

## Global Jihad: Summary of Information from Arabic Media Sources

### The First Half of March 2011

This report summarizes the most prominent articles on the subject of global Jihad published in the media in the Arabic language on the first half of March 2011.

Following are the main issues raised in this report:

- Dozens of casualties in severe terrorist attacks in Pakistan carried out despite ongoing American drone attacks.
- Reports on an increase in the scope of smuggling weapons and other contraband in the Maghreb region, following the deterioration in the security situation there.
- Two casualties in a shooting attack on bus transporting American troops at the Frankfurt airport.
- A new Al-Qaeda publication for women, offering a variety of advice on grooming and fashion alongside Jihadist indoctrination.

## Afghanistan – Pakistan

### Afghanistan

- On March 10<sup>th</sup> 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper quoted Western news agencies and presented data from the annual report issued by the UN delegation to Afghanistan and the Independent Afghan Committee for Human Rights, according to which 2010 registered the largest increase in the number of civilian casualties since the war in Afghanistan began 9 years ago. The number of casualties in 2010 was 2,777. 75% of civilian casualties were killed by the Taliban or by other radical organizations, 16% were killed by bombings of foreign and Afghan forces and 9% could not be attributed. It was further reported that 1,141 civilians were killed following suicide attacks and the use of hand grenades.<sup>1</sup>

### Pakistan

- The "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported in the first half of March 2011 that the suicide attacks carried out by the Taliban continue to claim civilian casualties in the country as well as military casualties in the North West region of Pakistan.<sup>2</sup>
- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2011 that at least 20 people were killed in a terrorist attack in the city of Faisalabad, Pakistan. The attack involved a car bomb which detonated at a gas station, near a gas tank, which caused a series of devastating explosions. The article further quoted the city's police chief, saying that the gas station was near central

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Hayat, 10.3.2011: <http://www.daralhayat.com>

<sup>2</sup> Al-Hayat, 3.3.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>; Al-Hayat, 4.3.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>; Al-Hayat, 4.3.2011: <http://www.daralhayat.com>

government buildings and near "sensitive locations", a term usually referring to Intelligence Services buildings.<sup>3</sup>

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2011 that in a terrorist suicide attack in the northern Pakistani tribal region city of Peshawar claimed the lives of 36 guests who attended the funeral tribal leader's wife, loyal to the government. The funeral was attended by many members of the tribal militia comprised of the region's residents and formed in an effort to push back the Taliban-Pakistan. The Taliban-Pakistan organization claimed responsibility for the attack. It was further reported that in the terrorist attack in Faisalabad carried out the day before, 26 people were killed and it was carried out near a regional office of the Pakistan Internal Intelligence Services belonging to the army.<sup>4</sup>
- The "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported on March 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 2011 that unmanned American aircraft continue to fire missiles against armed men in the Waziristan region.<sup>5</sup>

### Iraq

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" and the "Al-Hayat" newspapers reported on March 4<sup>th</sup> 2011 that 9 people, including security forces personnel, were killed in a suicide attack inside a bank in the city of Haditha, at the region of Al-Anbar in the western Iraq. The attack was carried out by a terrorist wearing an explosives belt. Both newspapers further reported that the attack was the first terrorist attack carried out in the An-Anbar region since October 2009 and that, since September 2006, the Awakening Councils, founded following

<sup>3</sup> Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 9.3.2011: <http://aawsat.com>

<sup>4</sup> Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 10.3.2011: <http://www.aawsat.com>

<sup>5</sup> Al-Hayat, 12.3.2011: <http://www.daralhayat.com>; Al-Hayat, 14.3.2011: <http://www.daralhayat.com>

an alliance between the local tribes, have been successful in pushing out the Al-Qaeda operatives from the city, which was previously considered an Al-Qaeda stronghold, much like other regions in the province.<sup>6</sup>

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2011 that the terrorist attack against American military targets in Iraq is still an ongoing problem. The article further reported that 20 armed men were apprehended in Mosul, led by two Al-Qaeda activists of Syrian citizenship: Muhammad Kallouni and Jamil Al-Sabbar. The article reports that the 20 men captured were all former Iraqi employees of the two Syrians. It was also reported that they were apprehended following intelligence provided by local residents.<sup>7</sup>
- The "Al-Hayat" newspapers reported on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2011 that the Iraqi Ministry of Communications advised senior Iraqi officials to avoid discussing important state issues on cell phones as they are wire-tapped by elements within and outside Iraq. A source in the Iraqi Ministry of Communications said that elements with links to Al-Qaeda and the Ba'ath Party invest considerable effort and funds in establishing an international and local wire-tap network in Iraq and warned that espionage activities are not limited to senior officials, but also involve technical means that allow them to know the owner's location even if no call is being made. The Head of the Trustees Council of the Iraq Commission for Media and Communication (CMC) said that there is no information of any Al-Qaeda wire-taps but that the GSM networks in Iraq are still unencrypted, which enables many entities to intercept them.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 4.3.2011: <http://www.aawsat.com>; Al-Hayat, 4.3.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

<sup>7</sup> Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 7.3.2011: <http://www.aawsat.com>

<sup>8</sup> Al-Hayat, 10.3.2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2011 that 11 soldiers were killed in a suicide attack executed using a truck bomb at a military base in the Diyala province. According to the report, the suicide bomber broke into the base on 6 AM, thus exploiting the change of the guards. One of the soldiers at the base testified that he was on shift between 4 and 6 AM, and that at the end of his shift, he entered the division's building in order to call his replacement when the detonation occurred. The article further reported that an additional car bomb and two explosives charges were found and disarmed 20 meters from the detonation site, apparently aimed the security forces and ambulances coming to aid the casualties of the first detonation.<sup>9</sup>

### **The Al-Sham region**

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported on March 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 that HAMAS' security forces arrested the "Al-Jihad Wa-Al-Tawhid" leader, Hisham Saidani, a Jordanian who came to Gaza four years ago. Saidani is wanted by the Jordanian and Egyptian authorities due to his Salafist activities and his attempt to carry out terrorist attacks, including the attempted attack at Taba, Egypt, on 2004. He was arrested by HAMAS for launching rockets from Gaza towards Israel. Israel claims that Saidani also attempted to carry out a terrorist attack using booby trapped horses at the Karni Crossing six months ago. The paper quotes a Salafist source stating that Saidani avoided targeting HAMAS and therefore claimed the possibility of his organization retaliating is negligible. The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper further reported that over the last few months HAMAS has renewed its struggle against the

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<sup>9</sup> Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 15.3.2011: <http://www.aawsat.com>

Salafist movements in the Gaza Strip, following rockets launches against Israel, despite HAMAS' declared ceasefire. According to the article, the Salafist movements claim that HAMAS' rule contradicts Islamic Sharia and the movement is "excommunicated from the faith". The article also reported that last month HAMAS authorities arrested Mahmud Talib, leader of the Salafi "Jaljalat" organization operating in Gaza.<sup>10</sup>

## The Maghreb

### Algeria

- The "Al-Jazeera" network reported on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2011 that Algeria accused Khalid Abu Al-Abbas, Emir of the Sahara battalion, of overseeing the smuggling and trafficking of weapons in the Algerian Sahara and of transporting it to neighboring countries. The article reported that weapons and goods smuggling has increased significantly in the region, exploiting the lack of stability in these countries.<sup>11</sup>

## The West and the rest of the world

### Germany

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011 that a bus transporting American soldiers was fired upon at the Frankfurt airport, causing 2 casualties.<sup>12</sup> On March 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 the paper reported that German authorities believe the attack was carried out by a 21 year old Kosovar who, according to preliminary findings, acted on his own initiative but was

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<sup>10</sup> Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 5.3.2011: <http://aawsat.com>

<sup>11</sup> Al-Jazeera, 8.3.2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

<sup>12</sup> Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 3.3.2011: <http://www.aawsat.com>

motivated by Islamic influences, wishing to exact revenge for the American involvement in Afghanistan.<sup>13</sup>

### Miscellaneous

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011 that according to the "Site" website, a surfer on the Jihadist forums suggested carrying out a terrorist attack by placing scorpions or snakes on aircraft, as they are undetectable to metal or explosives detectors. That same surfer also suggested attacking aircraft from a forest or mountain near the airport using launchers.<sup>14</sup>
- The "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2011 that Al-Qaeda has published a new magazine for women named "Al-Shamikha". Alongside tips on grooming and fashion, the magazine also contains Jihadist propaganda, comprised of advice on the subject of suicide attacks, interviews with the wives of fallen Al-Qaeda members, encouraged marriage to Mujahideen, as it is the woman's duty to educate the children on becoming Jihad fighters and praise for a martyr's death – Shahada. The next issue promises to contain articles on the subject of facial skin care and electronic Jihad.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 5.3.2011: <http://aawsat.com>

<sup>14</sup> Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, 2.3.2011: <http://www.aawsat.com>

<sup>15</sup> Al-Hayat, 14.3.2011: <http://www.daralhayat.com>