

## Periodical Review December 2009 – no. 2

This report summarizes the most prominent events posted on the Jihadi online forums in the first half of December 2009:

### New publications

#### Audio and video tapes:

- The "As-Sahab" Jihadi media institute published an audio tape by Ayman Al-Zawahiri, in which he attacks the U.S. President's policy in the Middle East, and calls it another chapter in the campaign of the Crusaders and the Zionists in enslaving the Muslims.<sup>1</sup>
- The "As-Sahab" Jihadi media institute published a video clip entitled "Burning the Crusaders and Those Leaving Islam in Khorasan". The clip documents the launching of missiles towards an "infidel" military base.<sup>2</sup>
- A new video by Adam Yahiyeh Gadahn, known as "the American Azzam" – one of Al-Qaeda's symbols – entitled "The Mujahideen don't Target Muslims". In all probability, it was released following the brutal terrorist attacks carried out recently in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, killing many Muslims, attacks Al-Qaeda is trying to disassociate itself from.<sup>3</sup>

#### Magazines:

- The "Al-Ansar" media institute, which publishes a lot of material tied to Al-Qaeda's activities in Iraq, has published its 53<sup>rd</sup> issue of the "Hisad Al-Mujahideen" magazine ("The Mujahideen Harvest").<sup>4</sup> The magazine



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.majahdenar.com/showthread.php?t=34635>,

<http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=34683>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=10312>

<sup>3</sup> <http://alflojweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=95587>

<sup>4</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=147775>

focuses almost entirely on Al-Qaeda's activities in Iraq.

Books:

- The "Al-Ansar Al-Baridiya Group" – one of global Jihad's media institutes – published a 20 page booklet regarding the "Expelling the Infidels from the Arabian Peninsula". The booklet was written by Sheikh Abu Ahmad Abd Al-Rahman Al-Masri, who is known as a prolific author of books on Jihad and Islam.<sup>5</sup>
- The "Al-Ansar Al-Baridiya Group" published a booklet entitled "The Doctrine of Oneness [of God] and Islam" ("Al-Tawhid W-Al-Islam"). This booklet was also written by Sheikh Abu Ahmad Abd Al-Rahman Al-Masri.<sup>6</sup>
- The publication of a 22 page booklet entitled "The Salvation between the Winning Ethnic Group and those Exaggerating", by Abu Ayoub Al-Masri. The booklet is distributed by the "Al-Somood" Jihadi media institute.<sup>7</sup>
- The "Al-Mujahideen" media institute published a 42 page manual on the use of the GPS service.<sup>8</sup>
- The "Al-Ma'sada" Jihadi media institute published a new 38 page booklet entitled "Al-Aqaba's Third Oath of Allegiance",<sup>9</sup> by Abu Saed Al-Amili.<sup>10</sup>



<sup>5</sup> <http://shamikh.org/vb/showthread.php?t=53937>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.shamikh.net/vb/showthread.php?t=54264>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=10368>

<sup>8</sup> <http://69.162.76.243/~majahden/vb/showthread.php?t=34291>

<sup>9</sup> The "Bay'at Al-Aqaba" is an oath of allegiance given the Prophet Muhammad by his supporters. In his life time he received two such oaths.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.shamikh.org/vb/showthread.php?t=54223>

## Reports from the Field

### Afghanistan – Pakistan:

- A surfer asks whether there is safe passage between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, and the surfers reply that there is, but that anyone wishing to cross over to the Mujahideen's side must do so via a "coordinator", as otherwise chances are he will be considered a spy. Other surfers explain that such "coordinators" are hard to find and that Jihad is an Islamic duty even without "coordinators".<sup>11</sup>
- Following a terrorist attack at a mosque in Pakistan, carried out on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2009, a discussion has evolved surrounding the legitimacy of the attack. Two voices were heard: on the one hand, an attack at a mosque should not be condoned as it is a holy place, but on the other hand, almost all of those frequenting the mosque were military men or their families, which legitimizes the target.<sup>12</sup> It should be noted that the "Hanein" online forum reported that Al-Qaeda has denied any connection to the series of attacks, killing dozens of civilians.<sup>13</sup>
- A military commander of the Taliban movement reports that the French forces in Afghanistan have offered the movement substantial funds in return for not targeting the French forces.<sup>14</sup>
- A report, accompanied by photographs, on the success of Taliban activists in shooting down a Polish helicopter.<sup>15</sup>



<sup>11</sup> <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=94366>

<sup>12</sup> <http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=16723>,

<http://hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=146108>

<sup>13</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=147549>

<sup>14</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=144714>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.alqimmah.net/showthread.php?t=12413>

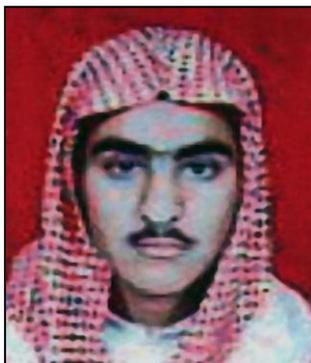
Iraq:

- The "Ministry of Propaganda" of "The Islamic State of Iraq" (ISI), published an announcement summarizing its recent terrorist activities for a period of two weeks in November 2009 in Baghdad. The attacks mainly include assassinations of political activists and Iraqi security forces personnel.<sup>16</sup>



The Arabian Peninsula:

- The will of two casualties from the attempted penetration into the Saudi Kingdom from Yemen in mid October 2009, has been posted on Jihadi online forums. It pertains to two Al-Qaeda activists: Yusuf Al-Shehri who was in Guantanamo and Rayed Al-Harbi. Both activists appeared on a list of 85 wanted people which Saudi Arabia submitted to Interpol. The report stated that the two left for Saudi Arabia to carry out a suicide attack planned in Yemen.<sup>17</sup> It should be noted that they are not the first to be released from Guantanamo, who have returned to terrorist activities.



**Al-Qaeda activists: Rayed Al-Harbi (left) and Yusuf Al-Sherhi (right)**

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=13647>  
<sup>17</sup> <http://www.ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=14553>

- An article by Bakhasrov Adankalo, who writes articles on Yemen on Jihadi forums, warning against the U.S. involvement in Yemen. The article, entitled "The CIA digs a grave for America in Yemen", was published on the "Al-Qimmah" forum in English. The article enumerates the U.S. military failures from Vietnam to Afghanistan, through Iraq and Somalia (twice). The author states that the American forces cannot cope with the Islamic determination. An Islamic uprising will not be limited to the tribal regions or the cities in Yemen, but will include the entire Arabian Peninsula. The author of the article brags that the quantity and quality of the weapons in the hands of the uprising, is greater than that of all the Arab armies combined and that there is no one who can withstand suicide attacks. The author hopes that Al-Qaeda will succeed in dragging the United States to its grave in Yemen as it has done in Afghanistan.<sup>18</sup>
- Following the severe floods in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published an announcement lamenting the damage caused by the floods and criticising the Saudi government for not helping the many casualties. In the announcement, the organization states that it is not surprised by the Saudi government's conduct, and adds that it will try to help rehabilitate what has been destroyed.<sup>19</sup> It should be noted that the "Al-Faloja" forum reported that the Saudi authorities prevented the residents from donating to those in need in Jeddah, fearing that the donations would reach "the wrong hands".<sup>20</sup>

The Maghreb:

- In an audio tape published by Saleh Abu Muhammad (his photograph is unavailable), who is in charge of the Media Committee in "Al-Qaeda in the

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.alqimmah.net/showthread.php?t=12535>

<sup>19</sup> <http://69.162.76.243/~majahden/vb/showthread.php?t=34087>

<sup>20</sup> <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=94828>

Islamic Maghreb", he announced that the organization is responsible for the abduction of a French citizen in Mali and of three Spanish citizens in Mauritania in November 2009.<sup>21</sup>

- Following the warning issued by the Israeli Prime Minister Office to Israeli citizens not to visit Mali, for fear of attack or abduction by Al-Qaeda activists, the surfers respond with pleasure and one of them, who identifies himself as Abu Anas Al-Tunsi, suggesting possible Tunisian origin, warns Israeli citizens and says: "We are lying in wait for you in Niger, Mauritania, Gambia, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and the rest of the world".<sup>22</sup>

The Al-Sham Region (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinian Territories):

- The Jihadi "Mujahideen Al-Masada" media institute ("the Mujahideen's Lion's Den"), announced the founding of a new media institute called "Al-Raya" ("the Flag").<sup>23</sup> As of now, we do not have any information on this new institute.
- One of the surfers at the "Al-Tahadai" Jihadi forum posted a call to the Bedouins in the Sinai Peninsula to help the Mujahideen, and thus participate in the terrorist attacks against Israel.<sup>24</sup>
- The brigade named after Imam Abu Al-Nur Al-Maqdisi, who was killed by the Hamas movement on August 2009, has taken responsibility for the launching of a rocket towards Israel.<sup>25</sup>
- Following the torching of the mosque in Kfar Yasuf in the West Bank on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2009, surfers called to set fire to all the Jews.<sup>26</sup>



<sup>21</sup> <http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=16871>

<sup>22</sup> <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=94663>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=34243>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=10274>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=34409>

<sup>26</sup> <http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=17026>

- The bombing of the bus transporting Iranian pilgrims to the grave of the saint Zaynab in south Damascus on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009, has not created a wave of response from the Jihadi forums. The various forums mainly provided informative reporting of the events and claimed that the explosion targeted the Iraqi opposition, the Iranians and the Hezbollah.<sup>27</sup> It should be noted that the official Syrian claim is that it was just a tire explosion, nothing more.

Africa:

- The Al-Jazeera channel reported that the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" organization denies it was behind the terrorist attack in Mogadishu which occurred on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009, also killing senior members of the Somali government. However, the surfers on the Jihadi forums call to wait for an official response that is not through the channel. Following the words of one of the surfers, that the movement is wise not to officially accept responsibility for the attack, another surfer argues and explains that the movement would not carry out an attack, without receiving religious permission and after carefully examining the situation. According to him, the movement does not operate as people think "like fools who believe that if there is one infidel in a crowd of Muslims, they are allowed to blow them all up and whoever dies, dies". Others joining the responses explained that if the movement had carried out the attack, it would not have hesitated to announce it officially. Another female surfer claimed that there is a possibility that it was "a purely American act intended to blame 'Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen', so that the United States could improve its poor image".<sup>28</sup>

In "Islamic Awakening", the British Islamic forum, the discourse surrounding the severe attack in Mogadishu began with a sort of "sigh of relief" that the

<sup>27</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=145535>

<sup>28</sup> <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=94637>

"Al-Shabab" organization did not accept responsibility for the attack, and it later evolved into a general discussion of the justification of harming Muslims who do not live according to Sharia law.<sup>29</sup>

- A report in the "Al-Tahadai" forum on foreign fighters joining the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" organization, from countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States. According to the report, there are between 1,200 to 1,500 foreign fighters, but one of the talkbacks claimed that the number of foreign fighters is 250–350. The report further states that most of the organization's command is foreign.<sup>30</sup> Furthermore, one of the Jihadi forums quoted a representative of the African Union in Somalia, who discussed the expansion of ranks of the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen", and Al-Qaeda's entrenching in Somalia.<sup>31</sup>

The West:

- The U.S. President's declaration that he would send another 30 thousand soldiers to Afghanistan, has caused a wave of response on the Jihadi forums. Surfers were called to leave for Afghanistan and Muslims in the United States and Europe were asked "not to forget their brothers and to take part in the Jihad... let us work together in sending 40 thousand Mujahideen to the Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan, in response to the Crusader war led by America".<sup>32</sup> In addition, the Jihadi forums published a manifesto on behalf of the Taliban, on the subject of "Obama's new strategy", where the movement emphasizes

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<sup>29</sup> <http://forums.islamicawakening.com/f18/al-shabaab-denied-any-involvement-explosion-30973/>, <http://forums.islamicawakening.com/f18/ministers-killed-somalia-blast-30941/>

<sup>30</sup> <http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=16754>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=10234>

<sup>32</sup> <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=94726>

that its fighters have patience and the ability to keep the campaign going for a long time.<sup>33</sup>

- In response to Spain's decision to send reinforcements of over 200 soldiers to Afghanistan, surfers call out against Spain, for instance: "There is no escaping Al-Qaeda's punishment of Spain, via a massacre of the Spanish welfare employees held hostage". The "Al-Faloja" forum supervisor also joins the threats and stresses: "The brothers shall receive you there with roses, I mean suicide attacks...".<sup>34</sup>
- Calls against South Korea, following its intention to send 350 soldiers to Afghanistan: "South Korea is still fighting Islam... the Taliban made a mistake when it decided at the time to release the South Korean missionaries. They should have slaughtered those pigs, whose promise and commitment cannot be trusted (not to cooperate with NATO and not to spread missionary beliefs)".<sup>35</sup>
- Responses against the decision of the Swiss people not to allow the construction of mosque turrets: "Switzerland is a fragile country which has always kept away from the conflict arena, but now is like other heretic countries in Europe and is placing itself at the top of the list of the sheep to be slaughtered by the Mujahideen".<sup>36</sup> At the same time, there is a concern that Ireland and other countries in Europe will follow Switzerland's lead.<sup>37</sup>

On one of the forums, a call was made to carry out a media blitz in every possible forum against the Swiss decision. One of the members said that talking and demonstrating will achieve nothing and that force should be used. Another member said that masses should leave Europe or be like "The hero

<sup>33</sup> <http://124.217.251.60/~shamikh/vb/showthread.php?t=53884>

<sup>34</sup> <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=94485>

<sup>35</sup> <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=94490>

<sup>36</sup> <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=94730>

<sup>37</sup> <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=94211>

from Fort Hood" (referring to Nidal Hassan who carried out the terrorist attack at the military base in Texas).<sup>38</sup> In another forum, a threatening message was addressed to the Swiss people and the churches in the country.<sup>39</sup> Furthermore, correspondence was found condemning Switzerland and Denmark for their contemptuous treatment of Islam<sup>40</sup>, and one of the surfers called to withdraw 400 billion dollars from banks in the country and to boycott Swiss products, mainly the Nestle company products.<sup>41</sup>



An ad on the Al-Faloja forum calling for a boycott of Swiss products

- Following the arrest of five American Muslims in Pakistan, suspected of planning terrorist attacks, several surfers claimed that many of those approaching Al-Qaeda are rejected, as there isn't enough reliable information about them.<sup>42</sup>
- On November 28<sup>th</sup> 2009, a terrorist attack occurred on the train from Moscow to St. Petersburg, killing a large number of people, including several senior government members. Immediately following the attack, the Jihadi forums praised those who carried out the attack.<sup>43</sup>

General:

- Conflicting reports surrounding the possibility that Al-Qaeda's Mufti, Abu Yahya Al-Libi, or Abd Al-Razeq Abdi Saleh, also called "Somali Saleh", responsible for planning Al-Qaeda's operations in Pakistan and Afghanistan,

<sup>38</sup> <http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=16566>

<sup>39</sup> <http://shamikh.org/vb/showthread.php?t=53865>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=10340>

<sup>41</sup> <http://alflojweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=95584>

<sup>42</sup> <http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=16978>

<sup>43</sup> <http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=16512>,  
<http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=16682>

were killed during a military operation in Pakistan.<sup>44</sup> These reports engendered a lot of response on the Jihadi forums, and even brought responses from the forum managers asking to exercise judgment in the publications. Furthermore, requests were made to remove these reports from the forums, as they may hurt morale, after more senior figures, such as Al-Zawahiri and others, may have also been casualties of the attack.<sup>45</sup> Later on, reports were made denying these killings.<sup>46</sup>

### Miscellaneous

- The "Islamic Awakening" British Islamic forum posted a video of a Mujahideen of German origin who was killed in Pakistan. Posting the video on the British forum, which does not have the clear characteristics of a Jihadi forum, is unusual as it praises the "Shahid" and encourages supporting him, which is against the forum's rules.<sup>47</sup>
- Implied criticism on the dwindling of talkbacks on the "Al-Shumukh" forum and on the loss of veteran forum members.<sup>48</sup> At the same time, the forum called to help the forum managers.<sup>49</sup>
- The "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya" Jihadi forum recommends that its members download the Inspeak software enabling high quality text, audio and video conversations.<sup>50</sup> Furthermore, the forum offers a new service

<sup>44</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=147310>

<sup>45</sup> <http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=17004>

<sup>46</sup> <http://forums.islamicawakening.com/f18/top-al-qaeda-leader-abu-yahya-al-libi-killed-s-waziristan-drone-strike-31296/>

<sup>47</sup> <http://forums.islamicawakening.com/f18/please-make-dua-shaheed-30634/>

<sup>48</sup> <http://shamikh.org/vb/showthread.php?t=53589>

<sup>49</sup> <http://shamikh.org/vb/showthread.php?t=53744>

<sup>50</sup> <http://69.162.76.243/~majahden/vb/showthread.php?t=34328>

enabling the surfers to receive automated reports to their email address, on any new updates on the Jihadi forums.<sup>51</sup>

- Criticism of the lack of the Mujahideen's sufficient professionalism in smuggling weapons and arms by ships. The author wishes to point out the possible reasons for the "enemies'" exposure of the smuggled weapons in ships. As an example, he mentions photographs, and the success of Israel in uncovering a large stockpile of weapons, smuggled from Iran, at the beginning of November 2009.<sup>52</sup>
- A general report on a Swedish development to detect explosives from a distance of hundreds of meters. There are no details in the report, as to the capabilities of this new device.<sup>53</sup>
- Software containing over 2,000 Jihad books for downloading, called "The Mujahid Suitcase No. 2".<sup>54</sup> It should be noted that on May 2009, Jihadi forums posted links to download the "Mujahid Suitcase", containing over 1,000 books which the Mujahideen must read.<sup>55</sup>
- One of the surfers wondered what Al-Qaeda's position is regarding the prisoners being taken hostage by Arabic countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Morocco and the Arabian Peninsula. He tries to understand why the organization does not get involved in this matter. In response, other surfers dispute his words and call on him to take action and act on their behalf instead of asking questions.<sup>56</sup>
- One of the surfers suggests using a low power laser in order to bring planes down. Several surfers show enthusiasm for this suggestion, but one surfer

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=34422>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=10415>

<sup>53</sup> <http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=16782>

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=10371>

<sup>55</sup> <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=63777>

<sup>56</sup> <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=95759>

doubts it, including suggestions made by other surfers to use higher powered lasers, such as those appearing on the website of the Chinese Changchun New Industries Company (CNI) (<http://cnilaser.com>).<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=94581>