

## Periodical Review: Summary of Information from Jihadi Forums

### The First Half of August 2012

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

- Ustad Ahmad Farouq, the spokesman for Al-Qaeda in Pakistan, called on the mujahideen there to attack US and NATO supply convoys bound for Afghanistan.
- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) called on mujahideen and supporters of jihad to commit acts of individual jihad (i.e. "lone wolf" attacks) everywhere, especially in the West.
- Abu Obeidah Abdallah Al-Adam, a senior Al-Qaeda strategist, authorized and encouraged the murder of Alawites in Syria.
- Sheikh Siraj Al-Din Zuriqat, a preacher in Beirut's mosques and supporter of the revolution in Syria, harshly criticized Hezbollah and warned Lebanon's Sunnis to "sober up" and put an end to the discrimination against them.
- Many jihadist groups lauded the release from prison of Sheikh Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi, emir of Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, a Salafi-jihadist group active in the Gaza Strip.
- An August 5 terrorist attack on the Israel-Egypt-Gaza Strip border that resulted in the death of some 16 Egyptian soldiers was criticized on jihadist Web forums and by some Salafi-jihadist groups.
- Al-Dharaghem [The Lions], a new jihadist media institution slated to focus on events in the Maghreb [North Africa], has been established.
- The third issue of the jihadist magazine *Al-Qaeda Airlines* was published; it focuses on preparation of the poisons Ricin and Nicotine.

## New Publications

### *Ideology*

- The military council of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) reminded supporters of jihad everywhere, especially in enemy territory, that they do not need a passport or laissez passer to encounter and kill their enemies, who are all around them. The council urged them to work covertly, choose "quality" targets, and trust in Allah. The goal is not necessarily to kill as many of the enemy as possible, but rather to instill terror and panic. The military council cited the terrorist Mohammed Merah of Toulouse as an example, claiming that Merah's acts influenced the withdrawal of French forces from Afghanistan. The council added that it would only respond to encoded messages, and not to those sent openly.<sup>1</sup>

This announcement can be seen as the continuation of an appeal published on jihadist Web forums on July 25, 2012, in which senior AQAP member Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi Al-Nadhari urged Muslims living in the West to commit acts of individual jihad.<sup>2</sup>



**The banner accompanying the appeal of AQAP's military council**

- The jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published an article by senior Al-Qaeda strategist Sheikh Abu Obeidah Abdallah Al-Adam, titled, "Don't Consult with Anyone about Killing the Alawites". Al-Adam blames Syria's Alawites for committing crimes against Sunnis, adding that the Alawites are not real Muslims, and do not really and truly believe in Allah and Muhammad. According to Al-Adam, the Alawites have throughout history collaborated with the Muslims' enemies, like the Tatars and the Crusaders. Al-Adam also claims that 13<sup>th</sup> Century Sheikh Ibn Taymiyyah ruled that Alawites were greater

<sup>1</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=4pjojepE\\_R4%3d&tabid=344](http://www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=4pjojepE_R4%3d&tabid=344), pp.28-29.

infidels than Jews and Christians. Al-Adam therefore insists that jihad against the Alawites in Syria is compulsory, and will save the lives of tens of Sunnis.<sup>3</sup>

- The jihadist media institution Al-Masadah published an article by Abu Abdullah Anis titled, "Food and Medications Are the Most Deadly and Devious of the Enemy's Weapons". The foreword to this treatise, penned by Sheikh Abu Saad Al-Amili, avers that the most serious implications of war are the contamination of water sources and agricultural lands, and the spread of disease. According to Al-Amili, the synthetic medications produced by the West are fake, and do not cure illness. The contents of the treatise, explains Al-Amili, concern the environmental hazards in the Middle East, which are a result of the Crusader-Zionist campaign against the Muslims and Islam. The treatise also contains advice on strengthening people's ties to the land, from which war has forced them to uproot themselves and emigrate.<sup>4</sup>

#### *Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets*

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein suggested that "[members of the Islamic State of Iraq, especially technical experts] who mean to sacrifice themselves for Allah's sake" photograph the attacks they perpetrate using the WhatsApp application for smart phones such as the Samsung Galaxy (WhatsApp sends video feeds directly from one cell phone to another). Although the application is unique, it is very easy to hack into; the writer therefore recommends taking precautions when using it. He also suggests using WhatsApp to reveal Shiite lies. Another Web surfer wondered how much a [smart phone] cost in Iraq, to which a Web surfer from Egypt responded that in Egypt it cost 800 Egyptian Pounds; he added that WhatsApp could also be used with an Apple iPhone. Yet another Web surfer wondered whether the suicide attacker should [have the ability of] a photographer. He added that he did not think it necessary to photograph all attacks, as photographs of attacks in which the attacker remains unharmed could suffice.<sup>5</sup>

#### *Cyber-jihad*

- A woman member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen announced the opening of an online course in hacking, which would be founded on

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com> (Arabic).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

materials from a group of Palestinian hackers calling themselves GaZa-HaCKeR. She claimed that the course would seek vulnerabilities in Internet sites, through which it would then hack into those sites. The first lesson that was uploaded onto Ansar All-Mujahideen was accompanied by a video guide to relevant assistive computer programs, like appserv, which help hackers hack into sites.<sup>6</sup>



The banner for the "Gaza Hacker's Course"

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen posted a list of hacking programs such as WebCracker 4, Net Buster, BetBus Haxporg, Net Bus 1.7, Girl, BusScong, and Friend. He also explained how to check whether a computer had been infected with a virus or infiltrated by spyware.<sup>7</sup>
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen provided a detailed explanation of tools for becoming a hacker. For example, he posted a long list of spyware and hacking programs.<sup>8</sup>
- A Shiite Web site named "The Land of the Holy Places", with the url: <http://mkadas.org/ar/index.php>, was reportedly hacked into.<sup>9</sup>

#### *Promoting the Myth of Martyrdom*

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida reported the death of a Syrian mujahid named Ibrahim Manafikhi Abu Yaser, aka Qasawarat Al-Halabi, age 28. Abu Yaser was killed during clashes with Syrian forces in the Salah Al-Din neighborhood of Aleppo on July 29, 2012. According to the contributor, Abu Yaser was famous for preaching jihad against the Syrian regime in the mosques of the Salah Al-Din quarter.<sup>10</sup> Other sources reported that Abu Yaser

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

<sup>8</sup> <http://113.20.29.51/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>10</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

had been a member of the Ahrar Al-Sham Brigades, an armed Salafist group active in Syria.<sup>11</sup>



**Ibrahim Manafikhi Abu Yaser**

- The jihadist media institution Fursan Al-Balagh published a video clip titled, "Two Martyrs from Oman: Abu Hamza Al-Omani and Abu Ubaydah Al-Omani".<sup>12</sup> The video focused on the martyrs' [shahids] character, and contained speeches by senior leaders of jihad such as Abu Yahya Al-Libi, who spoke in praise of fulfilling the commandment of jihad. Reports of the deaths of the two above-named martyrs are not new. The death of the martyr Abu Ubaydah Al-Omani (1992-2012) was reported on jihadist Web sites on January 9, 2012.<sup>13</sup> Abu Ubaydah had emigrated from Oman to Afghanistan, attending military training camps there before he reached the age of 20. He participated in a number of battles against the Americans and their allies during 2011, and was killed in early 2012. The death of the martyr Abu Hamza Al-Omani was reported on May 12, 2012. He had emigrated from Oman to Afghanistan fight alongside the Afghan Taliban, and was killed on May 5, 2012.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>11</sup> <http://syrianoor.net/biographies/3750> (Arabic).

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>13</sup> See <http://www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=0UHeIMBR2Jc%3d&tabid=344>, pp. 8-9 (English).

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.muslm.net/vb/> (Arabic).



**Abu Ubaydah Al-Omani (left) and Abu Hamza Al-Omani (right)**

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam reported the death in Afghanistan of a martyr [shahid] named Abu Abd Al-Rahman Al-Omani. According to the contributor, Abd-Al-Rahman was killed in June 2012, while engaged in a Taliban raid of the Sahra Bagh Airport in Khost. In his last will and testament, Abd Al-Rahman urged the residents of Oman to fulfill the commandment of jihad and help their brethren in the arenas of jihad.<sup>15</sup>



**Abu Abd Al-Rahman Al-Omani**

- The Tunisian Salafi-jihadist media outlet Ahfad Uqbah [The Descendents of Uqbah], which is active on Facebook, in particular, published a number of biographies of Tunisians martyred in the various arenas of jihad: Marwan Al-Ashuri, a Salafi-jihadist who had joined the Syrian Al-Nusra Front and was killed on July 20, 2012 during armed clashes with Syrian forces in the heart of Damascus; Abu Al-Qaqa Al-Tunisi, who died of an illness on July 31, 2012, while in a prison in Suse, in Iraqi Kurdistan;<sup>16</sup> and Muhammad bin Muhammad Abu Hafs Al-Tunisi, who was killed in early August 2012 in Yemen.<sup>17</sup>

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

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.facebook.com/AhfaduUkbaa> (Arabic).

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.facebook.com/AhfaduUkbaa> (Arabic).



Marwan Al-Ashuri



Abu Al-Qaqa Al-Tunisi



Muhammad bin Muhammad Abu Hafs Al-Tunisi

#### Magazines

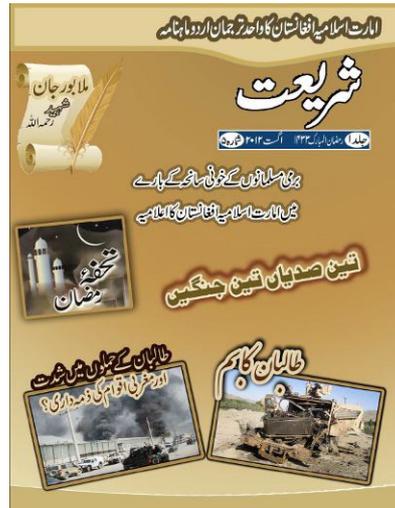
- New issues were published by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan of its jihadist magazines in Arabic, English and Urdu, which cover jihad in Afghanistan: Issue No. 75 for August 2012 of *Al-Somood*, in Arabic;<sup>18</sup> Issue

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.alsomod-iea.info> (Arabic).

No. 43 for August 2012 of the English-language magazine *In Fight*;<sup>19</sup> Issue No. 44 for August 2012 of the magazine in Urdu, *Nawai Afghan Jihad*;<sup>20</sup> and Issue No. 5 of the magazine, also in Urdu, *Shariat*.<sup>21</sup>



Left to right, recent issues of *Nawai Afghan Jihad*, *Al-Somood*, and *In Fight*



The most recent issue of *Shariat*

- The third issue (346 pp.) of the jihadist magazine *Al Qaeda Airlines* has been published. The first section of this issue is devoted to the concept of assassination, and its varying means of implementation. The second section deals with the poison ricin and the third section deals with the poison nicotine. The editor of *Al Qaeda Airlines* notes that "this issue marks a first

<sup>19</sup> <http://ansar1.info> (English).

<sup>20</sup> <http://nawaiafghan.blogspot.co.il> (Urdu).

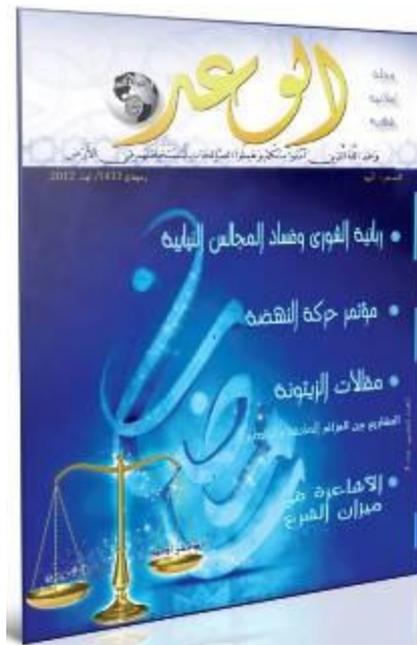
<sup>21</sup> <http://theunjustmedia.com> (English).

foray into warfare with chemical and biological poisons"; its focus on the two above-named poisons is meant to deter the enemy.<sup>22</sup>



The latest issue of *Al Qaeda Airlines* delves into poisons

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Bayareq, affiliated with Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia, published the third issue of the periodical *Al-Wa'd*.<sup>23</sup>



Issue No. 3 of *Al-Wa'd*

### Reports from the Field

#### *Afghanistan-Pakistan*

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published a 13-page statistical abstract summarizing its activities in July 2012, including losses of life and property to

<sup>22</sup> <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/ansar.ariana> (Arabic).

its ranks and those of the enemy, and mapping the geographic location and types of action perpetrated. The emirate also published another 13-page report for July 2012, summarizing the total number of war crimes allegedly perpetrated by the US, NATO and ISAF against the civilian population in Afghanistan.<sup>24</sup>



The covers of the two reports issued by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan for July 2012

- On the occasion of Ramadan, the jihadist media institution Manba Al-Jihad, which functions under the auspices of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, published a video clip titled, "The Badr Brigades 2". The video records the planning and execution, on June 2, 2012, of a terrorist attack by 11 Afghan Taliban against the Sahra Bagh Airport in Khost. The emirate claimed that more than 200 Americans and Afghans were killed or wounded in this attack, and that two helicopters, a military plane, tanks, and many military vehicles were destroyed, as was a warehouse holding petrol and weapons.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>24</sup> <http://theunjustmedia.com> (English).

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



The banner for the video clip issued by Manba Al-Jihad

- The jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published a video clip in which the spokesman for Al-Qaeda in Pakistan, Ustad Ahmad Farouq, urged mujahideen in Pakistan to attack NATO and US supply convoys and the owners of the companies that sign for the delivery of supplies to Afghanistan; this, he said, would help the Afghanistan Taliban.<sup>26</sup> In an additional video clip published by Al-Sahab, Farouq addressed the recent election of a new prime minister in Pakistan, saying that the Pakistani regime was corrupt, and a puppet of its ally, the US, which should be opposed.<sup>27</sup>
- The jihadist Web forum Furqon, which is affiliated with the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) and which publishes jihadist content in Uzbek, reported the death of IMU emir Othman Adel in an American drone strike in Pakistan. His deputy, Othman Ghazi, was appointed in his stead.<sup>28</sup>

A number of visitors to the jihadist Web forum Al-Jihad Al-Alami asked whether the IMU was a jihadist group. One Web surfer responded in the affirmative, adding that the IMU was an arm of the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, which had sworn an oath of allegiance [bay'ah] to Mullah Omar, the head of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Members of the IMU had immigrated to Afghanistan in 1999 and established training camps there. At

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

<sup>28</sup> <http://furqon.com/component/content/article/1-2011-08-26-10-42-51/460-oih-ning-bildirishi.html> (Uzbek).

present, the IMU is active in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.<sup>29</sup>



Othman Adel (left) and Othman Ghazi (right)

#### *Iraq*

- The Islamic State of Iraq took responsibility for an attack against the Ministry of Counter-Terrorism in the heart of Baghdad. The attack began with the detonation of two booby-trapped cars at the entrance to the ministry, in which tens of people were killed and wounded. Subsequently, five mujahideen wearing explosive belts and armed with hand grenades, rifles and pistols stormed the building. According to the Islamic State of Iraq, this attack was proof that its Ministry of War had heeded the call of its emir, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, to increase its military activities. The Islamic State of Iraq also published a detailed report of all (27) of its military actions in Baghdad Province between June 17 and July 7, 2012.<sup>30</sup>
- The Islamic State of Iraq published a report detailing all (48) of its military actions in Anbar Province between April 1 and June 20, 2012.<sup>31</sup>
- Following a terrorist attack in Baghdad on July 31, 2012 in which at least 12 people were killed, a visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein who defined himself as a Syrian wondered, "what is the value of this act for the [Islamic State of Iraq]? Is it a propaganda ploy, meant to kill innocents during the holy month of Ramadan, when Allah forbids fighting?! How can you kill innocent people and destroy their shops, without freeing even one prisoner? Is this what you call jihad?" Other Web surfers corrected him, explaining that

<sup>29</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

Ramadan was not a month during which fighting was prohibited, but rather a month of conquests, battles and victories. They clarified that those who had been killed in the attack were not innocents, but rather Shiites and Muslim members of the [Iraqi] police and army who had abandoned Islam! Who torture and torment Sunnis! The respondents advised the questioner not to get his information from the traitors' media, but by monitoring jihadist media. Hanein's supervisor supported these explanations and wrote, with irony, that if "innocents" were being killed [in actions such as the one being discussed], what was the point of the fighting in Syria, where innocent civilians really were being killed? If this is the state of things, it would be better to choose non-violence, pacifism and civil disobedience under an Iranian regime, the supervisor mocked.<sup>32</sup>

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein instigated a discussion about the Islamic State of Iraq's next step, once it had re-captured territories that had fallen into the hands of the Shiites. A survey of the comments of visitors to the site revealed a variety of responses, the following among them: after the war in Iraq, the next goal should be Jerusalem; Iraq will be ridden of all of its enemies, and the Islamic State of Iraq will get stronger; some, who have ulterior motives, will try to prevent the Islamic State of Iraq from gaining power; we must learn from past mistakes, and heed the advice of the leadership in Pakistan and Afghanistan. One contributor even dared to attack some jihadist groups active in Iraq, which he said had never been loyal to the Islamic State of Iraq and so could not be trusted, as evidenced by their working for the benefit of the Shiite government of Iraq. This contributor aroused the ire of the others, but he defended himself, insisting that his arguments were logical and to the point.<sup>33</sup>
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein posted exclusively on the site a publication that had [also] been distributed in Diyala Province by members of the Islamic State of Iraq. In it, the Islamic State of Iraq urges continued jihad, promises its re-capture of areas it had previously controlled, and calls on the Sunnis who have been aiding the Iraqi government to return to piety by approaching the nearest representative of the Islamic State of Iraq in their area – lest they risk "elimination"! The contributor who posted this publication

<sup>32</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>33</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

asked that it also be posted on the jihadist Web forums Shumukh Al-Islam and Al-Fida. In response, one Web surfer criticized his having posted the publication on Hanein, rather than going through the official media outlet of the Islamic State of Iraq, Al-Furqan. He claimed that Al-Furqan was savvy enough to know when and where to publish such items. There was no reason to criticize the propaganda arm of the Islamic State of Iraq. Another contributor countered that the publication had not been issued by Al-Furqan but rather by the propaganda council in Diyala; it was hence a local publication, like those issued in any other province.<sup>34</sup>



The publication uploaded to Hanein by a diligent contributor

The Arabian Peninsula

- An Egyptian Salafi-jihadist blog reported that Yemen had freed four Egyptians suspected of belonging to Al-Qaeda, and intended to extradite them to Egypt following the intervention of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.<sup>35</sup>

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

35 <http://ansarsharia.blogspot.co.il> (Arabic).



**Egyptians freed by Yemen and slated for extradition**

*Al-Sham [Greater Syria]*

- During the first half of August 2012, the Al-Nusrah Front in Syria published the following:
  - Announcement No. 39, reporting eight military actions carried out by Al-Nusrah members near Western Al-Ghouta, a Damascus suburb.<sup>36</sup>
  - Announcement No. 40, reporting six military actions carried out by Al-Nusrah members near Western Al-Ghouta, a Damascus suburb.<sup>37</sup>
  - Announcement No. 41, taking responsibility for the capture on July 19, 2012 of a Syrian journalist named Muhammad Al-Said, who had worked for the propaganda arm of the Syrian regime. After being interrogated, Al-Said was killed.<sup>38</sup>



**The Syrian journalist Muhammad Al-Said after his capture by the Al-Nusrah Front**

- Announcement No. 42, taking responsibility for a raid on the Judaydat Artuz military outpost in the vicinity of Damascus on July 19, 2012.

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

During the raid the outpost was destroyed and its weapons plundered, and the soldiers guarding it were killed.<sup>39</sup>



**Weapons looted from the Judaydat Artuz Outpost**

- Announcement No. 43, taking responsibility for bombing the Ministry of Military Activities, located in Western Al-Ghouta, a Damascus suburb. After monitoring the ministry to gather intelligence, the building was booby-trapped with an explosive device. The attack killed a number of senior Syrian military officials.<sup>40</sup>
- Announcement No. 44, taking responsibility for driving a booby-trapped car into a military security zone near Hamat, and killing more than 162 Syrian security personnel.<sup>41</sup>
- Announcement No. 45 about a suicide attack against a military security unit near Hamat.<sup>42</sup>
- The Al-Fustat media institution, which is affiliated with a group calling itself Saraya Al-Sham – apparently Syrian Salafi-jihadists – published a report detailing some of its activities against Syrian security forces in July 2012.<sup>43</sup>



**The banners of Al-Fustat media outlet (left) and Saraya Al-Sham (right)**

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

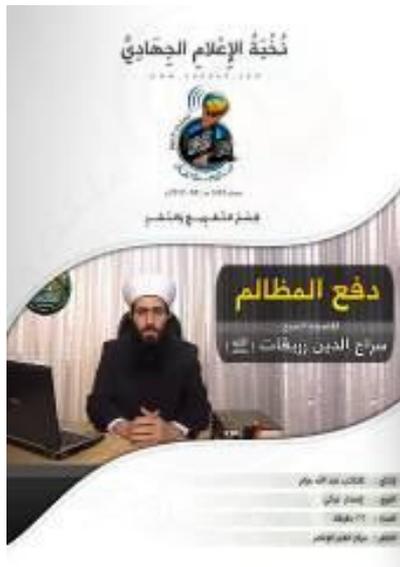
<sup>42</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>43</sup> [http://ansaralsham.blogspot.co.il/2012/07/blog-post\\_6627.html](http://ansaralsham.blogspot.co.il/2012/07/blog-post_6627.html) (Arabic).

- The Abdallah Azzam Brigades published a video clip titled, "Thrusting Aside Injustice" featuring Sheikh Siraj Al-Din Zuriqat, a preacher in Beirut's mosques who supports the Syrian revolution. It is worth noting that, about one month ago, Sheikh Zuriqat was arrested by Lebanese security forces on suspicion of involvement in terrorist activity, but was released within hours under pressure from the Lebanese mufti. According to the Lebanese press, Zuriqat was known to be recruiting young people for military training in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In the video clip, Sheikh Zuriqat addresses his remarks to Lebanon's Sunnis, whose circumstances, he claims, have become intolerable. According to Sheikh Zuriqat, Lebanon's Sunnis are under attack from the Syrian Baathist regime, Hezbollah and its Sunni collaborators, and Lebanese Army Intelligence. Criticism of Hezbollah pervades the sheikh's speech. He accuses Hezbollah of defending Lebanon's southern border and forestalling warfare against Israel, on the pretext of preserving tranquility within Lebanon. Instead, Sheikh Zuriqat claims, Hezbollah has its weapons trained on Sunnis everywhere, including in Beirut; it foments civil war and recruits Sunnis and people of other ethnic groups to its purposes. Sheikh Zuriqat also claims that Hezbollah's "province" – Beirut's southern suburbs – are a breeding ground for drug dealers, thieving gangs, criminals and murderers; if Hezbollah cannot impose order there, how would it impose order on all of Lebanon? Hezbollah's claim that it bears arms because of its resistance to Israel is a boldfaced lie, says Sheikh Zuriqat; in truth, Hezbollah insists on remaining armed because it wants to take over Lebanon, humiliate the [Sunni] public, and enslave everyone to the religious scholars of Iran. Sheikh Zuriqat implored Sunnis loyal to Hezbollah to leave the movement, which he says does not really help the Palestinians, and thwarts efforts by Lebanon's Sunnis to fire rockets at Israel. According to Sheikh Zuriqat, Hezbollah also controls Lebanese Army Intelligence and the other security services, which it wields to harm Sunnis and their respected leaders and religious scholars, leaving them fair game for murder. Humiliation, arrest, imprisonment, and false accusations of involvement in terrorism are the injustices that Sheikh Zuriqat feels are being visited on the Sunnis. He concludes that Hezbollah is protecting the Jews, and also the Lebanese Army and security services, which were trained by and which support the US. He tells Hezbollah and the Lebanese government to

cease searching for Al-Qaeda cells, explaining that it is the injustices being suffered by young Sunnis that are leading them to resist this humiliation. He also urges Sunni sheikhs to take a stand against this persecution, and lauds the establishment of the Muslim Religious Scholars' Council in Lebanon, which has declared its support for Sunnis in Lebanon and Syria. He hopes for an end to the revolution in Syria, predicting that the removal of the Assad regime will be a prelude to the liberation of Palestine and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.<sup>44</sup>



The cover of "Thrusting Aside Injustice"

- On July 30, 2012, an article was published in the British newspaper *The Guardian*,<sup>45</sup> which claimed that members of the Free Syrian Army were leaving it to join the ranks of Al-Qaeda in eastern Syria. In response to this article, a debate erupted on the jihadist Web forum Hanein. Some visitors to the site praised this trend, predicting that if it were to continue, policy would change throughout the region. Another visitor to the site countered that Al-Qaeda had only one representative in Syria – the Al-Nusra Front – which had absolutely not formed any alliance with the Free Syrian Army, which it saw as a "traitorous secular army". This epithet "incensed" another Web surfer, who claimed that the Free Syrian Army was not traitorous: even as critics like his fellow Web surfer were sitting behind a computer, doing nothing to promote jihad, the Free Syrian Army was daily fighting heroic battles and sacrificing its

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb/showthread.php?t=10170>; <http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/105794> (both in Arabic).

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jul/30/al-qaida-rebels-battle-syria> (English).

men. Other Web surfers also praised the Free Syrian Army, adding that it was gaining ever more support, and had prepared a reconstruction program so that Syria would not be paralyzed once the regime fell.<sup>46</sup>

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein reported that Husam the Irish, "the world's best sniper", had joined the Free Syrian Army. According to the writer, Husam, whose father is Libyan and his mother Irish, had previously fought with the rebels in Libya.<sup>47</sup>



**The Free Syrian Army's newest recruit: Husam the Irish, with friends**

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein posted a link to a YouTube video showing Alawites in Syria educating their children to hate Sunnis. The post aroused a sharp reaction from site visitors against the Shiites. One contributor claimed that [even] the Shiites see the Alawites as infidels whose source of authority is Iran, as proven by their having fought with Iran in the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s.<sup>48</sup>
- The Islamic Al-Fajr Movement, a Salafi-jihadist group active in Syria, published a video clip of a comprehensive interview with Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi, a Syrian Salafi-jihadist sheikh who had until recently been living in exile in London, but who had returned to Syria to join the mujahideen. Sheikh Al-Tartusi is now the emir of the Islamic Al-Fajr Movement. In the interview, he discussed the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad against the Syrian regime.<sup>49</sup>
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam reported that Sheikh Abu Qatada Al-Filastini had agreed to join the Shura Council in Jordan after

<sup>46</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>47</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>48</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.muslim.net/vb/> (Arabic).

consulting with his two students.<sup>50</sup> Abu Qatada is considered the spiritual leader of Al-Qaeda in Europe; he has been in a British prison since 2008. In January 2012, a British court determined that he could no longer be held in custody, and that he must be freed and extradited to Jordan, where he had been indicted for involvement in terrorism.

- Ibn Taymiyyah,<sup>51</sup> a jihadist media outlet, and Masadat Al-Mujahideen, a Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group active in the Gaza Strip, praised the release from prison of Sheikh Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi, emir of the Salafi-jihadist group Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, which is also active in the Gaza Strip.<sup>52</sup> Al-Maqdisi had been in a Hamas prison since his arrest in March 2011. The reason for his release is not known. However, it is worth noting that, in recent months, jihadist Web forums had waged an energetic campaign to get him released.
- Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein welcomed the release of Sheikh Abu Al-Walid Al-Maqdisi, emir of Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, from the Hamas prison where he had been held for more than a year. Sheikh Al-Maqdisi had returned to his home in Gaza. The Palestinian jihadist group Masadat Al-Mujahideen also congratulated the sheikh on his release, adding that the sheikh's release would not be "complete" without the release of all the mujahideen in Hamas prisons. The group thanked the Jordanian tribal leaders (not by name) and others who had helped secure the sheikh's release. Someone who reported having visited the sheikh in prison advised all believers to recite and deepen their understanding of the Qur'an, especially during Ramadan, and to pray with all their might for religious-legal knowledge – the most important weapon in the fight against those who promote the path of deceit. The Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center also congratulated Sheikh Al-Maqdisi and urged him to stand strong and keep promoting Islam. It also condemned Hamas for its "anti-mujahideen" policy, and warned that [this policy] would not succeed; instead, it asked Hamas to assist the mujahideen.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>52</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>53</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



**Abu Walid Al-Maqdisi**

- The propaganda committee of the Osama bin Laden Brigades announced the group's establishment in the West Bank – a response to the fall of Arab regimes and the rise of Islamic power. In the words of the announcement, the time had come to join hands to bring about the victory of the true path: ultimate monotheism. One visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein wondered whether the announcement was legitimate, as it had not been made by the Al-Fajr media outlet – the only institution to publish announcements by Al-Qaeda and Salafi-jihadists. Another visitor responded that while Al-Fajr indeed published the announcements of groups that had [officially] affiliated themselves with [Al-Qaeda], other groups – like the Salafi-jihadist groups in the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula, and Ansar Al-Din in Mali – that had adopted the ideology of Al-Qaeda but had no official relationship with it, would not use Al-Fajr. Similarly, another site visitor noted that Syria's Al-Nusrah Front also does not publish its announcements through Al-Fajr, and this does not prevent jihadist Web forums from featuring them.<sup>54</sup>

#### *Africa*

##### The Maghreb [North Africa]

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam posted photographs and a link to a video clip showing six French hostages captured by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Four of the hostages were abducted from Nigeria during the past year; they had been working for Areva, a company that produces atomic energy. The other two hostages were kidnapped from northern Mali. The hostages complained that their health was deteriorating and begged [former] French President Nicolas Sarkozy and human rights

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb>; <http://janein.info/vb> (both in Arabic).

organizations to save their lives by acquiescing to AQIM's demands – for example, that French forces withdraw from Afghanistan.<sup>55</sup>



From a video of French hostages being held by AQIM

#### Mali

- On August 5, 2012, the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published the responses of Sheikh Sanda Ould Bouamama, who is in charge of propaganda for Ansar Al-Din, to questions posed by visitors to the forum in the framework of an "open session" held several months ago. For example, Sheikh Bouamama addressed Ansar Al-Din's strategic program for the region, and its relationship with other jihadist groups.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



**The cover of the pamphlet bearing Sheikh Sanda Ould Bouamama's responses to Web surfers' questions**

- The Azawad Press Agency presented the first issue of a new news report – dated July, in Arabic, and August, in French – titled *Azawad*, about the situation in the Azawad region of Mali. The first issue, which is four pages long and illustrated with photographs, contained reports on the liberation of Gao by the mujahideen; the release by the mujahideen of prisoners whom they had guided to the right path; the implementation of Islamic law in several areas; and other of the mujahideen's activities, for example regarding security. One Web surfer praised the publication and Azawad Press Agency, which he claimed had presented the information clearly, just like Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>57</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



The first issue of Azawad

- The Azawad Press Agency published photographs of the visit to the Islamic Emirate of Azawad (northern Mali) of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, which neighbors Mali.<sup>58</sup>



Burkina Faso's foreign minister visits with the emir of Ansar Al-Din

Egypt

- The jihadist media outlet Dawat Al-Haqq published an interview which Sheikh Muhammad Al-Zawahiri, brother of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri, had granted the daily *Al-Watan* on July 21, 2012. Muhammad Al-Zawahiri was released from an Egyptian prison in the wake of the Arab Spring. He addressed a range of issues in the interview, such as the seminal contribution

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

of jihadist Islamists to the success of the revolutions in the Arab world, the importance of striving to implement shari'a [Islamic law] in Egypt, and the imperative to wage jihad against the US and its allies.<sup>59</sup>

- On August 5, 2012, a terrorist attack was perpetrated on the Israel-Egypt-Gaza Strip border: five armed men infiltrated an Egyptian security post in the northern Sinai Peninsula, murdered 17 Egyptian soldiers, then stole a truck and an armored personnel carrier, which they booby-trapped, and drove them across the border into Israel near the Kerem Shalom crossing. Israel Defense Forces (IDF) intercepted the terrorists and thwarted the attack. Responsibility for the attack was not taken until August 26, 2012, by Ansar Bet Al-Maqdes [Supporters of Jerusalem], a Salafi-jihadist group active in the Sinai Peninsula. This event, and the response of the Egyptian Army, which has begun an operation to eradicate terrorist cells in the Sinai Peninsula, have generated myriad threads and comments on jihadist Web forums. The following are a selection of the most notable:
  - The "secretary" of the jihadist Web forum Hanein warned all visitors to the forum lest they side with those who blamed the mujahideen [for the attack]. In response, one site visitor suggested that any accusations, whether of an individual or a group, should be accompanied by the fatwa [religious-legal ruling] of a renowned and authoritative sheikh.<sup>60</sup>
  - The administration of the jihadist Web forum Hanein officially denounced the attack, which it insisted did not serve Islam, and called on every mujahid to dissociate himself from it.<sup>61</sup>
  - The opinion was penned that the Egyptian soldiers' opposition to the mujahideen's efforts to infiltrate Israel necessitated [the soldiers'] elimination, divorced from all emotion. At the same time, it would have been preferable not to have killed them, as this enabled Israel to expose the plan. The excoriation of the mujahideen by the media, including in Egypt, was meant to prepare public opinion for the harsh strike against the mujahideen, who should be aware that both Israel and the Egyptian Army wish to prevent them from exploiting the Sinai as a battleground, because of its demographic advantages. The

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

<sup>60</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>61</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

mujahideen must clarify their stand on the terrorist attack, exercise maximum caution, and withdraw to the mountainous and far-flung corners of the Sinai Peninsula. They must also avoid confrontation with security forces in the Gaza Strip, defend themselves, and safeguard their weapons and equipment by transferring them out of the cities.<sup>62</sup>

- A supervisor of The Jihadist Platform Web site wrote that it was the Jews who had killed the Egyptian soldiers. He protested the flaccid response of the [Egyptian] army toward them.<sup>63</sup>
- "The Mujahideen in Egypt", a blog representing the Salafi-jihadist movement in Egypt, apologized to its readers for not having covered recent events in the Sinai Peninsula. It cited several reasons for this: a plethora of contradictory information from different media outlets; a lack of official announcements by jihadists in the Sinai, some of whom denied involvement in the events; and a lack of witnesses or media, which could be relied on as an alternative to jihadist media. At the same time, the blog posted a number of photographs which it claimed documented infringement on the rights of Sinai's residents, such as break-ins to their homes by Egyptian security forces.<sup>64</sup>



**One of the photographs posted on the blog, "The Mujahideen in Egypt"**

- The Salafi-Jihadist Movement in the Sinai reacted to the Egyptian Army's retaliation against the mujahideen in the Sinai Peninsula for the terrorist attack. To date, said the Salafi-Jihadist Movement, it had

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>64</sup> <http://ansarsharia.blogspot.co.il/search?updated-max=2012-08-15T23:22:00-07:00&max-results=25> (Arabic).

directed all of its activity – sabotaging the Egypt-Israel gas pipeline, terrorist attacks, firing rockets – only against Israel, which had also killed Egyptian soldiers but which had seen reprisals by the Egyptian [Army]. But now when Egyptian soldiers were harmed – who could say by whom? – Egypt was pounding the mujahideen without any real evidence against them, assaulting groups of young people who are preparing for resistance against the Zionist enemy, and who have never raised arms against the Egyptian Army or people! In effect, the Salafi-Jihadist Movement wrote, this fulfills Israel's aims. The Salafi-Jihadist Movement called on the commanders, officers and soldiers of the Egyptian Army to avoid spilling the blood of the mujahideen, whose weapons are not trained against [the Army]. The Salafi-Jihadist Movement also called on Egypt's religious scholars, statesmen and philosophers not to stand silent, and on the Egyptian people not to be misled by the assault on the mujahideen. It urged them to stand beside the mujahideen and their efforts to restore the lost honor of the Muslim Nation and raise the banner of ultimate monotheism [tawhid].<sup>65</sup>



#### The banner of The Salafi-Jihadist Movement in the Sinai Peninsula

- On August 6, 2012, The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in the Environs of Jerusalem, another Salafi-jihadist group active in the Sinai Peninsula, denied any involvement in the August 5<sup>th</sup> terrorist attack. The group claimed that Israel and the Jews were responsible for the attack, possibly in collaboration with Egypt's Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF).<sup>66</sup>
- On August 6, 2012, the group Jundallah in Palestine and the jihadist media outlet Dawat Al-Haqq denied any involvement in the terrorist attack. The Salafi-jihadist movement in Palestine directed its efforts

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

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

only against the Jews and Zionists, enemies of the Muslim Nation. It warned of a dangerous collusion between Egyptian and Israeli security forces, which wish to defend the Zionist entity and thwart jihad.<sup>67</sup>

- A prominent contributor to the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida who calls himself Nasir Al-Qaeda opened a virtual workshop to document "the crimes of the Egyptian Army against the residents of the Sinai Peninsula". Nasir Al-Qaeda proposed videotaping how the Egyptian Army is attacking innocents and destroying homes in the Sinai Peninsula, and then disseminating the videotape to television channels such as Al-Jazeera, so as to embarrass the Egyptian regime and balance the image of the Sinai being shown by the hostile Egyptian media.<sup>68</sup>
- Reports claimed that President Mohamed Morsi sent a telegram thanking Israel's President Shimon Peres for congratulating him on beginning his role as president of Egypt. Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein took them as an opportunity to attack the Muslim Brotherhood as such, and to claim that its rise to power was more dangerous than were the Arab leaders imposed on the region by the Sykes-Picot Agreement, primarily because the former is being falsely described as an Islamic awakening. They added that the Muslim Brotherhood had changed its tune from "Islam is the solution" to "democracy is the solution"; they feared this would lead the public to distrust any group that hoists the banner of Islam. The Muslim Brotherhood's behavior, they claimed, would give secular people an opening to distort Islam, and accuse the Muslims of both exploiting Islam to gain power and being incapable of solving Egypt's daily problems. People should declare aloud that [the Muslim Brotherhood] does not represent the Muslims, and that its ideology is a secular one. Some Web surfers discounted the purported telegram from President Morsi to President Peres, but insisted that vigilance was required regarding the policies of the Muslim Brotherhood, [which had not altered] since its inception. The Muslim Brotherhood now denies having sent the telegram, but will no doubt later admit it did send it, and will make various

<sup>67</sup> <http://dawaalhaq.wordpress.com/2012/08/06/%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86-%D9%85%D8%B4%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83-%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%B1-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%AC%D9%86%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D9%87-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%84%D8%B3/> (Arabic).

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

excuses for having done so, they claimed. Other Web surfers were actually pleased to see the rise to power of the Muslim Brotherhood, which they found preferable to the remnants of the previous regime, and which they felt most of the public supported.<sup>69</sup>

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein praised Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi for dismissing Minister of Defense Tantawi, and urged Web surfers to show tolerance for [Morsi] and not to attack him, especially since Israel would love to overthrow him and was seeking every opportunity to do so. Other Web surfers were divided in their opinions. Some did not believe in Morsi, because they felt he was relying on the democratic process, while others wanted to give him a chance to implement Islamic law.<sup>70</sup>

#### Nigeria

- Abu Bakr Shiko, the leader of the Nigerian group Boku Haram, railed against US President Barack Obama for the US government's having placed him on its "wanted terrorists" list on June 21, 2012. Obama himself would be considered a terrorist in the next world, he said.<sup>71</sup>

#### Somalia

- The jihadist news outlet Al-Kitaab, which functions under the auspices of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published a propaganda video clip titled, "The Mood in the Port of Kismayo". The video contains interviews with workers in the port of Kismayo, who are recorded saying that the economic situation in the area is good.<sup>72</sup> Through this video, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen means to increase its prestige, and send a message that life in the territory under its control continues as usual.



**The banner for the video clip, "The Mood in the Port of Kismayo"**

<sup>69</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>70</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

<sup>72</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

*The Caucasus*

- The emir of the mujahideen in Tatarstan, Muhammad, blessed the Muslims on the occasion of Ramadan, announced the "elimination" of Russian officers, and asked Tatarstan's imams to preach the principles of Islamic law and stop trying to attract people to "classic Islam", which swears fealty to tyrants. He also asked that they cease praying for the souls of infidels, holding marriage ceremonies for infidels, and preaching about democratic elections.<sup>73</sup>



**Muhammad, emir of Tatarstan**

- Publications on Caucasus-focused jihadist Web sites reflect a sharp increase in jihadist activities in that arena during the first two weeks of August 2012. One outstanding example of this is the attack of a suicide terrorist in the vicinity of Johar, who succeeded in harming tens of people, including police and military personnel. News of this and other attacks appeared on the Web site Imarat Kavkaz, which also noted the harsh censorship imposed by the Russian media which, it said, reflected a "poor attitude".<sup>74</sup>
- The Web site Imarat Kavkaz announced the anticipated visit to the Caucasus of Sheikh Khaled Yassin, a leading expert on modern Islam. A native of the US, Sheikh Yassin converted to Islam in his youth. Although he makes his home in Great Britain, he travels a great deal, lecturing and doing missionary work [da'wa] for Islam. His impending visit was announced at a meeting in Dubai of the Sheikh with the Association of Sunni Scholars, a Caucasus Salafist movement, in late July 2012. The Association of Sunni Scholars comprises authorities on Islam who support jihad and have been active in the Caucasus in recent years. According to the announcement, Abu-Amar Sasetlinski, an expert in Islamic law [shari'a] who was part of the delegation

<sup>73</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.shamilonline.org/ru/> (Russian).

to Dubai, invited Sheikh Yassin to visit the Caucasus, and the sheikh assented. September was set as a possible time for the visit.<sup>75</sup>



**Khaled Yassin and representatives of the Association of Sunni Scholars meet in Dubai**

- The Web site Imarat Kavkaz published an item about the attempts of the Russian authorities to convince those who have volunteered to fight jihad in the Caucasus to leave the forests and mountains and return to a "normal" life. According to the item, to this end the Russian authorities organize special public relations conferences, such as one promoting "civil society and human rights", which purportedly presented a socio-economic angle on the Russian fight against widespread volunteering for jihad. Imarat Kavkaz claimed that this conference was held not only because the number of young Muslims volunteering for jihad is not small, but rather because it is increasing sharply.<sup>76</sup>
- For the first time, the Web site Valiat Dagestan published an appeal by Sheikh Ali Al-Hudier to the site's visitors to hasten to join jihad. A Caucasian, Sheikh Al-Hudier is an enthusiastic supporter of jihad who often publishes his opinions on the Internet. This publication was unique to this Web site. In it, the renowned sheikh quoted at length from the Qur'an and spoke of the righteousness of the Muslim war and the certainty of imminent victory.<sup>77</sup>
- The Web site Valiat Dagestan published a letter of "dawa [proselytizing] for the mujahideen" signed by a woman named Um Salim, who praises the "bringers of light", as she calls the mujahideen, for their prowess. Um Salim

<sup>75</sup> <http://www.shamilonline.org/ru/> (Russian).

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.shamilonline.org/ru/> (Russian).

<sup>77</sup> <http://vdagestan.com/speshite-na-dzhixad-speshite-na-dzhixad-speshite-na-dzhixad.htm> (Russian).

details the variety of battles the mujahideen have been forced to fight, and insists that it is impossible to denigrate the mujahideen or say a bad word about them. They should be spoken of with respect, Um Salim admonishes. Nevertheless, she claims to have encountered Muslims who criticize the mujahideen, even though doing so contravenes Islam.<sup>78</sup>

#### *The West and Elsewhere*

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida reported the arrest in Spain of three Islamists suspected of belonging to a terrorist cell affiliated with Al-Qaeda; at the time of their arrest, they were in possession of explosive devices and poisons. The first detainee is a Russian of Chechen descent named Eldar Magomedov, who trained in Al-Qaeda camps in the mountains of Waziristan, on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Magomedov established a "European" terrorist cell together with two other people, one also a Chechen-Russian named Muhamad Ankara Adamov, and the other a Turkish citizen named Cengiz Yelzin. About one month ago, the three had planned to carry out a terrorist attack in Spain.<sup>79</sup>
- Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen renewed their threats against the interests and citizens of Great Britain if the British government indeed extradites Sheikh Abu Qatada Al-Filastini to Jordan. As one contributor wrote [errors in the original]:

"Dear....London Government. Do you think that we will let you alone after you throw Abu Qatada to the monsters in Jordan!!! Absolutely not let's see what you have in your loving city. Oh I found a good place to start with Big Ben Or Elizabeth tower, the underground. It would be a good time to do something in the rush hour especially In King Cross station. Or how about !! playing with London Eye..."<sup>80</sup>
- Sheikh Abu Bakar Bashir, who is considered the spiritual leader of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Indonesia and who is currently serving a 15-year prison sentence, threatened to wage jihad against Myanmar (Burma) if the latter did

<sup>78</sup> <http://vdagestan.com/dua-za-mudzaxidov.htm> (Russian).

<sup>79</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic). See also the source of the item: <http://www.larazon.es/noticia/4732-cae-en-espana-el-jefe-militar-de-al-qaeda-en-europa> (Spanish).

<sup>80</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=60508> (site is in Arabic).

not stop persecuting Burmese Muslims.<sup>81</sup> This was one in a series of threats made by the senior leaders of various jihadist groups, and on jihadist Web forums, against Myanmar's interests and installations inside or beyond its borders.

#### Women and Jihad

- Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia cited a letter sent it by Saudi Arabian women who complained about the suffering of their women relatives in Saudi prisons. Ansar Al-Sharia demanded that Saudi religious scholars fight this injustice, and urged them to intervene to get the women released.<sup>82</sup>



**A letter decrying the plight of women in Saudi Arabian prisons, which reached Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia**

#### Miscellaneous

- The jihadist web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published an audio statement titled, "A Lesson in Good Behavior, Ethics and Values, Education, and Purity of the Soul" by Sheikh Omar Al-Hadushi, a Moroccan Salafi-jihadist sheikh who was released from prison in early 2012.<sup>83</sup>

<sup>81</sup> <http://www.shamukh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>82</sup> <http://www.alpaltformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.alpaltformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

- On the occasion of Ramadan, the jihadist media outlet Al-Sahab published a series of audio files titled, "Ramadan Lessons", by Salafi-jihadist Sheikh Khalid Al-Husaynan Abu Zaid Al-Kuwaiti, formerly a preacher in Kuwait. Lesson No. 12 was titled, "Concerns of the Heart";<sup>84</sup> and Lesson No. 13 was titled, "The Magic Key".<sup>85</sup>
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Fajr published a 28-page article titled, "The Essence of the Laws Governing the [Ramadan] Fast", by Salafi-jihadist Sheikh Khalid Al-Husaynan Abu Zaid Al-Kuwaiti, formerly a preacher in Kuwait.<sup>86</sup>
- The jihadist media outlet Al-Malahem, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published an audio statement titled, "The Spirit of Deeds". It is part of a series of publications titled, "Thoughts on Purity and the Straight Path" by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi Al-Nadhari, a senior member of AQAP.<sup>87</sup>
- The jihadist media institution Fursan Al-Balagh published an article titled, "A Story of the Oldest of the Israelites" by Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, a senior Salafi-jihadist in Jordan.<sup>88</sup>
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein related that he had made a habit of monitoring jihadist Web forums since the conquest of Iraq in 2003. He wrote that these forums appeared to be waging an assault against Shiites, including allowing their murder. He asked himself why Iran and the Shiites had been neutral during the 2003 Iraq war, given that there are Shiites in Iraq, and that the Shiites always claim to favor jihad against the enemy. Moreover, Iran had begun to establish ethnic gangs bent on murder, and had fomented the establishment of a government and of security forces in Iraq, that fought the mujahideen with the Americans. This contributor noted that while he supported Hezbollah's struggle against Israel, he had come to realize that Hezbollah's war with Israel was really just a means of giving Iran entrée into the Islamic world and the hearts and minds of the Muslims, as among the Shiites. Other Web surfers concurred with this contributor's diatribe against

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.org/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>85</sup> <http://www.alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

<sup>87</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>88</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Iran, adding that the revolution in Syria had exposed Iran, Hezbollah and the Shiites for what they were: murderers of Sunnis.<sup>89</sup>

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein published a photograph of a sheikh holding a rifle, and asked if anyone knew who the man was. Another Web surfer responded that he was a 66-year-old Saudi sheikh named Suwaylah Al-Harbi, who had been arrested in Iraq and extradited to Saudi Arabia, where he was imprisoned for four years. Al-Harbi was recently released.<sup>90</sup>



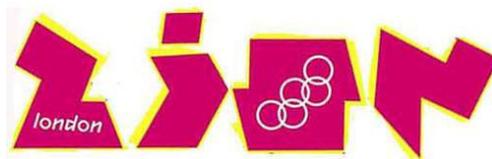
**Sheikh Suwaylah Al-Harbi**

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein discussed the logo of the recent Olympic games in London. He claimed to have noticed that the logo spelled out "Zion" in English, and not "2012", as the graphic designers had intended. He had also noticed that the lighting at Olympic Stadium, and the mascot of the Olympics, looked like symbols used by the Freemasons. He therefore concluded that the Olympiad had taken place "under the auspices of the Freemasons and World Zionism". Additional Web surfers shared his opinion and explained that Britain was the birthplace of the Freemasons.<sup>91</sup>

<sup>89</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>90</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>91</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



**On the left, the official logo of the 2012 Olympics in London; on the right, the logo as the Web surfer perceived it**



**The Olympic mascot and the lighting of Olympic Stadium mimic a motif of the Freemasons, according to some jihadists**

- Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein asked whether the forum Ana Muslim [I am a Muslim], which publishes Islamic and jihadist content, had been hacked into. One Web surfer responded that from time to time, such things did occur; he noted that one of the forum's supervisors had announced that the forum was being pressured and harassed. Another Web surfer warned against the forum, stating that several of his acquaintances had been arrested because of what they had written on it. He therefore recommended reading the forum only, and not contributing to it.<sup>92</sup>
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein wished to know whether the emir of the Islamic State of Iraq was Iraqi. Other Web surfers responded in the affirmative. The query sparked a discussion of why the questioner would want to know such a thing. One Web surfer explained that it did not matter what [the emir's] name or origin were: the Muslims would swear an oath of loyalty [bay'ah] to whomever was worthy, even if he were from Mozambique. Other

<sup>92</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

Web surfers believed the questioner to be a "spy", and warned other forum visitors to shun him. The enquirer to defend himself and deflect these accusations.<sup>93</sup>

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein asked for assistance from fellow Web surfers familiar with Facebook and Twitter, as well as those who were capable of guiding someone on the true path. He claimed to have an idea that he wanted to disseminate via social networks. Several Web surfers expressed their willingness to help.<sup>94</sup>
- Abu Al-Aynaa Al-Khurasani, a supervisor of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam, announced the opening of a new section on the forum called, "Moral Attributes".<sup>95</sup>
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam opened a virtual workshop to disseminate news of the transfer of Salafi-jihadist prisoners from Abu-Gharib Prison to Al-Shu'ba Al-Khamisa Prison in Baghdad. According to this member, the soldiers of Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki, who are working for Iran, torture these prisoners. The administrators of Shumukh Al-Islam gave this thread prominence.<sup>96</sup>



**The caption reads: Your brethren the prisoners...they will help you. Let us help them**

- The jihadist Web forum Sanam Al-Islam heralded an "open session" with Sheikh Omar Bakri Fostock, a Salafist preacher in Lebanon originally from Syria. During the "open session", Sanam Al-Islam would allow its members to

<sup>93</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>94</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

ask Sheikh Fostock questions about jihad and other topics, and to subsequently be sent his answers.<sup>97</sup>

- The jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam announced the opening of a new “room” that would house translations of jihadist publications, with the aim of reaching additional readers and expanding da’wa [proselytizing].<sup>98</sup>
- The jihadist Web forum Ushaq Al-Hurr Al-Islamiyyah officially announced the establishment of a new jihadist media institution named Al-Daraghem [the Lions], which will propagate jihad under its auspices. Al-Daraghem will primarily publish materials by religious scholars and sheikhs in “the distant Maghreb [North Africa]”, chief among them Sheikh Abu Al-Fadl Umar Al-Hadushi, a Moroccan Salafi-jihadist who was released from prison in early 2012.<sup>99</sup>



#### An announcement launching Al-Daraghem, a new jihadist media institution

- The jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam declared the outcome of the short story contest it had held in early 2012, in which 33 stories competed. Three were declared winners. According to Shumukh Al-Islam, the goal of the competition had been to foster Islamic literature, discover writing talent among forum contributors, and reach new audiences through innovative public relations. The short stories were published in an e-book.<sup>100</sup>

<sup>97</sup> <http://snam-s.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>98</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>99</sup> <http://www.i7ur.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>100</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



A banner announcing the winners of Shumukh Al-Islam's short story contest

### Facebook

- In early August 2012, a new page was opened on the social network Facebook titled, "Jihad Archive". The page purports to collect previously-published jihadist materials. As of this writing, the page had 802 "likes".<sup>101</sup>



The logo of the new Facebook page, "Jihad Archive"

### Twitter

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida reported that Muhammad Al-Zawahiri, a senior Salafi-jihadist sheikh in Egypt and the brother of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri, opened a Twitter account at the url: [https://twitter.com/Mohamed\\_zawahir](https://twitter.com/Mohamed_zawahir), where he tweets his thoughts.<sup>102</sup>

<sup>101</sup> <http://www.facebook.com/Jihad.Archiive> (Arabic).

<sup>102</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

**محمد الظواهري**  
@Mohamed\_zawahir  
الحساب الرسمي لكل ما يكتب هنا هو من كلام الفصح، تغريدات خاصة (بالحساب الإشرافي)

13 TWEETS  
0 FOLLOWING  
1,663 FOLLOWERS

**Follow محمد الظواهري**

Full name  
Email  
Password  
Sign up

**Tweets**

31 Aug  
محمد الظواهري @Mohamed\_zawahir  
الترجمة الحرة لحوار الـ (cnn) مع الشيخ محمد الظواهري حفظه الله - as-  
pic.twitter.com/uXD19PH5 (الإشراف) ansar.com/vb/showthread...  
View photo

24 Aug  
محمد الظواهري @Mohamed\_zawahir  
عالمنا: خير وصول الشيخ محمد الظواهري إلى سوريا خير كنت لا أملك لها من الصحة.  
وعلى وسائل الإعلام تحري اللغة في نشر الأخبار !! (الإشراف)  
Expand

21 Aug  
محمد الظواهري @Mohamed\_zawahir  
حوار الشيخ محمد الظواهري مع الشري الأوسط كاملاً بدون حذف  
(الإشراف) almaqreze.net/ar/news.php?re...  
Expand

21 Aug  
محمد الظواهري @Mohamed\_zawahir  
[م] بيان وملاحظات - الشيخ محمد الظواهري - على حوار المنشور في جريدة الوطن - as-  
(الإشراف) ansar.com/vb/showthread...  
Expand

Muhammad Al-Zawahiri's Twitter feed