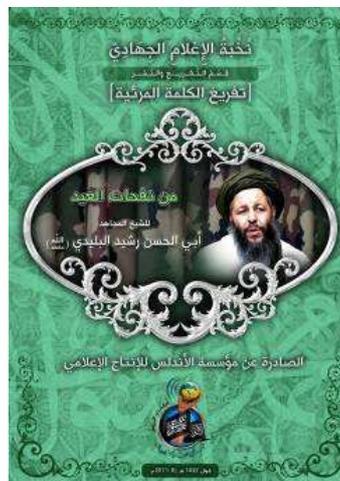
¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

² <http://hanein.info/vb>



Ideology

- The "Al-Andalus" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, published statements made by Sheikh Abu Al-Hassan Rashid Al-Bulaydi, head of the organization's judicial authority, titled "From the Holiday's Scents" in honor of Eid Al-Fitr.³ In his statements, the Sheikh welcomes the Muslims fighting their enemies and supports them. Furthermore, he stresses that fulfilling the commandment for Jihad will pave the way for the victory of the Muslims.



- The propaganda department of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), "Jund Allah", published a visual publication in Russian titled "The Jihadi Flag".⁴

³ <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>

⁴ <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>



- The "Al-Ma'asada" Jihadi media institute published a video segment titled "The Hidden Truth".⁵ The video refutes the propaganda campaign waged by the West and Muslim religious clerics operating in the service of their leaders who are slandering the Mujahideen. The video determines that the various accusations, including that the Mujahideen are killing innocent Muslims, are completely false and attempt to harm the foundations of their support in the Muslim nation.



⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

Strategy

- The "Al-Malahem" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published a video relating the story of the escape of 67 imprisoned Mujahideen from the prison in Hadramawt in Yemen on June 21st 2011.⁶
- Abdullah bin Muhammad, one of the most prominent writers on the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum, posted correspondence that received very high ratings from the forum's management, titled "A Strategic Protocol – Part 2".⁷ The writer predicts that the old world order is on the verge of collapse together with the Sykes-Picot Agreements which were signed at the beginning of the 20th century and to a large extent shaped the region's future.

According to the writer, the military confrontation between Al-Qaeda and the U.S., which is occurring in several locations in the region and exhausting its economic strength, as well as the popular revolutions in the Arab world, are the main causes of this change. For the first time since 1923, there is a real opportunity to re-establish the Islamic caliphate.

In order to obtain this goal, the writer claims that an Islamic emirate is to be founded first to serve as the nucleus of the caliphate. However, the most important component in promoting this vision lies in enlisting the support of the Muslim street via an extensive propaganda campaign over the course of 3–5 years. The founding of an Islamic government that implements the Sharia in a certain region and serves as a type of model for the future caliphate, is also supposed to serve as a tool for recruiting the support of the masses.

⁶ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

⁷ For the first part, see: <http://www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=VfXGyf8ZL7M%3d&tabid=344>, pp. 7-8.

The writer contends that the idea of implementing Sharia is well received in Afghanistan, Chechnya and Somalia, as the societies living there are not affluent societies like those in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries, but instead the people lead a simple life requiring just the fulfillment of their basic needs. The writer claims that in times of social chaos, society is forced to be satisfied with less and does not cling to a life of luxury etc. Therefore there is a higher chance of acceptance of the concept of the implementation of Sharia.⁸

In an article written following this correspondence, the writer discusses several ways to ensure the existence of the Islamic caliphate:

- a. Ensuring Da'awa – according to the writer, unity amongst Muslim ranks must be maintained and conflicts with Islamic power factions that do not adhere to the plan of the Islamic caliphate are to be avoided, such as with the Muslim Brotherhood.
 - b. Ensuring personal security – according to the writer, in territories which are under the control of the Mujahideen, it is mandatory to provide the residents with a supply of basic services such as food, water and electricity.
 - c. In order to ensure the proper management of the region and of all of its provinces, he believes there is a need for appropriate personnel. He therefore suggests appointing academics, preachers and Ulama to fill a series of positions within the education system, judiciary etc.⁹
- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported, based on American sources, that Al-Qaeda's Chief of Operations in Afghanistan, Abu Hafs Al-Shihri, was killed in

⁸ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>

⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

Promoting the Myth of the Shahid

- The "Al-Furqan" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of the "Islamic State of Iraq" organization, published its 48th issue in the series of publications called "Biographies of Shahids", dedicated to the Shahid Abd Al-Aziz bin Atiq Al-Atiq Abu-Su'ayb Al-Najadi.¹⁵

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published new issues of the "Al-Somood" magazine (issue no. 64);¹⁶ of the "Tala'i Khorasan" magazine (Vanguards of Khorasan) (issue no. 19);¹⁷ and of the "In Fight" magazine (issue no. 32).¹⁸



¹⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

¹⁶ <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>

¹⁷ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

¹⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

Reports from the field

Afghanistan – Pakistan

- The spokesman of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan explains that the operation carried out by fighters of the Islamic Emirate on September 14th 2011 against the U.S. embassy in Kabul, the Coalition Forces' headquarters, the intelligence headquarters and the military center, as well as suicide attacks – indicate the enemy's defeat and disproves their claim that the Taliban has lost power over the 10 years since the 9/11 attacks.¹⁹
- The director of the "Shabakat Al-Jihad Al-Alami" (the Global Jihad Network) announced that the forum has contacted the spokesman of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Dhabih Allah Mujahid, who denied the reports in the British "Times" newspaper which stated that the U.S. has agreed to allow the Taliban to open political headquarters in Qatar before the end of 2011.²⁰
- Hakimullah Mahsud, the Emir of the "Taliban - Pakistan" movement, gave a benediction in honor of Eid Al-Fitr. Alongside the felicitations, Mahsud called for a continuation of the Jihad against the crusaders and the Jews.²¹
- The "Al-Tawhid Brigades – the Karachi Company" declared that they killed a Pakistani naval officer, and threatened to continue with the killing of soldiers from the Pakistani army.²²
- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported that the Taliban claimed responsibility for bringing down an American surveillance aircraft in north-west Pakistan.²³

¹⁹ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

²⁰ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

²¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

²² <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>

²³ <http://hanein.info/vb>

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan announced that news about the emirate can be found on Facebook and Twitter.²⁴

Iraq

- The "Islamic State of Iraq" organization published a message reviewing its military activity in parts of the Al-Anbar Province – 37 actions.²⁵

The Arabian Peninsula

- The "Al-Malahem" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published statements made by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi Al-Nazzari, aka Muhammad Al-Murshidi, titled "A Call for Jihad". He emphasizes the need for Jihad, as is the need for fighting the heretics, accompanied by many references from the Quran. He specifically mentions those repenting, calling on them to help the Mujahideen in any way possible, such as through prayer, money, weapons and by providing shelter. He urges them to garner support for Jihad.²⁶

The "Al-Malahem" institute published additional statements he made on the importance of the Shahada and of honoring the casualties of Jihad.²⁷

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published an official announcement that the Mujahideen will avenge the bombings of civilian targets in Abyan in

²⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>. On Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Alvizier>; on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/note.php?created&¬e_id=256640617701322#!/pages/%D8%B9%D8%A8%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D9%87-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1-Abdullah-Alvizier/251304928234891?sk=wall

²⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

²⁶ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

²⁷ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

Yemen, which killed innocent civilians and were carried out by enemy aircraft.²⁸

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula is claiming responsibility for the suicide attack on the Houthis' headquarters in Al-Jawf, Yemen on August 15th 2011.²⁹ It is interesting to note that since the wave of uprisings began in Yemen at the end of January 2011, Al-Qaeda has focused its activity against the Yemeni government forces mainly in the southern part of the country, and has taken virtually no action against the Houthis in the north.
- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum quoted the Yemeni Minister of Defense, who stated that over the course of three months, 230 soldiers from the Yemeni army were killed in battles in the Zinjibar region of the Abyan Province.³⁰

The Maghreb

- The "Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad" website, founded by Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, published "A Message to the Mujahideen in Libya", by Sheikh Abu Humam Bakr bin Abd Al-Aziz Al-Athari, a Salafi Jihadi sheikh from the website's Shura Council. Throughout the text, the writer emphasizes the duty of implementing the Sharia in Libya while strongly opposing the implementation of democracy in the country, as it is a creation of man and contradicts Islamic sources.³¹

It should be noted that there is an increase in Jihadi publications praising the role of the Mujahideen in the fall of Gaddafi's regime, and calling for the establishment of an Islamic state in Libya.³²

²⁸ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

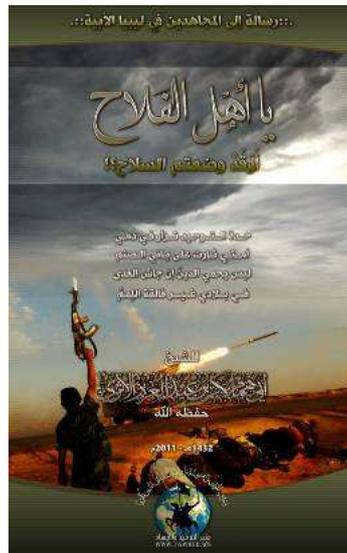
²⁹ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

³⁰ <http://hanein.info/vb>

³¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

³² See in this regard:

<http://www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=VfXGyf8ZL7M%3d&tabid=344>, pp. 17-22.



- The “Al-Andalus” Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, published a news report (no. 34) titled “Various terrorist attacks perpetrated by the Mujahideen – the killing and wounding of over 200 heretics, including a large number of officers”.³³

Al-Sham

- The “Jama'at Ansar Bayt Al-Maqdis” group, a Palestinian Jihadi organization, officially claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack near Eilat, Israel, carried out on August 18th 2011. In the announcement, titled “The blessed invasion of Umm Rashrash (Eilat)”, it was stated that four members of the “Lions of Islam” took part in the attack, attacking Israeli special elite forces, as part of a series of operations aimed at securing the release of female Muslim prisoners held by Israel. The group promises to publish further announcements on the subject.³⁴

³³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

³⁴ <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>



Africa

- Messages from the Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen movement in Somalia:
 - a. The movement's Office of Education and Teaching noted that it has conducted a survey in schools which revealed the use of the teaching methods of Christians, Shiites and Hindus in various languages. Therefore, it has been decided that the language of study will be Arabic, and the curriculum will be Islamic. It has promised to enforce this.³⁵
 - b. An announcement on the appointment of Sheikh Awali Muhammad Ali as Governor of the Galguduud Province.³⁶
 - c. The movement held a ceremony in honor of the children of the shahids in the Lower Shabelle province on September 2nd 2011.³⁷

³⁵ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

³⁶ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

³⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>



- d. The "Al-Usra Army", belonging to the movement, helped tens of thousands of needy children in the Al-Yaser refugee camp.



- e. The "Al-Kataib" institute, operating on behalf of the Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen movement, published an announcement titled "The distribution of aid to 4,000 families at the Al-Yaser refugee camp in collaboration with WAMY on September 8th 2011".³⁸



³⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

- Photographs of the Somali "Da'awat Al-Tawhid" group distributing food to the poor in Somalia.³⁹



- Statements were made by Sheikh Abubaker Al-Shekau, the Emir of "The Sunna Group for Preaching and Jihad in one of the African countries called Nigeria", dated July 25th 2011. His statement was published in Hausa by the group's propaganda wing, and translated into Arabic. The Sheikh refers to the Nigerian government's call for reconciliation with his group. He rejects it and calls for a return to Islam.⁴⁰

The West and the rest of the world

- The Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus appealed to the Muslim nation, asking it for financial support for the Mujahideen and promising that once the funds arrive they will be transferred to those who need them.⁴¹
- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported, quoting publications in the Turkish media, that the Deputy Emir of the Caucasus was killed in the center of Istanbul.⁴²

³⁹ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

⁴⁰ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

⁴¹ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

⁴² <http://hanein.info/vb>

Facebook

Morocco

Following the revolutions in the Arab world, there has been an increase in the demands of the Salafi-Jihadi circles for the release of prisoners in Arab countries. Facebook is serving as a platform and as a central tool in their propaganda campaign for this goal, as demonstrated below in the case of Morocco:

- "The voice of the detainees of opinion and creed", 1,775 registered members. In the page's description it says that "We launch this page, in order to get acquainted with the problem of the Islamist detainees in the prisons in Morocco, and especially those called Salafi-Jihadi. This problem has been going on for ten years without resolution or response [...]". The page itself is also linked to a blog under the same name: <http://sawtala7rar.blogspot.com>, and to a video channel on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/mohamed123494>.⁴³



⁴³ <http://www.facebook.com/sawtala7rar>

- "The National Front for the Defense of the Islamist Detainees in Morocco", 988 registered members.⁴⁴



- "A Voice for the Political Detainees in Morocco", 431 registered members. The page's information section states that the page was founded on February 20th 2011.⁴⁵

Tunisia

- "The Forum of Supporters of the Sharia", 9,392 registered members.⁴⁶ The group itself is identified with Al-Qaeda but prefers to use this name so as not to arouse feelings of antagonism against it. Amongst the group's founders are students of Abu Qatada Al-Filastini, a Salafi-Jihadi sheikh currently serving time in prison in London.



⁴⁴ <http://www.facebook.com/IslamFreedom>

⁴⁵ <http://www.facebook.com/VoiceForPoliticalDetaineesInMorocco>. The page is also linked to a website: <http://www.marocreality.com>

⁴⁶ <http://www.facebook.com/Molta9a.Ansar.Alchari3a>

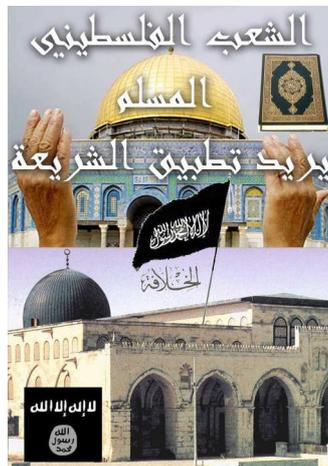
Syria

- "The Islamic Opposition for Exposing the Crimes of the Nusayris and the Alawi", 246 registered members.⁴⁷



Palestine

- "The Muslim Palestinian people wish to implement the Sharia", 178 registered members.⁴⁸ One of the founders of the page is Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi, a Salafi Jihadi sheikh of Syrian origin who lives in exile in London.



⁴⁷ <http://www.facebook.com/moarada>. The page also contains a link to a blog on the same subject: <http://almoarda.blogspot.com>

⁴⁸ <http://www.facebook.com/palestineislam>

Other

- The page of the "Al-Fajr" Jihadi media institute, with 1,534 registered members.⁴⁹
- The "Jihad Archive", with 55 registered members. The page directs its members to old Jihadi publications such as those by Abu Musab Al-Suri, one of Al-Qaeda's most prominent strategists.⁵⁰



⁴⁹ <http://www.facebook.com/fajr.info>

⁵⁰ <http://www.facebook.com/Archive.Jihad>