



ICT
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Periodic Review

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Web Sites The First Half of September 2013



International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT)

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Highlights

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

- Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri published two new sermons. In the first one, he set guidelines for the mujahideen's strategy to employ in the field; namely, avoid friction with minorities and the civilian population, and focus on carrying out terrorist attacks against Americans and Israelis. In the second sermon, al-Zawahiri called on the Muslim Nation to carry out individual terrorist attacks against American targets, especially those on [Muslim] soil, and to concentrate efforts on damaging the U.S. economy as it is constitutes a significant weak spot liable to lead to America's downfall.
- A spokesman for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Iraq, emphasized that the armies of Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Iraq and Syria are considered heretical due to their attempts to hinder the implementation of shari'a [Islamic law] and their actions against Islam. In light of this, al-Adnani calls on Muslims, especially those in Iraq and Egypt, to wage violent jihad against their armies.
- Ansar Beit Al-Maqdes, an Al-Qaeda affiliate operating in the Sinai Peninsula, claimed responsibility for an assassination attempt on the Egyptian Minister of Interior.
- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has focused its attention on Morocco and publicly criticized the Moroccan monarchy, which it blamed for cooperating with the West in preventing the implementation of shari'a, embracing the democratic system, persecuting its critics, and more.
- Jihadist Web forums affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Somalia, reported the murder of jihad activist and member of the movement, Omar Hamami (also known as Abu-Mansur al-Amriki) by other members over internal conflicts. The administrators of these Web forums expressed their understanding of the movement's motivations for killing al-Amriki and blamed him for his own death since he had deviated from the path of jihad and begun to display personal whims that threatened the unity among the movement's ranks.
- The Global Islamic Media Front published a mobile encryption program for sending text messages on Android and Symbian mobile phones, on different jihadist Web forums.
- The media institution Al-Sham, which supports the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (The Levant), published three editions of a new jihadist periodical called *Sawt Al-Sham* (The Voice of The Levant).

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New Publications

Ideology

- The Al-Qabidun Ala Al-Jamar media institution affiliated with the Sinam Al-Islam Web forum published a letter from Afghanistan by Sheikh Abd al-Wahab al-Kabouli titled, "Democratic Islamists, How Much Longer Will You Chase Delusions?" In the letter, al-Kabouli bitterly attacked the attempt to implement democracy in Muslim lands, solve Muslim problems with non-Muslim methods, and lead the nation astray after a failed idea. He added that attempts to bring about democracy have prevented serious action for the sake of Islam and the establishment of Islamist regimes. Al-Kabouli claimed, at length, that democracy has failed many times and that there is no defect within Islam to justify the search for external solutions. Jihad is the only solution to Muslim problems and the only way to bring about with certainty the establishment of Islamist regimes in Arab States.¹
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted a position paper that, among other things, defamed the "heretical West", which it accused of interfering in mujahideen wars throughout history (in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria) and of causing many deaths among their ranks. The position paper rejected the existence of a Muslim national or territorial identity, and said that Islam does not distinguish between an Iraqi, Syrian, Tunisian or Chechen – as they all share one homeland and one enemy.²

Strategy

- During the first half of September 2013, Al-Qaeda's official jihadist media institution Al-Sahab, released the following publications by Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda:
 - A letter titled, "General Guidelines for Waging Jihad",³ in which al-Zawahiri wrote that acts of jihad are carried out on two planes: the military plain and the dawah plane [the preaching of Islam]. Military operations are focused mainly on America, the symbol of global heresy, and its ally Israel, then on its heretical allies in Muslim countries. The goal of attacking America is to force it to stop interfering in the Muslim world; lately it seems that this goal is being achieved as America is less and less involved in the events of the Arab Spring after suffering heavy losses at the hands of the mujahideen in the past.

¹ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

² <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

³ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

According to al-Qaradawi, the struggle against the Afghani regime is viewed as another stage of battle against the United States; the struggle against the Pakistani regime is viewed as an additional stage of battle against the Americans and is intended to bring about the liberation of Afghanistan, create a safe place for the mujahideen in Pakistan, and establish an Islamic regime in Pakistan; in Iraq the struggle is intended to liberate Sunni areas from America's Shi'ite allies; in Algeria, where there is a small American presence, the struggle against the regime is intended to weaken it and to spread the influence of jihad to countries in the Maghreb, the Sahel and the sub-Sahara; in the Arabian Peninsula the struggle against the regime is considered to be against contractors working for the United States; in Somalia the struggle is considered to be the forefront of the battle against the Crusader occupation; in the Levant the battle is being waged against a bloody regime that is not interested in the existence of any Islamic entity; in Israel the main clash is with the Jews.

The goal of dawah is to make the Muslim Nation aware of the hidden dangers of Christian involvement in Arab countries and to encourage Muslims to fight against it. In accordance with these principles, he provided the following guidelines:

- A. Publicize and bestow the jihadist outlook to the masses in order to create a large, faithful jihadist force that believes in the principles of Islam and obeys its laws.
- B. Make a concentrated effort to hit America as hard as possible, both militarily and economically, in order to cause it to retreat from the arenas of jihad. The mujahideen need to attack the interests of the Christian-Zionist alliance everywhere in the world. At the same time, Muslims suffering oppression in their lands are permitted to fight against it, not necessarily against America; for instance, the people of the Caucasus are permitted to fight against Russia.
- C. Avoid fighting against regimes as much as possible, unless the local regime is actively fighting alongside the Americans against the mujahideen. Ceasefires should be utilized in order to amass money and forces since the war of jihad will be long.
- D. Avoid fighting against groups that deviated from the correct path, such as the Sufis and Ismailis, unless in self-defense. Their deviation from the path of Islam should always be publicly exposed. In places

under control of the mujahideen, efforts should be made to get these groups to return to the righteous path.

- E. Avoid fighting against Christians and Hindus in Muslim countries; if they attack, one should react with appropriate force while being clear that it is in self-defense. The main fight should be waged against the greatest heretic, America.
- F. In general, avoid fighting against any entity that does not attack the mujahideen, and focus the battle against the Christian-Western alliance.
- G. Avoid harming civilians even if their relatives are fighting the mujahideen.
- H. Avoid killing, bombing and kidnapping Muslims and do not confiscate their money and property.
- I. Avoid harming the enemy in places such as mosques, markets and other crowded areas where there may be Muslims or other innocent people.
- J. Act respectfully towards religious scholars and protect them since they represent the words of the Prophet Muhammad; do not involve them in battle.
- K. Regarding other Islamic groups: Cooperate with them in areas of agreement. The first priority is war against enemies of Islam and, therefore, it is permissible to make a pact with other Islamic groups. If another Islamic group becomes embroiled in battle against enemies of Islam, they must be given the minimum amount of assistance necessary in order to defeat the enemy.
- L. Support the revolutions of the Arab Spring since, according to shari'a, one must support the struggle of the oppressed against the oppressor.
- M. Support and encourage anyone who fights for the rights of Muslims.
- N. Safeguard the rights and the honor of Muslims everywhere.
- O. Help the oppressed and the weak, both Muslims and non-Muslims.
- P. Make efforts to refute rumors about the mujahideen.
- Q. Publicize these guidelines among all Al-Qaeda members throughout the world.

- A video clip titled, "Faith Overcomes Arrogance",⁴ in which al-Zawahiri praised the achievements of the mujahideen in different arenas of jihad and emphasized that in the last twelve years since the September 11, 2001 attacks, the position and power of the United States has increasingly weakened. According to him, the arrogance of the United States in its "war on terror" is to its own detriment. It invaded Iraq and Afghanistan expecting to defeat the mujahideen but in the end it was forced to withdraw in disgrace, as opposed to the mujahideen whose strong faith earned them many victories in the field.

Al-Zawahiri noted that the Bush and Obama administrations believed that they would be able to defeat Al-Qaeda. However, they were surprised to discover that Al-Qaeda is not only an organization, but also an idea that resonates with many Muslims around the world. The Boston terrorist attacks that took place in April 2013 proved this and revealed America's powerlessness in dealing with this phenomenon.

Al-Zawahiri added that Obama deceives the Muslim world by [pretending to] want peace. When he was elected, he granted amnesty to CIA investigators who had tortured Muslim prisoners. By taking this step he sent a clear message that the torture of Muslims will continue despite the agreements signed by the United States not to torture prisoners. Therefore, the only way to liberate Muslim prisoners is through force: the only language that the U.S. understands.

Al-Zawahiri also said that the United States will fall as did other world powers over the course of history, and that the power of the Muslim Nation will bring about its demise. It emphasized that America's main point of weakness is its economy, which has been weakened following large expenditures for military and security needs. In general, in order to make sure that the United States continues to provide substantial funding to these needs, it must be left in a state of anxiety over its well-being and security. The way to make this happen is through sporadic strikes such as the guerilla wars in Somalia, Yemen, Iraq and Afghanistan. According to him, the campaign against the U.S. must also be managed in its own territory and "these sporadic strikes can be carried out by one comrade or by many".

Al-Zawahiri called on the Muslim Nation to impose an economic boycott on the U.S. and its allies in addition to carrying out terrorist attacks against the U.S. He emphasized that, at the end of the day, every dollar that enters the U.S. economy is translated into the purchase of ammunition and weapons in the field [to be used] against Muslims in Palestine, Afghanistan, etc. He said that "we must encourage the

⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

nation to give up on the dollar and replace it with the currency of countries that do not take part in aggression against us”.

He later discussed the downfall of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. According to him, Egyptian military forces, the secular camp and the Christians all came together to sabotage attempts to implement shari’a. He noted that the Muslim Brotherhood did not really and truly act to implement shari’a since they adhered to the democratic-secular model of government in contrast to Islam. He added that the military revolution in Egypt serves the interests of Israel and the United States and enables them to tighten the siege on the Gaza Strip and strike the jihadist opposition. In his opinion, this situation is similar to that of Tunisia and Yemen. The United States even intervened in Syria in order to overthrow Assad, who is loyal to the Iranian regime, and replace him with a secular government to benefit Israel. Nevertheless, despite U.S. attempts to support the secular camps loyal to the West and to peace with Israel, it fails time and time again.

In light of this situation, al-Zawahiri warned the mujahideen not to become close to the secular camp since it would serve the interests of the United States and Israel, and would likely cause damage as it did in Egypt.

Al-Zawahiri emphasized that both he and Al-Qaeda wanted to clarify certain points in light of the false smear campaign being waged against them by their enemies:

- A. We aspire to establish an Islamic caliphate based on shari’a, to be headed by a leader who adheres to the Qur’an and the Sunnah, to be chosen by the Muslim Nation.
- B. The mujahideen in the Levant need to focus their efforts on establishing an Islamic government based on shari’a, with their impending victory over the Bashar al-Assad regime. This new government would strive to liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque and every piece of occupied Muslim land.
- C. Al-Qaeda opposes the killing of innocent people. As proof of this Muslims are invited to read the words of Sheikh Osama bin Laden and Sheikh Attiya Allah, as well as the organization’s [political] platform called, “General Guidelines for Waging Jihad”. “Anyone who spills the forbidden blood of a Muslim or non-Muslim, we renounce their actions [...]”.
- D. The accusation that we call Muslims heretics out of ignorance stems from a desire to help the Americans tarnish the image of the mujahideen.

- E. Those who claim that the mujahideen operate without religious authority are invited to read the book, "The Exoneration", written by al-Zawahiri and based on a long line of religious clerics.
- F. Those who accuse us of wanting to lead all Muslims forget that we swore allegiance to the Emir of the Faithful of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Mohammed Omar.
- G. Those who claim that we allow others to kill our critics are lying.
- H. At the end of the day, we are just human beings who can make mistakes and work to fix our errors. We adhere to shari'a and renounce anything that goes against it.

Al-Zawahiri then went on to praise the mujahideen in all the arenas of jihad, including the Maghreb [North Africa], Somalia, the Caucasus, the Philippines, Eastern Turkistan and Kashmir. In addition, he focused attention on Burma in light of the great humanitarian crisis that befell the Muslims there due to their persecution by the authorities, and on Bangladesh due to the all-out war being waged by the authorities against the country's Muslims. He noted that Muslims in these countries, and in others where they are being persecuted, need to demonstrate patience. The imminent downfall of the United States in Afghanistan and the renewal of the Islamic Emirate will constitute a victory for them and for all oppressed people, both Muslim and non-Muslim.

- Al-Qaeda's official media institution Al-Fajr published a pamphlet in Urdu titled, "The System of War".⁵
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum remarked that visitors to jihadist Web forums and social networks are overly concerned with the benefits enjoyed by a martyr, especially the maidens (72 virgins) in Paradise, to the extent that it reflects negatively on the mujahideen. The visitor emphasized that he did not find the topic itself shameful but he advised his colleagues to stop discussing it as it causes their opponents to deride them and describe them as mentally ill and sexually frustrated. The visitor added that he had encountered conversations among jihadists on Twitter about issues such as the capture of women from other ethnic groups (seemingly in times of war), which is also liable to portray Muslims in a negative light. Such correspondence gives the impression that the mujahideen wage war because they are motivated by lust that drives them crazy or because they seek to persecute women.⁶

⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- The Global Islamic Media Front published a mobile encryption program for sending text messages on Android and Symbian mobile phones, on different jihadist Web forums.⁷
- A visitor to the Al-Jihad Al-Alami jihadist Web forum asked if it was possible to create picric acid (a very acidic chemical element used as a strong explosive material) using ammonium nitrate instead of potassium nitrate. The military department administrator of the Web forum replied and explained an alternative way to create the acid using Nitrobenzene, Dinitrobenzene and Dinitrophenol.⁸
- The jihadist media institution of the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), Sawt Al-Islam, published a sixth instructional video in Uighur on the use of PK Kalashnikov rifles. The video was published as part of a series of military publications titled, "The Turkish Mujahideen's Express Mail". The series was first published during the second half of June 2013.⁹



The banner of the instructional video on how to use a PK Kalashnikov rifle

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Al-Hijrat, published a video (No. 9) titled, "Convoy of the Occupation".
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum directed his colleagues to photographs of two brothers of Eritrean origin who, according to him, had joined two jihadist movements affiliated with Al-Qaeda and operating in Syria – the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham – and were killed together in Al-Hasakah Province in northern Syria.¹⁰

⁷ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic); for further information see ICT Cyber-Desk, *Cyber-Terrorism Activities Report*, No. 5.

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

⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



Photographs of two brothers who had joined jihadist movements and were killed in Syria

- The jihadist media institution of the Al-Haqqani network (which has close ties to the Taliban and Al-Qaeda), Manba' Al-Jihad Studio, published a video clip that told the life story of the martyr Badruddin Haqqani, a senior member of the group.¹¹ In the summer of 2012, Western media sources reported that Haqqani had been killed by an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), or "drone", in the area of Waziristan. The video was evidence of his death, which until that point had not been confirmed.

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published new issues of its jihadist magazines in Arabic, English and Urdu: Issue No. 88 for August-September 2013 of the Arabic-language magazine *Al-Sumud* (56 pp.);¹² Issue No. 56 for August 2013 of the English-language magazine *In Fight* (166 pp.);¹³ Issue No. 57 for September 2013 of *Nawai Afghan Jihad*, in Urdu (71 pp.),¹⁴ all of which cover jihad in Afghanistan.



The covers of, from left to right, *Al-Sumud*, *Nawai Afghan Jihad* and *In Fight*

¹¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹² <http://alsomod-iea.info> (Arabic).

¹³ <http://www.ansar1.info/> (English).

¹⁴ <http://nawaiafghan.blogspot.com/2013/09/blog-post.html> (Urdu).

- The Al-Sham jihadist media institution published three issues of a new jihadist magazine *Sawt Al-Sham*, which covers jihad in Syria.¹⁵



The covers of, from left to right, the covers of *Sawt Al-Sham* Issues 1-3

- The Al-Balagh jihadist media institution published the ninth issue of the jihadist magazine *İslam Dünyası Dergisi*, in Turkish.¹⁶



The cover of *İslam Dünyası Dergisi*

- The Turkish periodical *Al-Waqi'* published Issue No. 49.¹⁷

¹⁵ https://twitter.com/kaatm_shamy (Arabic).

¹⁶ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

- The Valiat Dagestan Web site posted a link to download the Russian version of Issue No. 10 of the magazine *Inspire* under the logo “We Are All Osama”. No details regarding the Russian translators were provided on the forum.¹⁸

The periodical was originally published in English by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and has since been translated into several languages, including Arabic, French and Spanish. Its launch in several languages indicates the organization’s desire to reach as many target audiences as possible and to promote the “lone wolf” phenomenon, in which individual terrorist attacks are carried out by Muslims living in Western countries.

Reports from the Field Afghanistan-Pakistan

The Afghanistan region continues to be drenched with blood. On September 2, 2013, Taliban terrorists attacked an American army base in Afghanistan next to the Pakistan border; no casualties were reported in the incident.¹⁹ On September 13, 2013, the Taliban attacked again, this time using a truck bomb at the gates of the American Consulate in Herat in western Afghanistan. The attack killed three people but it was reported that no American employees of the consulate were injured.²⁰ The next day, another three Afghani civilians were killed in a car bomb explosion next to the city of Kandahar in Afghanistan. The explosion was directed at a convoy of NATO forces vehicles that passed by, but it was reported that all those killed were locals.²¹

Meanwhile, on September 7, 2013, Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry announced that it had released seven Afghani Taliban militants and returned them to Afghanistan as part of peace efforts in the region.²² In addition, as part of NATO forces’ attempts to fight terrorism in Afghanistan, a series of drone attacks took place in the eastern part of the country, killing nine civilians.²³

The bloodshed also continues in Pakistan: On September 1, 2013, nine Pakistani soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in the northwestern part of the country. A military

¹⁸ <http://vdagestan.com/10-%D0%B9-%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%80-%D0%B6%D1%83%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%B4%D0%BE%D1%85%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BB%D1%8F%D0%B9-%D0%BC%D1%8B-%D0%B2%D1%81%D0%B5.djihad> (Russian).

¹⁹ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2675181> (Hebrew).

²⁰ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2678083> (Hebrew).

²¹ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2678151> (Hebrew).

²² <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2676263> (Hebrew).

²³ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2676380> (Hebrew).

convoy had been driving along the border with Afghanistan when it drove over a bomb that had been planted at the side of the road.²⁴

- The Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published the text (in Arabic) of a message dispatched by Ahmad Faruq, official spokesperson for the Taliban in Pakistan, to the people of Pakistan titled, "Victory is the Ally of the Truth in the Battle between Islam and Democracy".²⁵

The Arabian Peninsula

Clashes continue to erupt in Yemen between Yemeni security forces and Al-Qaeda militants. Al-Qaeda's pattern of activity shows that it is focusing its efforts on assassinations of high-ranking Yemeni figures. During the beginning of September 2013, Mohammad Basindwa, the Prime Minister of Yemen, escaped an assassination attempt in Sana'a. Although there is no confirmation regarding the identity of the assailants, Yemeni security forces blame Al-Qaeda.²⁶ The organization succeeded in assassinating two Yemeni intelligence officers in Al-Qoton and Al-Hota, Hadramout Province.²⁷ On September 13, 2013, Al-Qaeda attacked the 37th Armored Brigade. In addition, it tried unsuccessfully to take control of Lawdar, Abyan Province. Yemeni security forces also take credit for victories in its war against Al-Qaeda. For example, AQAP announced that one of its senior leaders, Al-Ahmad bin Naser Dhahab, had been killed in an American drone attack.

- During the first half of September 2013, the jihadist media institution of AQAP, Al-Malahem, published the following:
 - A video clip titled, "The Fourth Appeal by the Saudi Vice Consul in Aden, Abdallah Muhammad Khalifah al-Khaildi", who was kidnapped by the organization in 2012. In the video he called on the Saudi nation to stage mass protests against the Saudi regime until it agrees to participate in negotiations with the organization for his release. In addition, he called on the world to put pressure on the Saudi regime to free the prisoners and sheikhs who have been sitting in Saudi prisons for years.²⁸

²⁴ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2675122> (Hebrew).

²⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁶ <http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/yemen/yemen-pm-escapes-assassination-attempt-1.1226071> (English).

²⁷ <http://www.yemenpost.net/Detail123456789.aspx?ID=3&SubID=7191&MainCat=3> (English).

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

- Announcement No. 67; a response to a speech given on August 22, 2013 by Abd Rabbuh Hadi, President of Yemen, to a group of officers and cadets at the police academy in Sana'a regarding the war on terrorism. According to the organization, Hadi's speech was biased, distorted the truth and was intended to justify U.S. operations against the people of Yemen. For example, he lied when he justified the U.S. bombing, claiming that the mujahideen intended to set off car bombs at oil facilities throughout the country. The organization also criticized Hadi's call to lay down arms. According to AQAP, this request should be directed at the Shi'ite Houthis in Yemen, who are fighting the Sunnis. In addition, the organization emphasized that Hadi's recent speech (as well as previous ones) ignored the attempts at mediation that clerics had made in February 2013 in an effort to reach a ceasefire agreement between AQAP and the government. According to the organization, Hadi himself refused to meet with the clerics and rejected the mujahideen's list of demands. According to the announcement, in light of these exclusion policies, the government was responsible for offending the dignity of Muslims and for the bloodshed between armed security forces and Al-Qaeda.²⁹
- Announcement No. 68; notification of the death of senior AQAP commander, Al-Ahmad bin Naser Dhahab. According to the organization, the United States was directly responsible for the killing in the framework of its battle against shari'a.³⁰

Iraq

During the first half of September 2013, the ethnic rift between the Sunni minority and the Shi'ite majority in Iraq reached new levels of tragedy after 16 members of a Shi'ite family (including six children and eight women) were shot to death in Latifiya, south of Baghdad.³¹ The killing spree took place after several car bombs exploded in a Shi'ite neighborhood in Baghdad. As a result of that operation, another 60 people were killed.³² In addition, the media reported a number of terrorist attacks that took place throughout Iraq,³³ one of which was directed against the Kurdish minority during a funeral procession.³⁴

²⁹ https://twitter.com/TUBE_Q (Arabic).

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

³¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/09/201394121743651749.html> (English).

³² <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/09/20139315536764542.html> (English).

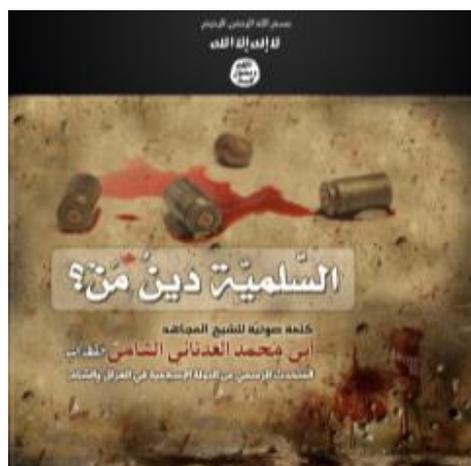
³³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/09/201391014241703836.html>;
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/2013/09/2013911165653613180.html>;

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/09/2013913121850644645.html>;

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/09/201391584310296354.html> (all in English).

³⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/09/2013914125744785379.html> (English).

- During the first half of September 2013, the jihadist media institution Al-'Itisam, which distributes propaganda for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, published the following:
 - An audio clip from Abu Muhammad al-'Adnani al-Shami, spokesman for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, titled, "Whose Religion is Peace?" In his speech, al-'Adnani addressed Sunni Muslims, in particular those living in Egypt, and emphasized that several Arab armies, such as those of Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Syria, are impeding mass protests and protecting oppressive regimes and should, therefore, be considered heretics. He emphasized that every Muslim has an individual obligation to fight these heretical armies, especially the Egyptian army, because of their attempts to hinder the implementation of shari'a. For example, [he said that] the Egyptian army even protects the Jews, Copts and Christians who fight against Allah and the Prophet Muhammad. Al-'Adnani went on to describe the war in Egypt as a war not against the Muslim Brotherhood, but rather against true Muslim monotheists. He criticized the Muslim Brotherhood for its embrace of politics and the democratic system, and defined it as a secular movement disguised as religious. Finally, al-'Adnani again emphasized that Muslims, especially those in Iraq and Egypt, must renounce the method of quiet protest and instead embrace jihad and take up arms against the armies of their countries. In addition, he called on the soldiers in these armies to take stock with themselves, desert their armies and embrace the correct faith. He also called on members of the Muslim Brotherhood and other political parties to return to the correct path and abandon the way of democracy.³⁵



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

Banner of al-'Adnani's speech

- A declaration of responsibility for 145 terrorist attacks that were carried out in Salah Al-Din Province and in northern Baghdad against Iraqi security forces during May 2013.³⁶
 - A declaration of responsibility for a series of terrorist attacks in and around Baghdad against Iraqi security forces on September 3, 2013. According to the organization, this series of attacks coincided with its policy of striking Shi'ite Iraqi security forces in response to their operations against Sunnis.³⁷
 - A declaration of responsibility for the killing of Sheikh Wissam al-Hardan, the senior leader of the "Awakening", in Baghdad on September 2, 2013. According to the declaration, three mujahideen were chosen to carry out this mission. They broke into the sheikh's home and killed the guards who were there. Two of the mujahideen blew themselves up among the remaining security personnel and the third blew himself up in the parlor together with al-Hardan and 30 other people.³⁸
 - An announcement regarding the organization's success in carrying out a night raid on sensitive Shi'ite targets that resulted in "hundreds of dead and injured", including many of those who collaborated with Shi'ites in and around Iraq. The raid occurred despite a comprehensive series of operations carried out by the Iraqi regime against members of Al-Qaeda throughout Baghdad. The announcement noted that the exact details of the operations and their outcomes will be published in the by the organization at a later date.³⁹
 - A video titled, "Kill Them Everywhere You Catch Them". The video documenting operations carried out by members of the organization in Diyala and Al-Anbar⁴⁰
- The Al-Masada jihadist media institution published a letter titled, "The Criteria Necessary to Join the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham" (31 pp.), by Sheikh Abu Hasan al-Azdi, a prominent anonymous writer on the Shumukh Al-Islam jihadist Web forum.⁴¹

In the letter, it was suggested that a committee of religious scholars be established to serve as a uniting "core" for the mujahideen and to work towards making peace with its

³⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

³⁹ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁰ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴¹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

opponents. It also noted that by establishing such a committee the mujahideen would be able to unite under one banner, which is the only solution to their troubles.

The initiative emphasized that members of the committee would have to meet certain criteria:

- o They must belong to the Salafist movement.
- o They must possess good character traits (bravery, honesty, etc.).
- o They must currently be jihad fighters or were jihad fighters in the past.
- o Their admission to the committee must be accepted by most, if not all, members.
- o The committee should be composed of representatives from all Muslim countries in which jihadist movements operate, and not only from Iraq.

In addition, it was suggested that the committee be tasked with several issues, including investigating the conduct of every jihadist movement or entity in Iraq in terms of their policies and sources of funding, among other things, in order to help them properly adhere to religious law. Other issues included the committee's important role in shaping the behavior of various ethnic groups living in Iraq, and the way in which [the committee] must conduct itself with the government institutions operating in the Arab and Islamic states.

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum directed his colleagues to a position paper in which he expressed sadness over the internal battles being waged among mujahideen in general, and between the Al-Nusra Front (Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria) and the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (AQI's affiliate) in particular. In that context, he also criticized other visitors to jihadist forums whom he accused of inciting internal strife themselves, and begged forum administrators to "strike with an iron hand" anyone who fans the flames of internal conflict among the mujahideen.⁴²

The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham: Operations in Syria

- During the first half of September 2013, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, Al-Furqan, published the following:
 - o A video documenting Qur'an memorization classes in mosques in the city of Al-Raqqah, 160 kilometers east of Aleppo. This video was published as part of a series titled, "Messages from the Land of Battles" (No.5)⁴³

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

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



Video clip of children memorizing the Qur'an

- During the first half of September 2013, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, Al-'Itisam, published the following:
 - Videos (No. 6-10) documenting various operations carried out by members of the organization on Syrian soil, including the distribution of food to residents and interviews with the civilian population. These videos were published as part of a series titled, "Window to the Land of Wars".⁴⁴
- A visitor to a jihadist Web forum distributed an 11-minute, independent short film that he produced at his own initiative with praise for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham titled, "This is My Belief". The video discussed the organization's principles of faith and supreme goal – the establishment of an Islamic state subject to shari'a. In addition, the movement sees all forms and schools of secularism – nationalism, communism, Baath Party (Arab-Socialist) ideology and politics – as complete heresy.⁴⁵
- The administrator of the jihadist Web forum of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham published a song that calls for sworn allegiance to the leader of the organization, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.⁴⁶

Al-Sham [The Levant]

After different players in the international arena, including the United States, concluded that the Syrian regime was responsible for carrying out a chemical attack against civilians in the suburbs of Damascus,⁴⁷ and after a disagreement broke out among them regarding whether or not to attack Syria,⁴⁸ Russia and the United States decided to take a

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

⁴⁵ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t04fhChiBGo#t=298> (Arabic); <http://iraqsham.com/vb>;

⁴⁷ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/09/2013911161914658909.html>;
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/10256236/Syrian-opposition-claims-1300-killed-in-chemical-attack.html> (both in English).

⁴⁸ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/11/us-syria-crisis-russia-parliament-idUSBRE98A0WI20130911> (English).

diplomatic approach to dismantling Bashar al-Assad's cache of chemical weapons.⁴⁹ However, while the international arena busies itself with preparing an outline for the operation, the civil war continues.

The United Nations Refugee Agency reported that there are now over two million Syrian refugees in addition to the approximately four million Syrians who have been displaced within the country.⁵⁰ Even rebel activities continue at full force and it was reported that during the first half of September 2013, two prominent rebel groups in Aleppo – the Islamist Al-Tawhid Brigade and the Fateh Brigade – merged in an effort to improve the military function played by the two movements under one leadership.⁵¹

- During the first half of September 2013, the media institution of the Al-Nusra Front (Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria), Al-Manarah Al-Bayda, published the following:
 - Announcements (Nos. 384-398) claiming responsibility for different terrorist attacks that it carried out against Syrian security forces.⁵²
 - A video documenting several operations by the organization in and around Homs.⁵³
- During the first half of September 2013, the jihadist news agency Al-Himam, which tracks developments in Syria, published the following:
 - A video clip (No. 19) documenting a visit to the flour mills operated by members of the Al-Nusra Front in Hasaka, northeast Syria.⁵⁴
 - A video clip (No. 20) documenting the distribution of food by mujahideen to residents of the War village in Homs.⁵⁵
 - A video clip (No. 21) documenting a tour of the city, Khan Al-'Asal and a meeting with mujahideen in the Al-Nusra Front in Homs.⁵⁶
 - A video clip (No. 22) documenting mujahideen's visit to a hospital in the Islamic Medical Assembly and a meeting with several doctors at the Charity Hospital in Aleppo.⁵⁷
 - A video clip (No. 23) documenting a visit to the Al-Hawayqah neighborhood in Deir Al-Zour and a meeting with local mujahideen in the Al-Nusra Front.⁵⁸

⁴⁹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/09/2013911161914658909.html> (English).

⁵⁰ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/09/20139364935830495.html> (English).

⁵¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/09/201391413414453862.html> (English).

⁵² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁴ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency (Arabic).

⁵⁵ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency (Arabic).

⁵⁶ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency (Arabic).

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

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted a news interview with Abu Basir, Emir of the Al Nusra Front, conducted by the Syrian news agency Sana. In the interview, Abu Basir said that his organization was offering various religious courses on the Qur'an, tradition, religious law and more, and that even members of the Free Syrian Army were studying in the courses. Abu Basir said that he attributes the Syrian regime's refusal to surrender to the rebels to "our sins and our failure to follow the commandments of Allah – may he be blessed and exalted". When Abu Basir was asked for "the secret to the fear" that Al-Nusra Front activists instill in Assad's supporters, he replied that it had to do with the "love of death for Allah's sake" that Al-Nusra Front fighters feel. In addition, Abu Basir discussed the abandonment of political efforts taken to end the war and hinted that the politicians were exploiting the blood of the martyrs and the mujahideen, which flows through the trenches, so that they could live lives of pampering and luxury in hotels far from the daily battles. When he was asked for Al-Nusra Front's vision for building the future Syria, he replied that the organization supports the establishment of an advanced and modern country based on shari'a.⁵⁹
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum asked why the Syrian regime was trying to obscure the fact that it bombed its own people with chemical weapons. In addition, he described the Free Syrian Army as having stood by and allowed Bashar al-Assad to do so. In response, another visitor said that he was certain that one of the Free Syrian Army parties was responsible for the chemical attack – but other visitors disagreed. In that context, one said that "it was crazy" to blame the Free Syrian Army for killing their women and children. Another visitor said that he believed that the West had successfully penetrated the ranks of the Syrian regime and was responsible for the chemical attack. He noted that Bashar al-Assad had committed heinous crimes of his own but the West was the one guilty of using chemical weapons against civilians.⁶⁰
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted a news item according to which five fighter battalions transferred their oath of allegiance from the Al-Nusra Front to the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, AQI's affiliate in Iraq. The visitor claimed that the Salah Al-Din Brigades, originally affiliated with the Free Syrian Army, was among the most prominent of these five battalions.⁶¹ The announcement served as additional

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

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

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

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

evidence of the rift that formed among Al-Qaeda affiliates in Iraq and Syria since April 2013.

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

Recently, the Egyptian Army intensified its tone against extremists in the Sinai Peninsula and significantly expanded its counterterrorism campaign there. On September 3, 2013, military helicopters launched 13 rockets at jihad activists next to the Gaza-Egypt border; it was reported that 15 armed men were killed in the attack.⁶² In addition, Egypt reinforced its forces in the Sinai Peninsula with the goal of "clearing the villages of terrorists".⁶³ In addition, there were repeated reports of army attacks against various terrorist targets. On September 7, 2013, dozens of armed militants were killed and injured in a military incursion in the Sinai Peninsula in what was deemed the largest operation by the Egyptian military and police force since the Yom Kippur War in 1973.⁶⁴ The next day, military helicopters bombed homes and vehicles belonging to Islamic militants in the northern Sinai Peninsula.⁶⁵ On September 10, 2013, it was reported that security forces had killed nine militants and arrested ten others in the northern Sinai Peninsula.⁶⁶

Jihadist organizations in the Sinai Peninsula were quick to react. On September 11, 2013, a series of attacks against Egyptian security forces took place in Rafah, in which 11 people were killed and 17 others were injured. The attacks were directed at the Egyptian Intelligence Headquarters in Rafah, and included the explosion of a car driven by a suicide bomber and the launching of rockets.⁶⁷ Later that day, Ansar Beit Al-Maqdes, an organization affiliated with Al-Qaeda and operating in the Sinai Peninsula, took responsibility for the attack.⁶⁸

- The Salafi-jihadist movement in the Sinai Peninsula published a public statement titled, "Lying Collaborators" in which it blamed the Egyptian Army and security forces for crimes against residents of the Sinai Peninsula. According to the statement, Egyptian security forces were leading a false propaganda campaign in order to justify their operations in the region. In addition, the organization denied reports of Al-Qaeda's presence in the Sinai Peninsula and rejected the attempt to connect the organization to

⁶² <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2675565> (Hebrew).

⁶³ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2676294> (Hebrew).

⁶⁴ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2676327> (Hebrew).

⁶⁵ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2676536> (Hebrew).

⁶⁶ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2677068> (Hebrew).

⁶⁷ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2677518> (Hebrew).

⁶⁸ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2677706> (Hebrew).

the man arrested by Egyptian security forces for his alleged involvement in the Sharm el-Sheikh and Taba terrorist attacks in 2005.⁶⁹

- During the first half of September 2013, Ansar Beit Al-Maqdes, , an organization affiliated with Al-Qaeda and operating in the Sinai Peninsula, published the following:
 - A video taking responsibility for an assassination attempt on the Egyptian Minister of Interior, Muhammad Ibrahim, in Nasr. In the announcement, the organization repeated the Salafi-jihadist doctrine and hinted that democracy is idolatrous and contradicts the Divine commandment to preserve monotheism. In addition, it said that the assassination attempt on the Minister of Interior, which it described as a “praiseworthy attack”, was carried out in response to mini-attacks directed against Muslims and mosques in Egypt. It explained that the organization’s intention was to punish anyone who took part in killing and attacking their targets, especially General al-Sisi and Minister of Interior Ibrahim, and that all Muslims must join “their brothers, the mujahideen, in their war against the criminals”.⁷⁰



The banner claiming responsibility for the assassination attempt on the Egyptian Minister of Interior

- An announcement criticizing the large military operation being led by the Egyptian Army against residents of the Sinai Peninsula. The army was accused of war crimes for the killing of Egyptian civilians, destroying mosques and homes, and collaborating with the Zionist enemy. In light of this, the organization noted that it saw fit to respond to these crimes and claimed responsibility for the

⁶⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁰ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb>; http://arabic.cnn.com/2013/middle_east/9/5/egypt-car-minister-interior/index.html (both in Arabic).

- terrorist attack that was carried out against the Military Intelligence Headquarters in Egyptian Rafah.⁷¹
- During the first half of September 2013, the Al-Raya jihadist media institution of the Army of the Nation, a Salafi-jihadist organization in Jerusalem, published the following:
 - An announcement praising the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham and the Taliban in Pakistan for their successful rescue operation of prisoners from jails in Iraq and Pakistan. It also accused the State of Israel of deceiving Muslims by making apparent gestures in the framework of negotiations with the Palestinian Authority, during which they released 104 Palestinian prisoners. According to the organization, every Muslim is obligated to work for the release of all prisoners in enemy jails. The only way to accomplish this is through jihad, and not through negotiations and concessions. The organization promised to act shortly for the release of Muslim prisoners.⁷²
 - A press conference that took place on August 14, 2013 in the Gaza Strip criticizing "The [Egyptian] Army's Massacre of Our People in Egypt", namely, the Muslim Brotherhood.⁷³
 - Jundallah, a Salafi-jihadist organization in the Sinai Peninsula, claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Egyptian Army Intelligence building in Egyptian Rafah in revenge for an Egyptian military operation in the Sinai Peninsula.⁷⁴
 - The jihadist media institution Ibn Taymiyya published a video about the show of solidarity demonstrated by the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Gaza Strip with the people of Syria and Egypt.⁷⁵
 - A visitor to the jihadist Web forum, The Lovers of The Islamic Fairs of Heaven, posted a media report according to which Ramzi Muwafi, Osama bin Laden's doctor, was leading a group of mujahideen in the Sinai Peninsula in planning acts of jihad against the army and police force. According to the article, Muwafi is considered an Al-Qaeda expert on chemical weapons and is now serving as emir of the organization's affiliate in the Sinai Peninsula.⁷⁶

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

⁷² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷³ <http://www.minbar-alansar.net/archives/426> (Arabic).

⁷⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁶ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb>; <http://www.el-balad.com/606606> (both in Arabic).

The Maghreb [North Africa]

AQIM launched a video criticizing the Moroccan regime, which ended with a call by Abdelmalek Droukdel, the current leader of AQIM, to young Moroccans urging them to join the ranks of jihadists. Experts believe that the video reflects AQIM's frustration with Morocco's steadfastness in the face of terrorist attacks as well as its intense desire to succeed in breaking its resolve.⁷⁷ Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, also called on his supporters to spread the organization's doctrine among the people of the Maghreb and the Sahel in general, and among the people of Algeria in particular. Experts believe that the message reflects the desire of Al-Qaeda leaders to maintain the organization's "achievements" in the Maghreb, where several groups either affiliated with it or funded by it are operating.⁷⁸

The media is reporting that the security establishment in Morocco is detaining mujahideen who are returning from "all fronts", most of whom are suspected of recruiting fighters to the arenas of jihad in Syria and Mali. A Moroccan geo-political expert said that since Morocco serves as an important strategic connection point between Africa, Europe and the Arab world, its destabilization and decline are [top] priority for Al-Qaeda, which is trying to exploit the chaos in the region "in order to turn North Africa into a volcanic crater".⁷⁹

Security forces in Tunisia,⁸⁰ Algeria,⁸¹ and even Europe (Spain)⁸² are also involved in clashes with terrorists. A Tunisian civilian discussing the problem of terrorism in his country said that real jihad means fighting and killing the terrorists since their only goal is to destabilize countries and destroy their young people.⁸³ The analyst Ahmed El-Miloudi said that he views the efforts being made today by security forces in European countries (such as Spain) to stop terrorists as evidence that Europe is increasingly becoming a refuge for terrorist networks that specialize in imparting the AQIM doctrine.⁸⁴

Benghazi, the second largest city in Libya, and other cities such as Sirte⁸⁵ continue to suffer due to the poor security situation.⁸⁶ An employee in the Ministry of Education said

⁷⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/09/16/feature-01 (English).

⁷⁸ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/09/18/feature-01 (English).

⁷⁹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/09/06/reportage-01 (English).

⁸⁰ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/09/10/feature-01 (English).

⁸¹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/09/04/feature-01;

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/09/05/feature-03 (both in English).

⁸² http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/09/09/feature-01 (English).

⁸³ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/09/10/feature-01 (English).

⁸⁴ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/09/09/feature-01 (English).

⁸⁵ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/09/02/feature-02 (English).

⁸⁶ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/09/13/reportage-01 (English).

that, unfortunately, a real willingness has not yet been seen on the part of senior officials to build up an army or police force despite the wave of systematic assassinations of security personnel by militias,⁸⁷ especially in Benghazi.⁸⁸ Mohamed al-Hijazi, former spokesman for the Libyan security establishment, described the situation in his country as a "security swamp" and blamed the government and the General National Congress (GNC) for not providing an adequate budget or a willingness to deal with the problem, in his opinion.⁸⁹ Many Libyans are concerned about their country's situation and wonder if they have been forgotten, especially at a time when the world's focus is on the Syrian crisis following the chemical weapons attack.⁹⁰ Captain Hassan Alakori, head of the police station in Benghazi, is also worried about the future of Libya's next generation, which according to him is standing at a crossroads. "Youth...is being recruited to go to Syria under fatwas of jihad...[and] regardless of whether we agree or disagree on what is happening in Syria, from a security standpoint, I see it as draining youth from Libya."⁹¹

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Al-Andalus, published a video titled, "Morocco...Kingdom of Corruption and Tyranny". The video blamed the Moroccan royal family, led by King Mohammed VI, for collaborating with the West, especially the United States and the Zionists, in the framework of the "war on terrorism". In addition, he accused the royal family of corruption, failing to implement shari'a, seeking out democracy and oppressing members of the opposition.⁹²

⁸⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/09/09/feature-03 (English).

⁸⁸ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/09/04/feature-02 (English).

⁸⁹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/09/09/feature-03 (English).

⁹⁰ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/09/13/reportage-01 (English).

⁹¹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/09/13/reportage-01;

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/09/11/feature-01 (both in English).

⁹² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



The video banner

- During the first half of September 2013, the Al-Bayareq jihadist media institution of Ansar Al-Shari'a, a close affiliate of Al-Qaeda, published the following:
 - A public statement regarding the Tunisian government's decision to include the group on its list of terrorist organizations. The organization emphasized that it operates independently and does not have ties to organizations outside of Tunisia. However, it praised the Salafi-jihadist path and emphasized that jihad constitutes a central and important part of Islam. In addition, it criticized the Tunisian government and accused it of becoming infected by material and foreign interests.⁹³
 - An announcement about the upgrade of the organization's Web site at <http://www.ansar-ashariaa.com>.⁹⁴
- Al-Sadiq al-Gharyani, Mufti of the National Transition Council of Libya, the official body representing the rebel forces since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi's regime, said during the Libyan television program "Islam and Life" that jihad in his country is "necessary and ongoing". He said that the rebels must take up arms again and defend their land since it is not befitting to betray those who were killed in the revolutionary events of February 17. The mufti's words were said against the backdrop of the difficult security situation in Libya where armed militias, some of which are affiliated with Al-Qaeda, operate almost undisturbed under the nose of the leadership.⁹⁵

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

⁹⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁵ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb>; <http://www.tanasuh.com/online/biography.php>; <http://magharebia.com/ar/articles/awi/features/2013/09/11/feature-01>; <http://magharebia.com/ar/articles/awi/features/2013/09/12/feature-01>;

- The Signed-In-Blood Battalion, which operates mainly in the Sahara, published a video in memory of Sheikh Abd al-Hamid Abu Zayd, a senior commander in AQIM, who was killed in March 2013 in clashes with French security forces that had invaded Mali.⁹⁶

Mauritania

*The media is reporting that terrorists are trying to cross the border into southern Mauritania where training camps are being run by Salafi groups but the Mauritanian authorities deny this. The analyst, Abdou Ould Mohamed, noted that even though Mauritanian security forces invest a great deal of energy in expelling terrorist groups, including those from one of the terrorist bases in Mali, they can still be found in northern Mali where most of the camps were destroyed. In light of the jihadist threat against countries in the Maghreb, the Sahel and the sub-Saharan, a number of countries declared that they were taking steps to secure their borders with Mali. Nevertheless, AQIM was found to still be recruiting fighters from the sub-Saharan region and is also forming ties with the Nigerian Salafi-jihadist group Boko Haram.*⁹⁷

Egypt

*The wave of arrests of members of the Muslim Brotherhood and their exclusion from the public space in Egypt continues. On September 1, 2013, the General Prosecutor in Egypt announced that deposed President Muhammed Morsi, would stand trial for violence and incitement to violence during the demonstrations for his ousting in December. The prosecutor announced that Morsi, along with 14 other members of the Muslim Brotherhood, would stand trial in the criminal courthouse in Cairo on charges of "violence and incitement to murder and violence".*⁹⁸

*While these developments were taking place, the Egyptian government was instructed to establish a council composed of 50 officials and members of the public representing all strata of Egyptian society, except for the Muslim Brotherhood, to formulate the new constitution.*⁹⁹

<http://magharebia.com/ar/articles/awi/features/2013/09/12/feature-03>;

<http://magharebia.com/ar/articles/awi/reportage/2013/09/13/reportage-01> (all in Arabic).

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

⁹⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/09/05/feature-03 (English).

⁹⁸ <http://gulfnews.com/news/region/egypt/egypt-mohammad-mursi-to-stand-trial-for-inciting-murder-1.1226377> (English).

⁹⁹ <http://www.haaretz.co.il/news/world/middle-east/.premium-1.2111949> (Hebrew).

- An unknown jihadist group called Al-Furqan published a video in which it claimed responsibility for an attempted terrorist attack on a commercial ship that passed through the Suez Canal.¹⁰⁰
- The exiled Egyptian Salafi-jihadist Sheikh Hani al-Siba'i, who heads the Almaqreze Center for Historical Studies in London, published an announcement criticizing the Egyptian Army and General al-Sisi. He accused them of publishing false articles in the media, including one about the capture of AQAP's leader. According to al-Siba'i, the publications were part of a deliberate deception by the Egyptian authorities in order to present an image of itself as having the upper hand against jihadist organizations.¹⁰¹
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum asked why there were fewer Egyptian mujahideen in the arenas of jihad in Iraq, Syria, Chechnya, and other locations around the world. The visitor noted that everyone undoubtedly knows of Ayman al-Zawahiri, the current leader of Al-Qaeda, as well as Abu Hamza al-Muhajir, one of the founders of AQI. However, he stressed that if one were to compare the numbers of Egyptian and Tunisian mujahideen, a clear difference would be found in favor of the Tunisians. In response, another visitor attributed the Egyptian absence from arenas of jihad to several factors, such as the "polluted" media that is destroying society, poverty, society's ignorance of foreign affairs, the absence of an internal enemy threatening the Egyptians from within, etc. A third visitor said that he disagreed with the assertion that there are fewer Egyptians in the arenas of jihad, and noted that there are five types of jihad, aside from jihad of the soul, from which Muslims can choose. Another visitor objected and claimed that jihad of the soul is the most important.¹⁰²
- A visitor to the Lovers of the Islamic Fairs of Heaven jihadist Web forum accused members of the secular Tamarud movement in Egypt of belonging to the Shi'a Council. According to him, this Shi'ite movement had planned the revolution against the Muslim Brotherhood in advance and kept their plans secret.¹⁰³

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.aljazeera.net/news/pages/50f1c9bb-21cf-4988-8516-49e3c249becf> (Arabic).

¹⁰¹ <http://www.almaqreze.net/ar/news.php?readmore=2234> (Arabic).

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

¹⁰³ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb>; <http://www.m-fatimiya.org/index.php>; <http://almesryoon.com/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A9/242235-%D9%85%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A3%D8%A9-%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D9%8A%D8%AA%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%84%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%A4%D9%83%D8%AF-%D8%A3%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D9%8A%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%AF%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%88%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%AF-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%B3%D9%89> (all in Arabic).

Somalia

On September 7, 2013, a massive terrorist attack took place at a crowded coffee shop in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, killing 18 people. Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack, which involved two explosions that occurred one minute apart – one by a car bomb and one by a suicide bomber.¹⁰⁴

Senior Somali jihad activist, Omar Hamami, also known as Abu-Mansur al-Amriki, was killed during a raid by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen following internal disagreements between activists.¹⁰⁵

- The administrator of the Al-Jihad Al-Alami jihadist Web forum posted a report according to which Abu Mansur al-Amriki, a prominent leader among the mujahideen in Somalia, had been killed along with his guard, Usama al-Baritani, and another person. The three were killed in an attack by members of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.¹⁰⁶ In a separate announcement posted on the Al-Jihad Al-Alami and Sinam Al-Islam jihadist Web forums, the Islamic World Issues Studies Center published identical details about the killing and mentioned that the identity of the third person was unknown.¹⁰⁷
- The Islamic World Issues Studies Center published a report on the Al-Jihad Al-Alami jihadist Web forum according to which followers of Abu Zubeyr, leader of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in Somalia, kidnapped the wife of Abu Mansur al-Amriki, a prominent leader among the mujahideen in Somalia, and even killed two people who supported al-Amriki and provided him and his family with assistance. The Center condemned these acts and called them despicable.¹⁰⁸
- The Muslim Youth Center, a Salafi-jihadist organization in Kenya affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, released a public statement regarding the announcement of Abu Mansur al-Amriki's death. The organization inquired into the matter and confirmed that the announcement was accurate. According to the Muslim Youth Center, al-Amriki had indeed come to Somalia in order to fulfill the commandment of jihad. However, over the years he had undergone an unfortunate change. He went from being a modest person to a man motivated by his ego, which threatened to create a rift among the ranks of the Somali Al-Shabab. This happened at a time when the leader of Al-Shabab, Sheikh Abu Zubeyr, was working to unite the ranks of the mujahideen in Somalia against their

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/09/20139792856399723.html> (English).

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-4429308,00.html> (Hebrew).

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

¹⁰⁷ <http://snamalislam.com/vb>; <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (both in Arabic).

¹⁰⁸ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

enemies. According to the organization, al-Amriki tried to undermine Abu-Zubeyr's leadership by spreading rumors via the Internet about him and about the poor state of affairs in Somalia. In this way, he led himself down a path to self-destruction and, in the end, his betrayal of Al-Shabab cost him his life.¹⁰⁹

The Caucasus

- The Kavkaz Center Web site blog announced that the name of the site's administrator, Mikael Sturje, had been added to the Russian Intelligence Service's "black list". In addition, it said that Russia had asked to add the administrator's name to the list of terrorists wanted by the United Nations. In addition to his work on the Web site, Sturje serves as Vice President of the "Civilian Forum of Russia and Finland", and he works on the Kavkaz Center Web site from a headquarters that was set up in Helsinki specifically for this purpose.¹¹⁰
- The Kavkaz Center Web site blog wrote positively of the interview that the Azeri news agency conducted with the Vice President of the Turkish IMKANDER organization, Muray Ozer. The stated purpose of the prestigious organization is to offer assistance to refugees from the Caucasus who arrive in Turkey. Ozer was recently accused of terrorist activities by the Russian authorities. During the interview, Ozer discussed this accusation and noted that the Russian authorities are the ones engaging in terrorism against their Muslim citizens.¹¹¹
- As follow-up to the two instructional videos that it posted in August, the Valiat Dagestan Web site posted a third instructional video on circumventing censorship and blockage in cyberspace by using VPNs. The Web site emphasized that these videos can be downloaded to any computer and mobile device regardless of the installed operating system.¹¹²

Iran

- The leadership of Ansar Al-Islam, a Salafi-jihadist group in Iraq, published a missive with a message for Sunnis living in Iran. The letter first states that Sunnah represents true Islam while Shi'a contradicts Islam's fundamental principles and only works to amass power, control and money. For this reason, Iran today does not represent Islam

¹⁰⁹ <http://themovingcaravan.tumblr.com/post/61206230852/for-immediate-release-statement-on-abu-mansoor> (English).

¹¹⁰ http://www.kcblog.info/2013/09/blog-post_7713.html (Russian).

¹¹¹ http://www.kcblog.info/2013/09/blog-post_13.html (Russian).

¹¹² <http://vdagestan.com/obxod-blokirovaniya-zapreshhennyx-sajtov-ch-3-dlya-android.djihad> (Russian).

but rather it is the enemy of the Sunnah and is trying to expand its Shi'ite revolution. Sunnis in and around Iran are the ones carrying on the spark of Islam and will even control the region at the end of the day. They must fight every attempt to bring Sunnis and Shi'ites together, and they must establish a political Sunni shari'a authority that is not dependent on the Iranian government and that will implement the principles of shari'a in preparation for Sunnah rule in the country. It is important to remember that the Sunnis in Iran have a great historic responsibility and must recognize the magnitude of the present challenge.¹¹³

The West

- A visitor to the Lovers of the Islamic Fairs of Heaven jihadist Web forum posted that Spanish security forces in Melilla had arrested Muhammad al-Bali, a Moroccan citizen, for his alleged membership in two terrorist cells in Morocco that were recruiting fighters and spreading jihadist ideology. A few days after al-Bali's arrest, security forces arrested 39-year-old Yassin Ahmed Laarbi, a Spanish citizen of Moroccan origin, for allegedly recruiting and sending mujahideen to Syria. He was arrested in Ceuta.¹¹⁴



Muhammad al-Bali

- Millat Ibrahim, a German Salafi-jihadist group denied reports that one of its members, Abu Talha al-Almani, had been killed in an aerial bombardment of a Free Syrian Army post. The organization said that al-Almani had never been a member of the Free Syrian Army and that he was only injured in a Syrian aerial attack on the home of a mujahid. The organization added that despite his injury, al-Almani continues to fight against Syrian forces and fulfill the commandment for jihad.¹¹⁵

¹¹³ <http://shabakataljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹⁴ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb>; <http://magharebia.com/ar/articles/awi/features/2013/09/19/feature-01>

(both in Arabic).

¹¹⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Abu Talha al-Almani is a former German rapper who converted to Islam and is considered to be a senior leader in Millat Ibrahim. According to the announcement, which was not officially confirmed, al-Almani is a fighter in the “Migrants’ Battalion” which is composed of foreign fighters and a Chechen leader.

Facebook and Twitter

- On September 2, 2013, a new Twitter account was opened under the name “Sawt Al-Sham” by the Al-Sham jihadist media institution and deals with the arena of jihad in Syria.¹¹⁶



Twitter account banner

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted that the official Facebook account for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham in Damascus had been created. A few days later, the page was taken down.¹¹⁷



The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham’s official Facebook page

¹¹⁶ https://twitter.com/kaatm_shamy (Arabic).

¹¹⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (in Arabic).

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted a list of Twitter accounts that promote jihadist values on the Internet, including:
 - The Twitter account of the Al-I'tisam jihadist media institution (<https://twitter.com/e3tsemo>)
 - The Twitter account of the Baqiyah jihadist media institution (https://twitter.com/Baqiya_Medi)
 - The Twitter account of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, AQI's affiliate in Iraq (<https://twitter.com/Sharia4Sham>)
 - The Twitter account of the Army of Immigrants and Supporters, a Salafi-jihadist movement operating in Syria (<https://twitter.com/MohajreenAnsar>)
 - The Twitter account of a fighter in the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham who goes by the name Abu Waheeb (<https://twitter.com/AboWhaeeb>). Abu Waheeb is one of dozens of terrorists who, during the second half of July 2013, escaped the Iraqi prison Abu Gharib, which was attacked by Al-Qaeda fighters operating in the country.¹¹⁸



**The Twitter account of Abu Waheeb,
a fighter in the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham**

¹¹⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; http://www.islamrevo.com/2013/09/blog-post_13.html;
<http://independencenews.net/news.php?action=view&id=17164> (all in Arabic).