

Global Jihad: Summary of Information from Arabic Media Sources

The First Half of January 2011

This report summarizes the most prominent articles published in the Arabic media on the subject of global Jihad over the course of the first half of January 2011. Following are the main issues raised in this report:

- The Arab media reported on conflicts taking place with the Al-Qaeda leadership over the organization's strategy regarding terror attacks.
- There are increasing indications that Al-Qaeda prefers to carry out continuous small-scale attacks with the goal of wearing down the enemy forces to perpetrating sporadic large-scale attacks.
- The "Islamic State of Iraq" organization has been waging a campaign against the Iraqi Christians.
- The attack on the Coptic Church in Alexandria was widely covered by the Arab media.
- The Al-Qaeda organization is focusing its efforts on attacking Yemen security forces.
- Saudi Arabia published a new list of wanted men, which includes 47 wanted Al-Qaeda members.

Afghanistan – Pakistan:The Al-Qaeda Leadership

- On January 1st, 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper published an article on the subject of the differences of opinion that have arisen within the Al-Qaeda leadership regarding the organization's strategy regarding terror attacks. According to the article, Saif Al-Adel, who was recently released from prison, demanded that all attacks that have been carried out by Al-Qaeda in the past, including the September 11th attacks, be reexamined in order to "evaluate the previous stage, draw conclusions and formulate future strategy". The article states that Saif Al-Adel wrote five letters demanding this reexamination of tactics, which angered bin Laden to such an extent that Al-Zawahiri called Saif Al-Adel personally and told him to retract his opinions.

The article further states that Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, who was also recently released from prison, published a book containing veiled criticism of the Al-Qaeda leadership. In the book, Abu Ghaith writes "the Al-Qaeda leadership should avoid attacks which could harm all the Muslims".

In addition, the article reports that Abu Al-Walid Al-Masri, whose alias is Mustafa Hamid and who is close to bin Laden, called for the dismantling of Al-Qaeda because "unknown organizations, with bloodthirsty histories, had joined Al-Qaeda" without bin Laden being aware of their true goals. According to the article, Hamid also stated that Al-Qaeda had not made any significant progress or achieved any successes, whereas the enemy had achieved many accomplishments thanks to the organization.¹

¹ Al-Hayat, 1.1.2011: <http://ksa.daralhayat.com>

Al-Qaeda - General

- On January 10th, 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper quoted Dr. Ahmad Al-Muwakili, a researcher in matters of security, regarding Al-Qaeda's financial sources. According to Al-Muwakili, Al-Qaeda employs any means of financing it can. The organization does not hesitate to finance its activities through drug trafficking, despite this being against its ideology, because "all the means of financing which were used in the past, such as charitable organizations and the financial transfers, have been stopped or have become much more difficult to use".²
- On January 10th, 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper quoted Dr. Abdul Munim Al-Mushawwah, the supervisor of the "Al-Sakinah" program, who stated that Saudi Arabia has succeeded in its fight against terrorism, both on the ideological front and the security front and, as a result of its success, Al-Qaeda must now train its activists outside of the country. The article further quoted Al-Mushawwah regarding the role the Internet plays in Al-Qaeda's recruitment process. According to Al-Mushawwah, the organization relies on the Internet in several ways to recruit activists: "The Internet gives them a more extensive pool from which to recruit operatives and to create cells which are located far away from the organization's center and which do not require a direct connection; it also enables the organization to revive ideas of Jihad and Takfir on their websites".

Furthermore, according to Al-Mushawwah, external intelligence organizations are supporting Al-Qaeda. He explained that when Al-Qaeda releases a video tape "we believe that there are enthusiastic youngsters who disseminate it on more than 200 websites. However, when it is distributed in one hour, via

² Al-Hayat, 10.1.2011: <http://ksa.daralhayat.com>

more than 5,000 links, this confirms that an expert technical team of the highest caliber is directing this activity, as individual people or even an entire organization cannot do this without outside support. There are also websites with a high technical capability, which are set up within one week and which are replaced by others within a short period of time...”.

Al-Mushawwah stated that the weakening of Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan has resulted in the strengthening of the organization's branches in Iraq, Yemen and Algeria. He further stated that “Al-Qaeda has a new training and fighting arena in the Horn of Africa, where they have an alliance with tribes and the armed militias”. Al-Qaeda aids in protecting the tribes from the Horn of Africa to Mali. Al-Mushawwah added that Al-Qaeda has promised to carry out terror attacks in South Sudan if the region breaks away from the North.³

On January 15th, 2011, Al-Mushawwah stated in an interview with “Al-Sharq Al-Awsat” that Al-Qaeda has institutes and academies on the Internet which enable new activists to take courses on the use of firearms and on the preparation of explosives and poisons, as well as courses on idealism.⁴

- On January 12th, 2011, the “Al-Hayat” newspaper published an article on Al-Qaeda's recruitment methods. According to the article, while Al-Qaeda uses the Internet as a recruiting tool, recruitment “in the field” is still the organization's most preferred method.

The article quotes Dr. Hani Masira, Head of the Al-Mujhir Institute for Strategic Studies and Research in Dubai, who spoke on the subject of recruitment. According to Masira, radical organizations' recruitment activities in the field commence with religious discourse tied to political culture, such as

³ Al-Hayat, 10.1.2011: <http://ksa.daralhayat.com>

⁴ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 15.1.2011: <http://www.aawsat.com>

hostility towards the West and everything modern. The recruiters take advantage of some of the sayings on "Takfir" to create feelings of alienation among the recruits; they then present Jihad as the only solution and convince the recruits that adherence to Islam can be done only through Jihad.

Masira further explained that the Saudi Al-Qaeda activists residing outside of Saudi Arabia play a financial, logistical and intelligence role, in addition to the military one. According to Masira, most of these Saudi Al-Qaeda operatives are in Yemen, which serves as the base from which Al-Qaeda can plan and perpetrate attacks across the Gulf region. Some of the Saudi operatives are also in Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan. He added that Al-Qaeda's current tactic is "an attempt to harm and deplete the enemy's forces by waging a war of attrition", and that the organization's activists were not expecting any large-scale attacks as executed in the past.⁵

- The Arab media reported that, according to American intelligence, Al-Qaeda may attempt to hide TATP explosives inside thermos bottles, which would then be brought on aircrafts by passengers. In light of this information, the American security establishment intends to increase inspection of drinking containers brought aboard aircrafts.⁶

Afghanistan

- On January 6th, 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that the Afghan authorities had arrested seven men in Kabul who were planning to assassinate the Vice President and to attack the Presidential Palace. According to the article, the National Security Administration's spokesman announced that five of the detainees were planning to attack the mansion of the Vice

⁵ Al-Hayat, 12.1.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

⁶ Al-Jazeera, 14.1.2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>; Al-Hayat, 15.1.2011: <http://www.daralhayat.com>

President, Hamid Karzai, and, once inside, to blow themselves up. The remaining two detainees were members of the Al-Haqqani network and were planning to attack the Presidential Palace, which is under tight surveillance.⁷

- On January 10th, 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that one of the Turkish hostages who had been kidnapped in eastern Afghanistan in December of 2010 was released following negotiations with the Turkish embassy in Afghanistan. According to the article, obtaining money in exchange for the release of hostages is a common Taliban pattern of behavior.⁸

Pakistan

- The Arab media reported that the United States was continuing to bomb insurgents using unmanned aircrafts. While the Pakistani government has officially protested this practice, the media has reported that such attacks on the Taliban were continuing.⁹

Iraq

- On January 4th, 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that, according to the French Press Agency, the "Islamic State of Iraq" organization has accepted responsibility for two attacks in Al-Anbar and Mosul. The attack in Al-Anbar was against a fortified government security complex in Ramadi. The "Islamic State of Iraq" revealed that the attack was executed in two stages. First, a car bomb was set off at the check point situated at the entrance to the government complex. Then a suicide bomber blew himself up

⁷ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat. 6.1.2011: <http://aawsat.com>

⁸ Al-Hayat, 10.1.2011: <http://www.daralhayat.com>

⁹ Al-Jazeera network, 1.1.2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>; Al-Hayat, 14.1.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

amongst the crowd which gathered to aid the casualties from the first explosion.

The "Islamic State of Iraq" also claimed responsibility for attacking a police commander in Mosul. The attack was carried out by three suicide bombers. The organization explained it chose that particular commander because he had "shamed the Sunnah and the Muslims' blood and honor in the region, and his men carried out abuses, arrests, tortures, killings, deportations and stole Muslim money".¹⁰

On January 1st, 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that the Christians in Iraq had endured another wave of terror over New Year's. The houses of 14 Christian families in Baghdad were targeted. Two people were killed and 16 were wounded in the explosions.¹¹

On January 13th, 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that the Iraqi authorities had arrested the financial supervisor of the "Islamic State of Iraq" organization, Abd Al-Rahim Al-Zuhairi, in Diyala. Interrogations revealed that the organization had planned on kidnapping merchants, the sons of sheikhs and other notables in order to blackmail their families. Moreover, according to Al-Zuhair, armed members of the organization were carrying out violent attacks for money.¹²

¹⁰ Al-Hayat, 4.1.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

¹¹ Al-Hayat, 1.1.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

¹² Al-Hayat, 13.1.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

Egypt

- On January 1st, 2011, the Arab media reported that 20 people were killed in the attack on the Al-Qiddissin Coptic Church in Alexandria on New Year's Eve.¹³ While the perpetrators of the attack are still unknown, it should be noted that Al-Qaeda had previously threatened to attack the Coptic Church. On January 4th, 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that, according to experts on Islamic movements, the attack had Al-Qaeda's 'fingerprints' on it. The newspaper also reported that the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum had published an opinion paper by the "Islamic State of Iraq" in which the organization called for attacks on a number of Coptic Churches in Egypt and Europe during the New Year's celebrations. The churches specifically mentioned in the opinion paper included the Al-Qiddissin Church in Alexandria. Meanwhile, on the Al-Mujahideen network forum, it was threatened that "the Nile would overflow with their [Coptic] blood" and that their lives would become a living Hell and they would be terrorized.¹⁴ On January 7th, 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper published an interview with Najih Ibrahim, the No. 2 leader and main ideologist of the "Gama'a Islamiya" movement. In the interview, Ibrahim stated that Al-Qaeda was behind the attack as "this was its modus operandi – to take advantage of the conflicts between the ethnic groups". Ibrahim shared his estimation that the perpetrator was a young Egyptian who identified with Al-Qaeda's ideology.¹⁵ In another interview with "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", published on January 13th, 2011, Ibrahim stated that there are people "who have not learned from the sheikhs or from the known organizations and mosques, but who instead get their ideas from the internet culture and consensus". He pointed out that the

¹³ Al-Jazeera network, 1.1.2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

¹⁴ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 4.1.2011: <http://www.aawsat.com>

¹⁵ Al-Hayat, 7.1.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

youth are naturally drawn to radical ideas and seek quick solutions, and that the political and ethnic killings in the region awaken their desire to act violently.¹⁶

- On January 4th, 2011, the Egyptian "Al-Ahram" newspaper reported that the pathological findings from the attack on the Coptic Church in Alexandria revealed that the explosive used was primitive and improvised. This conclusion was drawn from the pieces of iron and nails found inside the casualties of the attack.¹⁷

On January 9th, 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that the Governor of Alexandria had announced a security campaign in which surveillance cameras would be placed on the city's streets. Meanwhile, the Egyptian defense establishment made known that it was seeking a five-member terror cell, which it believes to be behind the attack on the Church. The cell has been accused of supplying the explosives and of planning the attack. Security sources claim that most of the members of this cell are not Egyptians. According to these sources, the suicide bomber himself was an Egyptian whose terrible living conditions were exploited by the others.

The security sources further stated that some of the cell members were connected to Al-Qaeda and had managed to infiltrate secretly into the country with the aid of Egyptian citizens. Interrogations of witnesses revealed that the attack was not carried out by a car bomb, as there was no hole in the ground; rather it is believed that the suicide bomber carried the explosives on his body, either in a bag or using an explosives belt.¹⁸

¹⁶ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 13.1.2011: <http://www.aawsat.com>

¹⁷ Al-Ahram, 4.1.2011: <http://www.ahram.org.eg>

¹⁸ Al-Hayat, 9.1.2011: <http://www.daralhayat.com>

The Arabian Peninsula

Yemen

- On January 8th and January 9th, 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that Al-Qaeda in Yemen was attempting to attack senior army officers and other military targets in various regions, in particular Abyan, Shabwa, Lahej, Haddramawt, Ma'rib. According to the newspaper, the organization has claimed its attacks have resulted in many military casualties.¹⁹
- On January 1st, 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported on an article that was published in the fifth edition of the "Sada Al-Malahem" magazine regarding the legitimacy of attacking Yemen soldiers. In the article, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula called for an attack on the Yemen Army since it is aiding those who fight against Islam: "they are guarding the embassies of the countries fighting against the Muslims and the embassies of the countries which have renounced their Islamic religion, and they are guarding the leaders of the heretics who have renounced their Islamic religion and those who were heretics from the beginning".²⁰

Saudi Arabia

- Jabir Al-Fayfi, who is known as the "retractor", continued to conduct interviews on Saudi television, the contents of which have been published in the Saudi newspapers. On January 5th, 2011, the Saudi "Al-Riyadh" newspaper published one such interview. In the interview, Al-Fayfi recounted how, about a year after returning to Saudi Arabia from Guantanamo, he and two other former Guantanamo detainees were invited by Said Al-Shihri and Muhammad Al-Awfi to a festive dinner in Taif. At the dinner, the two hosts

¹⁹ Al-Hayat, 9.1.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>; Al-Hayat, 8.1.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

²⁰ Al-Hayat, 1.1.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

discussed certain verses from the Sharia which lend credence to Al-Qaeda's operations inside Saudi Arabia and which support their war in the country.

Al-Fayfi then explained that Yemen was chosen as his destination because of its convenience as a place to train and as a base from which other countries can be reached. Al-Fayfi recounted how he left for Yemen via the Fayfa mountains, which made his journey easier as his tribe resides there. He and his companions walked to one of the villages on the border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen and, the day after arriving, were met by operatives from Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. Al-Fayfi swore allegiance to the organization and stayed in one of its safe houses for the following month and a half.

Al-Fayfi further explained how, after Al-Awfi turned himself in to the Saudi authorities, the organization increased its supervision of the men who remained in the safe house. He spent his time at the safe house sitting with youngsters who were not members of the organization and speaking about his experiences in Afghanistan and Guantanamo. After a month and a half, he asked to be transferred to Abyan in South Yemen, from where he intended to leave for Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq.²¹

A week later, the "Al-Riyadh" newspaper published the continuation of the interview, in which Al-Fayfi talked about the assassination of Prince Muhammad bin Naif. According to Al-Fayfi, it was Abdullah Al-Asiri's brother who had prepared the explosives belt for the attack; he had intended to place poison capable of killing people within four seconds inside the explosives but in the end he forgot to do so. The explosives were tested on a rock and, after

²¹ Al-Riyadh, 5.1.2011: <http://www.alriyadh.com>

this experiment, it was decided the quantity of explosives should be increased to 800 grams.

Al-Fayfi also continued to tell his story, picking up where he left off in the last interview. He remained in Abyan for seven months and, after the assassination of the Amir, he was appointed military superintendent and was charged with purchasing arms and with training the activists. The organization received a great deal of money from Saudi activists who arrived in Yemen. According to Al-Fayfi, the organization was more active in the south of Yemen, where there is no security presence and the local inhabitants are religious. Al-Fayfi also spoke of the discussion he and the head of Al-Qaeda's Sharia Committee had with the imam of the local mosque, who was opposed to the Al-Qaeda's presence in the area. This discussion regarding religion and Al-Qaeda's conduct in the region, which disturbed the region's inhabitants, caused Al-Fayfi to doubt the justness of the organization's actions. It was this discussion that led him to give himself up to the authorities.²²

- According to reports in the global and Saudi Arabian press, Saudi Arabia has announced a new list of wanted Al-Qaeda activists; 47 names have been added to the list of 85 names published less than two years ago. Accusations against the 47 wanted activists include, among other things: dissemination of Al-Qaeda's ideals; the use of arms, explosives and poisons in order to carry out terror attacks; incitement of the youth against the regime; provision of technical and media support to Al-Qaeda; and fundraising and logistical support to Al-Qaeda. According to Saudi Arabia's Ministry of the Interior, 16 of the 47 men were last seen in Yemen, 27 in Afghanistan and four in Iraq.

²² Al-Riyadh, 12.1.2011: <http://www.alriyadh.com>

One of the wanted men is Ahmad Abd Al-Aziz Al-Jasir. Al-Jasir is the first name on the list; he and four other men whose names were on the original list of wanted men had planned an attack in Saudi Arabia whilst the Yemen army was waging a war against the Houthis.²³ Yemen has offered a \$50,000 reward to anyone who provides information on his whereabouts.

The Maghreb

General

- On January 6th, 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper published an article entitled "Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb... Organized Crime and Terrorism – Two sides of the same coin". The article explains that there is a close connection between Al-Qaeda and organized crime, kidnapping of hostages, drug smuggling and bank robberies. According to the article, Al-Qaeda has moved from carrying out criminal activities in order to finance terrorism to using terrorism as a cover for crimes carried out for greed.

The article quotes the French newspaper "Le-Monde", which reported that, according to "Wikileaks", American and European defense establishments are concerned about Al-Qaeda's activities in the Sahel states and fear that "terrorism is knocking on Europe's doors".²⁴

Tunisia

- On January 15th, 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that Abu Musab Abd Al-Wadud has published a 13 minute-long video on Jihadi websites. In the video, he calls on the demonstrators in Tunisia to send their sons to Al-Qaeda to be trained and to gain military experience in order "to participate in

²³ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 10.1.2011: <http://www.aawsat.com>; Al-Riyadh, 10.1.2011: <http://www.alriyadh.com>

²⁴ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 6.1.2011: <http://www.aawsat.com>

the decisive campaign against the Jews, the Crusaders and their agents who are repressing you". He also calls upon the protesters to topple the Tunisian president and to establish Sharia Law in the country.²⁵

Algeria

- On January 2nd, 2011, the "Al-Shuruk" Algerian newspaper reported that the Algerian security forces received information that Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb was planning to take advantage of the New Year celebrations in order to perpetrate an attack using a female suicide bomber disguised as a prostitute. According to the article, the security forces made arrests and thwarted the attack.²⁶
- On December 31st, 2010, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that, based on the information obtained from Algerian sources, it is possible that the security operation carried out against Al-Qaeda in the north of Algeria had foiled an attempt to move the Al-Qaeda headquarters in Morocco to the Sahel region.²⁷
- On January 15th, 2011, the "Al-Shuruk" Algerian newspaper reported that the courts would soon hand down their verdict regarding the two people accused of belonging to a terror organization. The accused had in their possession two phone cards and a cell phone containing pictures of the railway schedule between 7.2.10 and 17.4.10. During the interrogations, one of the accused confessed that the pictures were taken in accordance with instructions received from his handler, who intended to forward them to a terror organization.

The interrogations further revealed that the second man had been in contact many times with an Islamic website and had expressed his desire to join the

²⁵ Al-Hayat, 15.1.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

²⁶ Al-Shuruk, 2.1.2011: <http://www.echoroukonline.com>

²⁷ Al-Hayat, 31.12.2010: <http://www.daralhayat.com>

Islamic armed organizations in Iraq. Moreover, he had met with three activists dressed as Afghans and carrying Kalashnikov guns and had expressed his wish to join them. The three activists conditioned his enlistment on killing someone or, alternatively, on providing them with information regarding state buildings. He was then tasked with coming up with a plan to bomb the fast railway. He took photographs of the railway time-table and coordinated with the activists that after he gave them the photographs, they would provide him with a bag with explosives which he would place on one of the trains in Algeria on April 18th, 2010.²⁸

- On January 5th, 2011, the "Al-Shuruk" Algerian newspaper reported that the Algerian defense forces had stopped a truck carrying three tons of nitrogen fertilizer. The fertilizer was en route to be made into explosives. According to the newspaper's sources, Abu Musab Abd Al-Wadud's men were trying to transfer the raw materials used to manufacture explosives in order to overcome the crisis which the organization had experienced over the past two years.²⁹

Morocco

- On January 6th, 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that the Moroccan authorities had disbanded a network of 27 people tied to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. According to the Moroccan Minister of Interior, the network, which was led by a Moroccan Al-Qaeda member in the north of Mali, had tried to establish a base in Sahara. Interrogations of the 27 captured activists revealed that some of the network's members were scheduled to leave for Al-Qaeda's training camps in Algeria and in the north of Mali, after

²⁸ Al-Shuruk, 15.1.2011: <http://www.echoroukonline.com>

²⁹ Al-Shuruk, 5.1.2011: <http://www.echoroukonline.com>

which they would return to Morocco to perpetrate attacks.³⁰ The "Al-Hayat" newspaper also reported on the incident, adding that, according to the Moroccan press agency, the cell planned to rob a number of banks in order to finance its activities.³¹

- Following the capture of the cell, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper quoted Muhammad Dharif, a Moroccan researcher who specializes in Islamic groups, who stated that the Moroccan authorities have improved their security supervision in recent years, technically and logistically, and have increased the number of widespread searches. Dharif also stated that most of the detainees in Morocco do not belong to one particular organization and that, while the Salafi-Jihadi ideology is widespread in Morocco, it has yet to evolve into an organization. According to Dharif, it can therefore be discerned that, at present the detained Salafi activists belong to different streams.³²

Africa

Somalia

- The "Al-Jazeera" network reported that the fighting between "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" and the government and African Union forces was continuing to cause many casualties.³³
- On January 15th, 2011, the "Al-Jazeera" network reported that fighting is expected to erupt again between the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement and the group that broke away from the Ras Kamboni Islamic Party in the border region between Somalia and Kenya.³⁴

³⁰ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 6.1.2011: <http://www.aawsat.com>

³¹ Al-Hayat, 6.1.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

³² Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 6.1.2011: <http://www.aawsat.com>

³³ Al-Jazeera network, 1.1.2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

³⁴ Al-Jazeera network, 15.1.2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

Nigeria

- On January 1st, 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that, according to the Reuters press agency, Nigerian authorities have arrested 92 people suspected of being members of "Boko Haram", a radical Islamic organization which claimed responsibility for the attacks carried out on Christmas Eve in the city of Jos in which 80 people were killed.³⁵

The West and the Rest of the World

France

- On January 3rd, 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper quoted the Reuters news agency, which reported that the French authorities had indicted eight detainees suspected of financing terrorism. One of the detainees is a young Algerian called Al-Sharifi, who was imprisoned in the past for armed robbery. He is accused of using his restaurant as a logistical base for the members of a terror group. Al-Sharifi is also accused of meeting with the leaders of a Jihadi cell in Turkey in September of 2005 and of promising to finance their activities.³⁶
- On January 9th, 2011, the "Al-Jazeera" network reported that two French hostages who were kidnapped in Nigeria were killed in a failed rescue attempt carried out by Nigerian and French forces. Officials from Mauritania reported that four of the kidnappers were also killed during the failed operation and that they had belonged to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.³⁷

³⁵ Al-Hayat, 1.1.2011: <http://ksa.daralhayat.com>

³⁶ Al-Hayat, 6.1.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

³⁷ Al-Jazeera network, 9.1.2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

- On January 4th, 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that the French authorities were opening an enquiry following threats made by Islamic entities against Christian targets all over Europe.³⁸

³⁸ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 4.1.2011: <http://www.aawsat.com>