

## Periodical Review October 2010 – No. 1

This report summarizes the most prominent events brought up on the Jihadi online forums in the second half of September 2010. Following are the main issues raised in this report:

- Audio publications by Osama bin Laden, Ayman Al-Zawahiri and Adam Yahiyeh Gadahn – all dealing with the major floods in Pakistan.
- Calls to donate money to the Mujahideen continue.
- Following the numerous aerial attacks by unmanned airplanes, surfers offer solutions to the problem.
- Issue no. 52 of the Jihadi "Al-Somood" magazine.
- Al-Qaeda's Operations Commander in Afghanistan-Pakistan, the replacement for Mustafa Abu Al-Yazid, has been killed.
- Mustafa Abu Al-Yazid's son, who like his father was linked to the organization's financial mechanism, was killed in the attacks.
- Reports stating Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, Saif Al-Adel and other Al-Qaeda leaders, were released from Iran and have reached Afghanistan.
- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb publishes photographs of the French hostages.
- The Jordanians have again arrested Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi.
- A surfer on a Jihadi forum calls on the Muslims to take the initiative and carry out individual terrorist attacks in the West.

## New publications

### *Ideology*

- Within one day, the "As-Sahab" Jihadi media institute published two new statements by Osama bin Laden titled "Pauses with the Method of Relief Work" and "Help your Pakistani Brothers". In both audio tapes, which are 11 minutes and 13 minutes long respectively, Bin Laden attacks the way in which the Pakistani government is coping with the major floods which occurred in the country in recent months. Furthermore, he calls on the Muslims around the world to help the casualties of the disaster.<sup>1</sup>

It is possible that this is one long tape, divided into two segments. It should be noted that apart from these two audio tapes, Bin Laden's last statements almost did not mention the Jihad against the West at all, but focused on subjects pertaining to global warming, the economic crisis and natural disasters.

- It should be mentioned that in a recorded speech given by the no. 2 man in Al-Qaeda, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, commemorating nine years since the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks,<sup>2</sup> he also attacked the Pakistani government for not caring for its people, in light of the big floods besieging the country. He said that the Pakistani President was busy mending his ties with the West in Paris and London and that the ruling members of the country are preoccupied, first and foremost, with lining their bank accounts with dollars. Al-Zawahiri called on the Pakistani people to rebel against the government, plotting together with the Coalition Forces in Afghanistan.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://al-jahafal.com/vb/showthread.php?t=13762>, <http://al-jahafal.com/vb/showthread.php?t=13794>

<sup>2</sup> On the subject, see:

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_September\\_2010\\_No\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_September_2010_No_2.pdf), page 2.

Al-Zawahiri also attacked Muhammad Al-Baradei, former Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and said that he is a product of the United States, running the Egyptian opposition on its behalf.

Al-Zawahiri spoke of the imminent victory, and that the nine-year battle against the Crusaders and their agents in the Islamic world and inside Western territories, is the practical answer for the doubts of the "inability movement".<sup>3</sup>

Al-Zawahiri divides the Muslim nation into two factions: one, the Jihadi faction; the other, the faction of surrender and compliance, to whom he refers to as the inability movement. From Al-Zawahiri's point of view, the Muslims are groveling to the West and collaborating with it.

One can assume that this speech is about the three most burning issues on the Al-Qaeda leadership's agenda. Firstly, attacking the conduct of the Pakistani government in its care for the victims of the severe floods and exploiting the crisis to recruit the population to anti-government activities. The speech depicts Al-Qaeda as acting to procure aid for the victims, while the Pakistani leaders are busy with themselves. Al-Zawahiri's speech complements Bin Laden's speech, and he even calls on the Pakistani people to rebel against their government.

The fact that the "As-Sahab" Jihadi media institute also published statements made by Adam Yahye Gadahn regarding the floods in Pakistan (see later in this report) reinforces the assumption that Al-Qaeda is exploiting the crisis to expand the activity towards the toppling of the government in Pakistan and for expanding the circle of support of Jihad.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/6F2C9882-B96B-43E2-9F41-E30DE00AB062.htm>

The second part of Al-Zawahiri's speech dealt with a subject close to his heart, Egypt. Even though Al-Zawahiri took part in formulating Al-Qaeda's strategy against the United States and the West (the distant enemy), the issue of Egypt (the near enemy) has not left his agenda. His attack on Al-Baradei, calling him an American agent, has marked him as a legitimate target for elimination.

The third part of Al-Zawahiri's speech stresses that victory is near and that reality has shown that global Jihad has proven its durability in the ongoing battle both in the Muslim world ruled by the "Crusaders" and in western countries. According to Al-Zawahiri, global Jihad's standing in these fronts is the answer to the "inability movement", that is, the Muslims who surrendered to the West.

- The "As-Sahab" Jihadi media institute published statements made by Adam Yahiye Gadahn regarding the floods in Pakistan, under the heading "The Tragedy of the Floods". In the video clip, Gadahn blames the Crusading forces for causing the floods in Pakistan. According to him, the financial aid sent to Pakistan finds its way directly into the secret personal accounts of the generals and politicians in Islamabad. Gadahn addresses the Muslims in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Baluchistan, Kashmir, Bangladesh and India, asking them to wake up and see that their governments do not care for their wellbeing or for the Islamic religion, but instead help the Crusading, Zionist and Hindu Forces in the war against Islam. Therefore, the only way to be rid of them is by supporting the Mujahideen until the goal is reached.<sup>4</sup> Gadahn, also called "Azzam the American", is considered to be Al-Qaeda's American spokesperson.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://al-jahafal.com/vb/showthread.php?t=13725>

- The media department of the "Abdullah Azzam Brigades" published a video tape titled "The usurped group", containing a short historical review of the Sunni in the Syrian and Lebanese regions in modern times, and of the West's intervention in forcing the Alawi and Shiite community on the Sunni. The publication attacks the Hezbollah organization and asks whether the organization is fighting the Jews or is it in fact guarding the border for them. The publication explains the Brigades' position regarding the riots organized by Hezbollah in Lebanon on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2008 and regarding the political assassinations which took place in Lebanon in recent years, as well as speaking of the Brigades' hostages in Lebanon.<sup>5</sup>

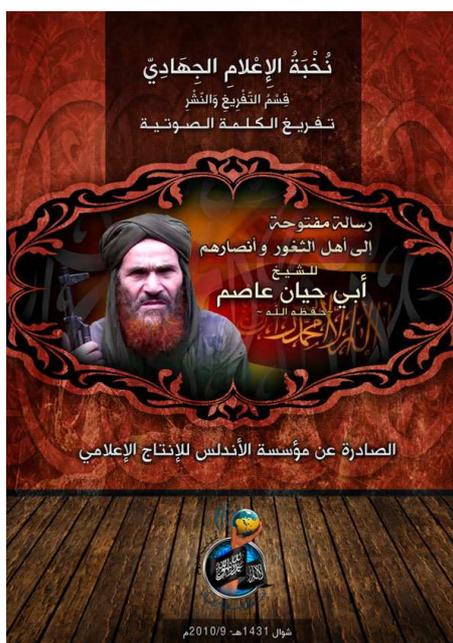


- The "Al-Andalus" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published an audio segment titled "An open message to the residents of the frontier and their supporters", by Sheikh Abu Hayyan Asim, a member of the organization's Sharia Committee. Asim asks the Mujahideen to pay attention to the false propaganda campaign waged against them by the enemies of Islam. According to him, the Algerian Intelligence Forces have recently been asking the Mujahideen to abandon

<sup>5</sup> <http://al-jahafal.com/vb/showthread.php?t=13649>

their weapons and the path of Jihad and reexamine their ways. Asim mentions two of the organization's fighters: Abbas Uthman and Musab Al-Akhdariya, both from the Al-Wast region, who were captured by the Algerian security forces and later called on the Mujahideen to abandon the path of Jihad.

According to him, this negative trend of the de-radicalization process conducted by the regime in Algeria and by other Muslim regimes is "clear indication of the shedding of Islam from the Muslims", especially as this trend is part of the plan conceived by the Jews, Christians and Muslims who have abandoned their religion. Later on, Asim justifies the use of force and rejects the contention that Da'awa alone is enough.<sup>6</sup>



- A video clip titled "One of the most disgraceful acts of the Muslims dogs who have abandoned their religion [members] of the Pakistani Army – the massacre of the children in Swat". The video depicts, purportedly, the killing

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=28700>

of innocent children by the Pakistani military forces in the name of the war on terrorism.<sup>7</sup>



- A video clip titled "The concept of Wahhabiya – an excuse to go over the Quran and Sunna". The video was first released in Persian and is now published in Arabic. It was published as part of the series "Uncovering the concealed in the hiding places of deception and hypocrisy". The video focuses on the crimes of the Shiite Iranian regime against the Sunni Muslims.<sup>8</sup>
- The "Al-Ma'asada" Jihadi media institute, together with the "Sariyyat Al-Raf wal-Nashr wa-Qism Al-Tasmim" (The Squadron for Uploading (of files) and Distribution and the Design Department) published a video titled "He who preaches to others is happy". This video was published as part of the series "We have not forgotten you", meant to bring the issue of the Muslim prisoners to the top of the agenda and to instill awareness. For example, the video's introduction stated that the issue of Muslim female prisoners should be promoted.<sup>9</sup>
- The "Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad" website, belonging to Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, published a booklet titled "His death in your wrath", written by the Sheikh.<sup>10</sup>

#### Strategy

- The "Al-Furqan" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of the "Islamic State of Iraq" (ISI), published an audio segment titled "To those who bore the

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?p=1058044716>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=72308>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=72380>

<sup>10</sup> <http://almadad1.com/vb/showthread.php?p=4149>, <http://66.45.228.55/r?i=25091039>

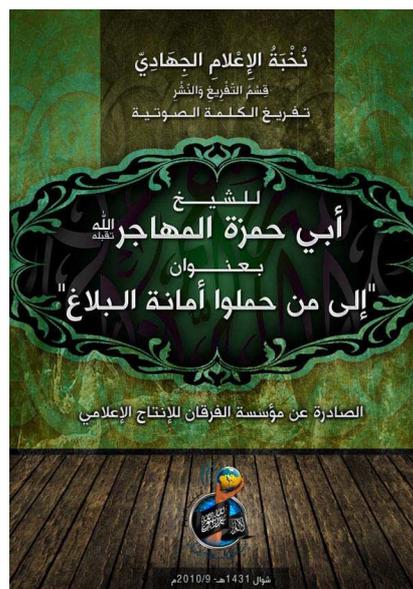
trust of Islamic propagation" by Sheikh Abu Hamza Al-Muhajir, who was the Minister of War for the "Islamic State of Iraq" and was killed in April 2010. In the segment, Al-Muhajir deals with the propaganda campaign waged by the enemies of Islam against the principles of Muslim faith. Therefore, the Mujahideen must take action against this trend and work at building an Islamic propaganda mechanism based on the following steps:<sup>11</sup>

- Spreading fear amongst the enemy in accordance with the Sharia.
- Demonizing the heretics and presenting them in a negative light.
- Ongoing tracking of publications in the West and translating relevant materials, such as military material, security loopholes, political issues, scandals and more, for the benefit of the Mujahideen. These materials can come from the local press.
- Ongoing tracking of religious groups deviating from the path of truth, and negative Ulama so as to clarify the contradictions within them.
- Introducing courses for all types of propaganda via the internet and encouraging teenagers to get involved in it.
- Creating ties and establishing a dialogue with anyone expressing solidarity and supporting Islamic propaganda so as to recruit a large number of them, especially in countries where freedom of the press exists or countries where there is no effective control over the internet.
- Preparing daily video publications, covering events and presenting analyses connected to the Mujahideen. The frequency of these publications shall be gradual at first until published on a daily basis. Covering the many Jihad theaters shall prove that the Muslim nation is fighting for one cause and that this fact instills fear amongst the enemy.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=28801>

- Establishing propaganda forums that will publish new materials. The forum managers will be responsible for the ongoing tracking of the Mujahideen's military activity, and they should be incorporated into the propaganda mechanism. These forums will have to refrain from overtly expressing support of the Mujahideen or even the Muslims.
- Establishing moderate Islamic forums that focus, for example, on the Sharia and Ulama. These forums, or part of them, will become Jihadi forums when needed.
- Establishing ties with the Ulama and their students so that they take part in the debate of comment on deviations in the religion or the elements essentially foreign to the Islamic religion, such as democracy.
- Publishing a document, even on a monthly basis, that contains suggestions and guidance for the Mujahideen in all fields.
- Ongoing tracking of the comments made by the Mujahideen and their leaders, especially towards their enemies.
- Documenting Jihadi activity.



*Instructional and Guidance Publications*

- The "Al-Fajr" Jihadi media institute published two new audio segments (numbers 11 and 12) titled "Communications and phone security" and "Cell phone, internet and satellite communication security and how to use them", respectively. These segments were published as part of the series called "The industry of terrorism: a course in security and intelligence" by Sheikh Abdullah Adm.<sup>12</sup>



- The "Nukhbat Al-'Ilam Al-Jihadi" media group published a third video clip as part of the "Equip Us" campaign, calling on Muslims to donate money to the Mujahideen.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=29131>,  
<http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=72924>. For previous audio segments, see:

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_September\\_2010\\_No\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG_Periodical_Review_September_2010_No_2.pdf), page 6.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=29194>. See on this matter: [http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_August\\_2010\\_No\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG_Periodical_Review_August_2010_No_2.pdf), pages 9-10.

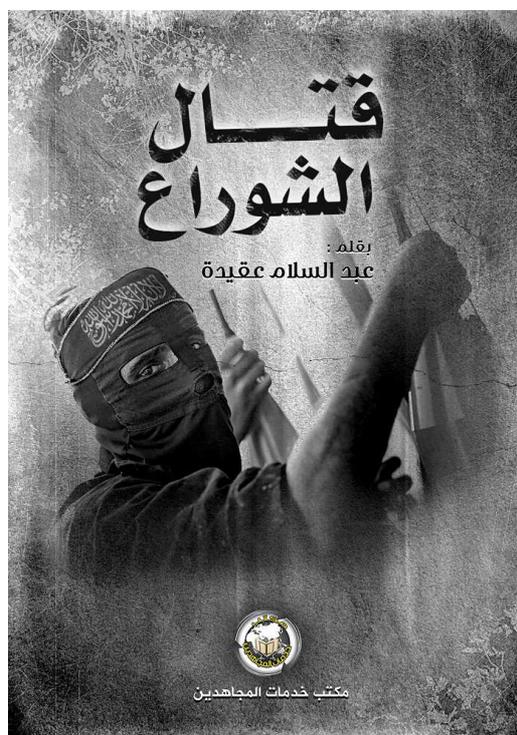


- The "Services Bureau of the Mujahideen" (Maktab Khidamat Al-Mujahideen)<sup>14</sup> published a booklet titled "A course in street fighting" (54 pages long) by Abd Al-Salam Aqida. In the introduction to the booklet, the author clarifies that this current booklet is the result of a collection and gathering from military literature, to which he added explanations and elaborations. According to the author, the booklet is meant to provide the Mujahideen with the tactical knowledge which will enable them to defeat their enemies in urban surroundings. For example, the booklet offers explanations of how to move in urban surroundings, camouflaging tracks using smoke, climbing and entering buildings through windows, creating a sterile area in urban surroundings, the use of bombs and hand grenades, defending buildings, breaking into buildings and more.<sup>15</sup>

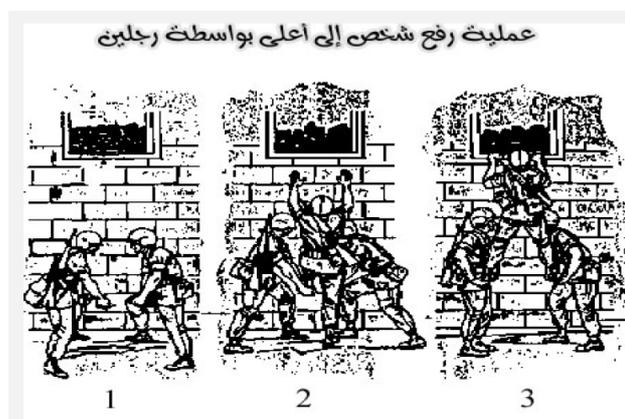
<sup>14</sup> Further information on this matter:

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_September\\_2010\\_No\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG_Periodical_Review_September_2010_No_2.pdf), pages 4-5.

<sup>15</sup> <http://as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?p=119202>



The booklet's cover



How to climb without a rope, using two men



How to pass near windows

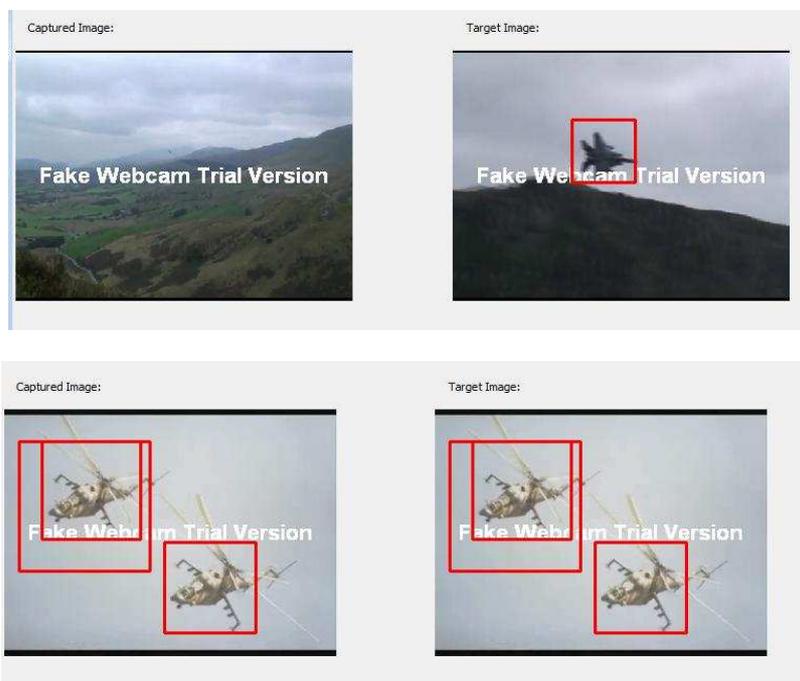
- One of the surfers on the "Atahadi" Jihadi forum, apparently specializing in technological means, posted correspondence titled "A way to detect unmanned airplanes and aircrafts using software". According to him, he has succeeded in building identification software for surveillance aircrafts and

other aircrafts. He said that he has examined how it functioned in the field, for example in the detection of helicopters, and found it to be functioning well. The surfer adds that he has finished building the software but that he needs more time to add further elements to it. According to him this software may be used for other things such as the identification of car license plates, the structure of tanks etc. The surfer says that the software is comprised of two windows, in the left window one can watch video images received from a video camera connected to a computer, "and as it is difficult to collect video images of surveillance aircrafts I used the Fake Webcam software [...]". The right window shows images after the program has identified the type of aircraft, such as a surveillance aircraft.

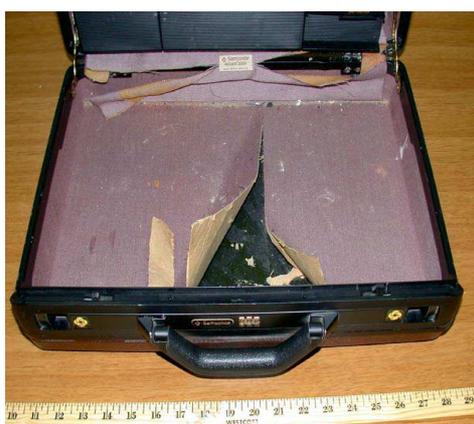
According to the surfer, in order to use this software the users will need a camera, a laptop and the software. One of the surfers responds favorably to this initiative, but states that in his opinion there is a certain difficulty in detecting fast planes. He also warns the author of the correspondence not to publish such correspondence in the future and to maintain discretion. He further mentions that he will approach the forum management especially to report on the unique plan of the author of this correspondence.<sup>16</sup> Following are images the author of the correspondence presented, as received from the software he built:



<sup>16</sup> <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=28686>



- One of the surfers on the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum published a basic 30-page manual for building bombs, accompanied by illustrations. The manual deals with the various components required for their construction and suggests hiding places for them.<sup>17</sup>



**An example of a hiding place for a bomb**

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=71867>

*Promoting the Myth of the Shahid*

- The new Jihadi media institute, "Al-Aqsa",<sup>18</sup> published "The Islamic State of Iraq – between the death of leaders in Allah's name and the ruses of the people of the lie", by Sheikh Abu Ahmad Abd Al-Rahman Al-Masri.<sup>19</sup>

The "Foreign Policy" magazine wrote the following on Sheikh Abu Ahmad Abd Al-Rahman Al-Masri:

"One of the most prolific and respected Al-Qaeda pundits today is actually a first-generation Jihadi writer using the name Sheikh Abu Ahmad Abd Al-Rahman Al-Masri. An Egyptian national, Al-Masri was active during the Jihadi crucible years, living in Afghanistan from 1987 to 1992, he has said, to 'follow up on the [various] Jihad projects [taking place]'. According to him, he failed in his efforts at the time but has since generated a bevy of books and essays, many of which are disseminated with high-gloss artwork by the Al-Ansar Mailing Group, a pre-eminent Jihadi media organization. He has also published articles in the Taliban's official magazine, 'Al-Somood'.

Al-Masri's writings are now touted as 'must reads' by Jihadi Web forum administrators and often appear translated into English on Western Jihadi websites. Despite his towering reputation among Al-Qaeda readers and his long history working inside the global Jihadi movement, Al-Masri's name appears almost nowhere in open source English counterterrorism reporting. The goal of Al-Masri's works is to force Muslims into choosing between two courses of action: passively accepting the status quo or changing it through violence."<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> On its establishment, see:

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_September\\_2010\\_No\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_September_2010_No_2.pdf), page 34.

<sup>19</sup> <http://al-jahafal.com/vb/showthread.php?t=13723>

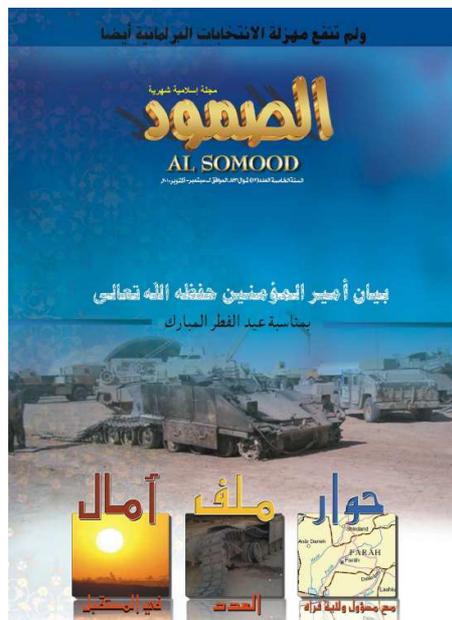
<sup>20</sup> [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/01/22/al\\_qaedas\\_armies\\_of\\_one?page=full](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/01/22/al_qaedas_armies_of_one?page=full)

### Ongoing events

- The "Services Bureau of the Mujahideen" (Maktab Khidamat Al-Mujahideen) announced on the Arabic Jihadi forum "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" that there will be an "open session" with the person in charge of the Taliban's military activity in Pakistan.<sup>21</sup> As part of the "open session" surfers may pose questions to the forum's guest.

### Magazines

- Issue no. 52 of the "Al-Somood" Jihadi magazine published in Arabic (56 pages long), published on behalf of the Taliban in Afghanistan. Amongst the issues raised in the current issue: A sermon by the Amir of the Taliban, Mullah Muhammad Omar, celebrating Eid Al-Fitr,<sup>22</sup> an interview with the person in charge of the Farah Province, a review of the lives of shahids, military developments occurring in July 2010 and more.<sup>23</sup>



<sup>21</sup> <http://as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=29606>

<sup>22</sup> On this matter, see:

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_September\\_2010\\_No\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG_Periodical_Review_September_2010_No_2.pdf), page 9.

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=72050>

## Reports from the field

### Afghanistan - Pakistan

- Senior members in the Pakistani Security Forces reported that Al-Qaeda's commander of operations in Pakistan and Afghanistan, Sheikh Al-Fatih, was killed in north-west Pakistan, as a result of a missile launched by an American unmanned aircraft towards his convoy. The identity of Al-Fatih is vague, but he is of Egyptian origin and is known as Abd Al-Razzaq. He was appointed as an Al-Qaeda leader in the Pakistan-Afghanistan region only several months ago, replacing Mustafa Abu Al-Yazid, one of the organization's leaders who was killed in May 2010, also in north-west Pakistan.<sup>24</sup>

It should be noted that in the past year the aerial strikes against Al-Qaeda – both senior and junior members – increased in the various fighting theaters, such as: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Yemen and Somalia. These attacks took a heavy toll on the organization and its branches. Following are several prominent examples:

On August 2009, BaytAllah Mahsud, leader of the Taliban in Pakistan, was killed in an attack from an unmanned aircraft.<sup>25</sup> In September 2009 one of Al-Qaeda's leaders in Somalia who was behind the 2002 terrorist attacks in Mombassa, Kenya, Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan, was killed.<sup>26</sup> In December 2009, Muhammad Umayr Al-Awlaki, a senior member of Al-Qaeda's branch in Yemen, was killed.<sup>27</sup> In May 2010, as previously stated, Al-Qaeda's leader in

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<sup>24</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=199172>

<sup>25</sup>

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_Jan\\_2010\\_No\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_Jan_2010_No_2.pdf), pages 5, 8.

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2009/09/15/84986.html>

<sup>27</sup>

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_Jan\\_2010\\_No\\_1.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_Jan_2010_No_1.pdf), pages 6-7.

Pakistan, Mustafa Abu Al-Yazid, was killed,<sup>28</sup> and in August 2010, Sheikh Abu Muhammad Abd Al-Rahman Awad, the Amir of "Fatah Al-Islam", a Salafi-Jihadi organization operating in Lebanon, was also killed.<sup>29</sup>

- The "Al-Rai" Kuwaiti newspaper reported on September 9<sup>th</sup> 2010 that Saed Osama bin Laden, Sulaiman Abu Al-Ghaith (Al-Qaeda's official spokesperson), and other Al-Qaeda leaders, possibly including Saif Al-Adel and other Saudi and Egyptian leaders, have recently come to Afghanistan after being under house arrest in Iran. The Al-Qaeda leaders were released following a trade in which Al-Qaeda released an Iranian consul and his entourage who were abducted in Peshawar. The trade was carried out in three stages. In the first stage, Saed Osama bin Laden and other detainees were released, in the second stage a group including a senior Egyptian member and Saudi activists was released, and in the third stage several leaders, headed by Abu Al-Ghaith, were released.<sup>30</sup>



**Sulaiman Abu Al-Ghaith**

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<sup>28</sup>

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_June\\_2010\\_No\\_1.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_June_2010_No_1.pdf), page 8.

<sup>29</sup>

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_August\\_2010\\_No\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_August_2010_No_2.pdf), pages 18-19.

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.alraimedia.com/alrai/Article.aspx?id=225609&date=09092010>

- In Pakistan, the American forces continue to attack Jihad activists using unmanned aircrafts. Over the course of September, several such attacks were carried out.<sup>31</sup> It should be noted that the American forces do not claim responsibility for the attacks, and the Pakistani authorities condemn them for it. On the other hand it is thought that Pakistani intelligence entities are providing the Americans with information so they can track the targets of these attacks. Since August 2008, over 130 such attacks took place, killing over 1,100 people.<sup>32</sup>

According to reports reaching the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper, the Americans have succeeded in killing the sons of two key figures, as far as Al-Qaeda funding in the region is concerned, in these attacks. According to reports, Abd Al-Rahman, the son of Mustafa Abu Al-Yazid (an Egyptian Al-Qaeda financier killed in May 2010) was killed in an American attack. Abd Al-Rahman, who was known by his nickname "Yaaqub", had been considered to be one of his father's heirs. His father was the organization's main financier for over a decade, and held a position of great importance in the organization. Abd Al-Rahman was married to the daughter of Muhammad Hasan Khalil Al-Hakim, known as "Abu Jihad Al-Masri", an Al-Qaeda leader who was killed in a similar attack several years ago.

The family is related to Sheikh Omar Abd Al-Rahman, the spiritual leader of Al-Jama'a Al-Islamiya in Egypt, incarcerated in the United States following the attack on the World Trade Center in 1993.

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<sup>31</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=586520&issueno=11612>,  
<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=586869&issueno=11614>,  
<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11615&article=586998&feature=>  
<sup>32</sup> <http://aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11620&article=587689&feature=>

The son of Amir Al-Fath, one of the Afghan Jihad leaders during the Soviet occupation, was also killed in the American attack.<sup>33</sup>

- The Taliban organization continues to threaten to carry out terrorist attacks due to the elections held on September 18<sup>th</sup> 2010.<sup>34</sup>
- The "As-Sahab" Jihadi media institute published a video titled "The Mujahideen attacks on the NATO and the U.S. Army aid convoys near Peshawar". The video was published as part of the series titled "The Holocaust of the Crusaders and the Muslims who have abandoned their faith in the land of Khorasan: the Islamic Emirate".<sup>35</sup> In recent weeks the Taliban organization has attacked dozens of supply trucks destined for the NATO forces in Afghanistan.

#### Iraq

- Fighting took place over the course of September 2010 in the "Al-Hudayd" region, a village about three kilometers west of Baqubah, between Al-Qaeda activists and the Iraqi Security Forces who had aerial support from the American forces. According to the Deputy Chairman of the Diyala Province Council, the security forces were trying to defeat the sniper stronghold in the area. He reported that four military and police personnel were killed and that armed men placed bombs around the region to prevent the security forces from entering it. However, despite this the security forces succeeded to enter the region. The Head of the Security Committee and the Province's Council

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<sup>33</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=587974&issueno=11622>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11616&article=587145>,  
<http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=197062>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=72922>

said that the operation is a dangerous sign of the recent increase in the power of the armed groups.<sup>36</sup>

In another event two men were killed by a car bomb in Baqubah. Twelve Al-Qaeda activists were arrested in the Diyala Province. Over the past weeks there has been an escalation of the attacks on military and police forces in charge of maintaining the security in Iraq, after the United States officially announced the end of the war in Iraq.<sup>37</sup> Furthermore, at least 18 people including two soldiers were killed in two terrorist attacks in Mosul and Al-Fallujah.<sup>38</sup>

- A senior member of Kurdish Security said that Ansar Al-Sunnah is one of the most dangerous organizations in Iraq, and is characterized by its Iraqi identity. This is different to the global agenda of Al-Qaeda and "the Islamic State of Iraq". According to him, the organization has Arab, Kurdish and Turkmen fighters.<sup>39</sup>
- The "Jihad Press" news agency published an announcement titled "Exclusive details on the attack on Allah's name against the old Ministry of Defense in Baghdad". According to the announcement, the commander of the terrorist group which attacked the old Ministry of Defense in Baghdad at the beginning of September 2010 was Abu Al-Zubayr Al-Maqdisi. Al-Maqdisi is the son of Sheikh Abu Muhammad Abd Al-Rahman Awad, the Amir of the "Fatah Al-Islam" group, a Salafi-Jihadi organization operating in Lebanon.<sup>40</sup>

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<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11613&article=586709&feature=>

<sup>37</sup> <http://aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11612&article=586504&feature=>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11615&article=586983>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.alraimedia.com/alrai/Article.aspx?id=227990&date=22092010>

<sup>40</sup> The Amir of the "Fatah Al-Islam" group was killed on August 15<sup>th</sup> 2010. See: [http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_August\\_2010\\_No\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_August_2010_No_2.pdf), pages 18-19.

The aforementioned attack was in retaliation for the attack of the authorities against the honor of the "mothers of the believers". The attacks began one of the group's members driving a car bomb towards the compound's back gate. Following this, the rest of the terrorists took over two buildings within the compound, and participated in an exchange of fire with Special Forces from the Iraqi Army, which lasted for over an hour. American forces also intervened, as some members of the Iraqi forces were killed by the terrorists detonating explosives. At least 12 men were killed and 36 others were injured.<sup>41</sup>

- "The Islamic State of Iraq" (ISI) published an announcement titled "An attack against two of the strongholds of evil and espionage in Baghdad", as part of the military campaign led by the organization, with the purpose of attacking Shiite institutions and individuals in the Green Zone.

On September 24<sup>th</sup> 2010 two Shiite institutions in the country were attacked. The first target was the National Security Office, operating "under the supervision and protection of those collaborating with Iran". According to the "Islamic State of Iraq", this office was founded so that it could serve as an infrastructure for the Iranian intelligence services, and to supervise the war against the Sunni in the country. The second target was the premises of the Asia Sale Company, located in the "Al-Mansur" neighborhood in the heart of Baghdad. According to the "Islamic State of Iraq" this company "has become an inseparable part of the Security mechanism used by the Crusader Army and the 'Green Zone' government, conducting a hunt for the Mujahideen, fighting them and spying on them [...]".

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<sup>41</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=71588>

According to the announcement, both attacks were meticulously planned to the very last detail. Two cars rigged with explosives were smuggled through the security roadblocks located near both targets. The detonation killed dozens of people, including officers from the National Security Office.<sup>42</sup>

#### The Arabian Peninsula

- The Yemeni government is conducting an operation in the Shabwa Province against Al-Qaeda. The desert region is a training area and hiding place for the organization. There are reports claiming that thousands of citizens have left their homes following the fights,<sup>43</sup> and that Al-Qaeda is using civilians as human shields.<sup>44</sup> The conflicts with Al-Qaeda continue also in other regions such as Abyan and Ludar.<sup>45</sup>
- In light of the many assassinations against Yemeni security figures, the authorities have banned the use of motorcycles in the Abyan Province. In the past three months, 28 assassinations have taken place, killing 12 officers.<sup>46</sup>
- The trial of two media people began in Yemen. One is a journalist close to the Al-Qaeda leadership and specializing in terrorism, Abdul Ela Haydar Sha'i. The other is a caricaturist, Kamal Sharif.<sup>47</sup> Both are suspected of planning terrorist acts and providing media support to Al-Qaeda.<sup>48</sup>

#### The Maghreb

- The heads of the security forces in Mali, Mauritania, Algeria and Niger met in mid-September 2010, to discuss the establishment of an intelligence unit

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<sup>42</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=72221>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=587680&issueno=11620>

<sup>44</sup> <http://aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=587947&issueno=11622>

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=587680&issueno=11620>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/EXERES/1C7F3918-FD27-46B9-AA0E-ADD2F2821FC1.htm>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.freemedia.at/singleview/5207/>

<sup>48</sup> <http://aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11619&article=587497&feature=>

whose purpose is to cover Al-Qaeda's activity in the Sahara. The method of operation is to prepare a list of the names of smugglers and gang leaders, who have in the past sold hostages to Jihad groups for money, and to later on try and use them against Al-Qaeda, just as Al-Qaeda uses these smugglers for its activity against the military. This new mechanism is part of the "Joint Chief of Staffs Headquarters" between these countries. The objective is to gather information on the whereabouts of armed Salafis so that the Joint Chief of Staffs Headquarters can act against them. The new intelligence unit is meant to gather information on young members of the "Tawariq" Tribe who have recently joined Al-Qaeda and who are estimated to number about 50. They are a source of concern for the region's governments.<sup>49</sup>

A senior source stated that the meeting focused on two issues: first, tracking the financing sources of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and finding ways to stop them, and secondly, training units for tactical combat in the desert. The source stated that security experts noticed that the extortion money received by the armed groups between 2008 and 2010 constituted a source of grave danger to the security and stability in the region as these funds are used to purchase weapons and explosives. The source said that senior individuals within the intelligence community claim that Al-Qaeda has close ties with smugglers of various goods such as cigarettes, as well as ties with merchants and tribal leaders in the Sahara who constitute an income source as part of the "crossing of interests". The source divulged that 1,000 soldiers will be chosen whose mission will be fighting in the desert, day and night, on foot and on camels. They will study the local dialects such as Hasaniya and Ifoghas so that they will be able to communicate with the locals, and use the

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<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11613&article=586706&feature=>

methods that Al Qaeda uses against the organization itself. It was further agreed that the four governments will reinforce their ties and may even establish joint border passages so as to supervise the crossing of people and goods. In this regard it should be noted that senior security officers believe that Al-Qaeda in North Africa is using the vast empty territories and the ease of border crossing to find safe refuge from which to carry out future attacks on western targets.<sup>50</sup>

- Five Frenchmen and two others, employees of Areva, were abducted in Niger in September 2010. It should be noted that Al-Qaeda has recently threatened to retaliate against France for the joint operation it held together with the Mauritanian Army, killing nine of the organization's operatives.<sup>51</sup>

Several days after the abduction, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb claimed responsibility and published an announcement stating that a group of Mujahideen under the command of Sheikh Abu Zayd had succeeded in breaking through the security circles and kidnapped the five Frenchmen. It was further stated in the announcement that the organization will publish its list of demands from the French government. In addition, the organization warned France not to retaliate in haste, as it would pay a dear price.<sup>52</sup>

Following the abduction of the seven Areva employees, fierce battles waged between the Mauritanian Army backed by the French Army, and Al-Qaeda. The battles are happening in Malian territory.<sup>53</sup>

- An Algerian source reported that the French security forces asked Algeria for its help in locating the seven abductees. Another source reported that an Algerian intelligence unit located in the capital of Mali is currently gathering

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=587010&issueno=11615>

<sup>51</sup>

<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11617&article=587278&feature=>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=72000>

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/1B0C4EE5-75CD-4BE3-9900-19C8CE30B346.htm>

information on the abduction. The unit is aided by smugglers to help track the kidnapers. That same source estimated that one of Al-Qaeda's operatives, Mukhtar Belmukhtar, is behind the kidnapping as the seven were kidnapped in an area where smugglers who cooperate with Belmukhtar are operating. There is a leadership struggle over the terrorist activity in the region between Belmukhtar and the leader of another group, Ubeid Hmado (also known as "Abu Zayd").<sup>54</sup>

At the same time, local sources reported that Yahya Abu Hammam, the senior military member of Abd Al-Hamid Abu Zayid's group, is now commanding Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb's activity against the Mauritanian forces.<sup>55</sup>

- The "Al-Andalus" media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, published photographs and tapes of the French abductees in Niger.<sup>56</sup>



- The "Al-Andalus" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, published an announcement titled "The Hasi Sidi Campaign: the complete details of the shameful defeat of those collaborating

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.ennaharonline.com/ar/terrorisme/67873.html>

<sup>55</sup> <http://aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11619&article=587476&feature=>

<sup>56</sup> <http://al-jahafal.com/vb/showthread.php?t=13748>

with France". According to the organization, it has received intelligence information that the Mauritania Army, with the encouragement of France, has sent military forces to eliminate the Mujahideen. In response the Mujahideen decided to take the initiative and surprise the forces fighting in the "Hasi Sidi" region. During the fighting between the parties, 19 Mauritanian soldiers were killed, dozens others were injured and the rest of the soldiers ran from the battlefield leaving behind large quantities of loot and equipment. Amongst the equipment falling into the hands of the Mujahideen were: five armored vehicles, guns, shells, the computer of the Mauritanian military commander containing important information and maps, and a sum equal to 1,700 Euro.<sup>57</sup>



#### The loot which fell into the hands of the Mujahideen

- The "Al-Andalus" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, published an announcement titled "Service for its French master: the Mauritanian Army is bombing and killing innocents". In the

<sup>57</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=72219>,  
<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=587323&issueno=11618>

announcement the organization condemns the attack of the Mauritanian Army against the Mujahideen and the attack on the local tribes. The organization announces it shall avenge them. Furthermore, the organization calls on the Ulama in Mauritania to clarify on the basis of Sharia, the legal standing of every Muslim coming out against his brother to serve France's interests.<sup>58</sup>

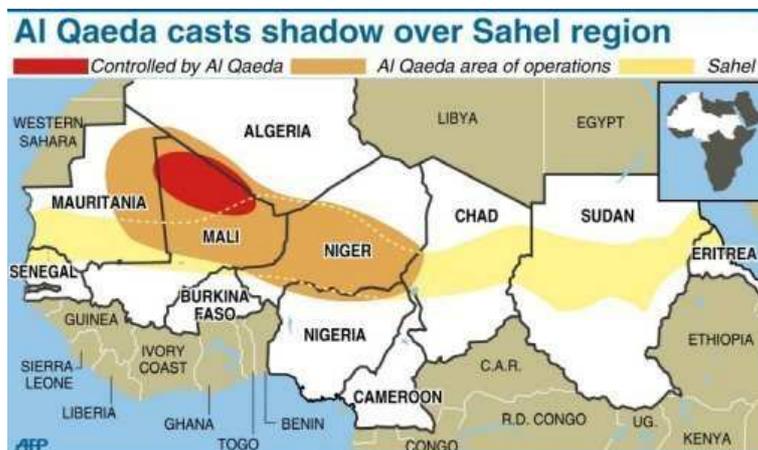
- The "Al-Andalus" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, published an announcement titled "News report no. 28, the Mujahideen's quality terrorist attacks: the killing and injuring of over 150 Muslims who have abandoned their religion, including that of officers". The current report contains a list of terrorist attacks executed by the organization between the end of August 2010 and the end of September 2010 against various targets in the Maghreb. The operations included the apprehension of spies, attacking Mauritanian military and police forces, and setting off explosive charges.<sup>59</sup>
- One of the surfers on the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum posted charts prepared by western research centers which depict the deployment of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb operatives.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=71824>

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=71657>

<sup>60</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=71816>



The Al-Sham region

- The "Jama'at Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad fi Bayt Al-Maqdis", a Salafi-Jihadi organization active in the Gaza Strip, has announced it is prepared to pay £15,000 to whomever kills Yasser Al-Habib, who slandered the Prophet

Muhammad. Al-Habib is a Shiite religious cleric who has received political sanctuary in London after attacking the Prophet's wife, Aisha.<sup>61</sup> One of the surfers expressed the hope that "his head shall be cut off for free by the battalions and regiments of Aisha, Allah's mercy be upon her, as the sleeper cells of the rising new brave generation are willing to do. One must plan, maintain discretion and rely on Allah to execute an attack against Yasser Al-Habib".<sup>62</sup>



**Yasser Al-Habib**

- The "Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad" website, belonging to Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, officially announced that the Jordanian authorities have arrested the website manager.<sup>63</sup> He was arrested for, amongst other things, the publication of an essay titled "Millat Ibrahim" (The Descendants of Abraham), containing overt incitement against the royal family in Saudi Arabia.<sup>64</sup>

Following his arrest, one of the surfers on the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum, addressed Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb demanding they act for his release: "I call to our brothers the Mujahideen lions at the Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb organization, who have kidnapped the French, to demand

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.youm7.com/News.asp?NewsID=283090&SecID=97>

<sup>62</sup> <http://al-jahafal.com/vb/showthread.php?t=13717>

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=71348>,  
<http://www.tawhed.ws/styles/default/images/banners/large/banner.gif>

<sup>64</sup> <http://www.addiwannews.com/more.asp?ThisID=8094&ThisCat=1>

the release of the honourable Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi as a condition for the release of the French".<sup>65</sup>

- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported that Abu Hafs Al-Maqdisi, the Amir of the "Jaysh Al-Ummah fi Bayt Al-Maqdis", was arrested in the Gaza Strip.<sup>66</sup>

#### Egypt

- Following the case of Kamila Shehata, a member of the Coptic Church who converted to Islam which led to the Church allegedly threatening to harm her, one of the surfers on the "Atahadi" Jihadi forum provided an explanation of how to destroy churches which are in the process of being built. This method does not use explosives, but instead utilizes a sugar cast. This would be retaliation for the way the Coptic Church has conducted itself in Egypt regarding Shehata. The surfer states that a certain amount of sugar should be cast over the church columns before casting the cement.<sup>67</sup>

At the same time, one of the surfers on the "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" Jihadi forum in Arabic posted a list of over 50 Coptic individuals who allegedly have a large part in the smear campaign against the Islamic religion. Mentioned in particular is Najib Sawiris, a wealthy Egyptian Coptic businessman heading several Egyptian companies. He is accused of using every possible platform to warn about the danger of Muslim propagation.

The correspondence raises a call to boycott companies who have business ties with Sawiris, such as cell phone companies. Apart from him, Coptic organizations operating outside of Egypt such as the Coptic Foundation for Human Rights which operates in Switzerland, are also mentioned.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=71588>

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=199705>

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=28669>

<sup>68</sup> <http://as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=29289>



**Najib Sawiris**

Africa

- In Mogadishu the fighting has continued between the government and African Forces, and the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement. In their attempt to regain control over positions they have lost in previous battles, the Somali and African forces have used various types of weapons, including heavy artillery.<sup>69</sup>
- The "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement continues to gain strength and recruit military power in Somalia. Photographs were released of a new regiment joining the ranks of the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement, after having completed its training in the "Jihad Camps".<sup>70</sup>



<sup>69</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/EXERES/E36913CC-0727-4507-BD80-A8316DC717FF.htm>

<sup>70</sup> <http://al-jahafal.com/vb/showthread.php?t=13697>

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper published an interview with a spy nicknamed "Muhammad", belonging to the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" in Mogadishu. As background information to the interview, the newspaper discusses the fact that the terrorist attack at the airport in Mogadishu on September 9<sup>th</sup> 2010<sup>71</sup> was probably carried out based on advance information the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" organization had. This information included the fact that the headquarters of the African Union Forces were located at the airport, and that senior U.N. members had arrived at the airport for a meeting with high level Somali officials.

At the beginning of the interview several details about Muhammad are provided. Amongst other things, it is stated that he has 10 children and that the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" organization is paying him \$100 a month and is also helping him with his rent and with food purchases. However, he declares that he does not do the work for money, but rather "he believes everything the movement stands for". Muhammad mentions that the purpose of "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" is to take over the entire country and rule it as an Islamic Emirate. He says that there are foreign Mujahideen in the militia who have trained in Afghanistan and Pakistan and have become influential in the organization. Muhammad declares "we shall not stop at our borders alone", alluding to the execution of terrorist attacks outside of Somalia, such as the one carried out in Uganda by the organization.

Last year Muhammad joined an "Al-Shabab" cell whose purpose was to collect intelligence within regions ruled by the government. Many of his family live in his neighborhood, enabling him greater freedom in his actions. Muhammad reports that "When we wish to execute attacks within the government

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<sup>71</sup> On the matter, see:

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_September\\_2010\\_No\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_September_2010_No_2.pdf), pages 17-18.

regions, we use public transportation and blend in with normal citizens. Sometimes we rent safe houses where we can manufacture bombs". According to him, each cell is comprised of 3 to 8 people and everyone has a role. Some place bombs on the roadsides, while others shoot shells at government vehicles. Some cells carry out assassinations and other cells purchase weapons and transfer them into government regions.

The article continues with an interview with Anas Sheikh Abdullah, who headed a cell which carries out assassinations within regions controlled by the government. Abdullah left the "Al-Shabab" organization seven months ago when he learned he was targeted for assassination, and now works for the government trying to stop "Al-Shabab" spies. According to him, the movement has about 1,000 spies inside territories ruled by the government, some of whom are operating in strategic areas: near the airport, the harbor and the Presidential Palace. He said that there are also cells operating within the mosques and Madrassas. He said that the militia enables its spies to cut their hair according to the fashion and smoke cigarettes so that the government does not suspect them of belonging to "Al-Shabab".

The article states that the organization is exploiting the difficult economic situation in Somalia and the fact that soldiers are not paid regularly. The Somali Minister of Propaganda, Abd Al-Rahman Omar Uthman, said that the movement is using government soldiers, promising them money. According to Abdullah, it is possible that armed men infiltrated government and police offices.

According to Muhammad, the success of the armed men in infiltrating government ranks was apparent in the attack on the Mona Hotel in August 2010, an attack which took two months to prepare. The attack was planned

by a cell located in Mogadishu, who had studied the place and carried out evaluations about the number of guards and bodyguards that the senior figures had. However, the main strategy was the element of surprise. Two terrorists who strapped themselves with explosives wore Somali Army uniforms. Muhammad said "It was easy to obtain the uniforms; we purchased them for 10 dollars from several soldiers".<sup>72</sup>

#### The West and the rest of the world

- Apprehension in France regarding terrorist attacks against French targets outside the country and within. The French Minister of Interior declared that "The terror threat is a serious one, and therefore our vigilance has been elevated". The French security forces received reports that Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb is planning a suicide attack on French soil, apparently on the Metro. The head of the French Internal Intelligence Forces said that "All the signs are red".

A chain of events has increased the security vigilance in France recently: a false report of a bomb at the Eiffel Tower, the abduction of five Frenchmen in Niger, the transfer of information from Algeria to France about a female suicide bomber in Paris, the new law prohibiting the wearing of a "Niqab" in public places, the French involvement in Afghanistan, the return of French Jihad figures from Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan, and Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb's threats against Sarkozy.<sup>73</sup>

- One of the surfers wrote about the threats against Germany made by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban in September 2009, which eventually came to

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<sup>72</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=586854&issueno=11614>

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11620&article=587686>

nothing.<sup>74</sup> According to him, the threats were planned by and directed from, the highest levels in Al-Qaeda. Furthermore, the "As-Sahab" media institute published three essays by Abu Talha the German, and later on by Ayman Al-Zawahiri and of students who mentioned Germany. The final sign-off was an audio tape by Osama bin Laden who mentioned Europe in general, while the colors of the German flag were shown in the background on the tape.

The question as to why this was not carried out was raised in the forums. Some claimed that the Mujahideen failed, while others explained that future threats have no value now and some were just disappointed. The writer explains that all the intelligence services around the world collaborated together, and were concerned and confused and confounded. According to him, this is what the Mujahideen wanted to achieve. Therefore there was automatically less attention paid to the events in other arenas, and thus "came three painful blows against the United States, one in November in the heart of the military base in Fort Hood... later, Omar Al-Faruq bypassed all of their security measures and made it to the Detroit sky on Christmas in December, and the final act was the big operation of the intelligence eliminator, Abu Dujana Al-Khorasani, who eliminated America's best intelligence operatives on (the Christian) new year".

The surfer emphasizes that while there was increased security in Germany, no one expected the target to be the United States – "All the spotlights were directed at Abu Talha the German and his brothers in Khorasan, but they did not know that the blows will come from Sheikh Anwar Al-Awlaki and his brothers in Al-Qaeda in Yemen". Despite this fact, he clarifies that the threats against Germany were not idle ones, but were meant to make the Germans

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<sup>74</sup> On the matter, see:

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_August\\_2010\\_No\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_August_2010_No_2.pdf), pages 17-18.

think, "Al-Qaeda is patient and has not forgotten that Germany is its enemy. When will the blow come and how? They will not know, only after it happens".<sup>75</sup>

- One of the surfers on the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum posted correspondence titled "To the brothers in the West: individual Jihad is the means for total victory". In this correspondence the surfer asks the Muslims living in the West, the United States and Europe to show personal initiative and carry out terrorist attacks against western targets, mainly against western countries participating in the war against the Muslims. According to him, these attacks may bring the retreat of these countries from the war, just as Spain retreated from Iraq following the terrorist attacks in Madrid. Moreover "we know that one terrorist attack on infidel land is worth ten times more than an attack against the occupation soldiers on Muslim lands."

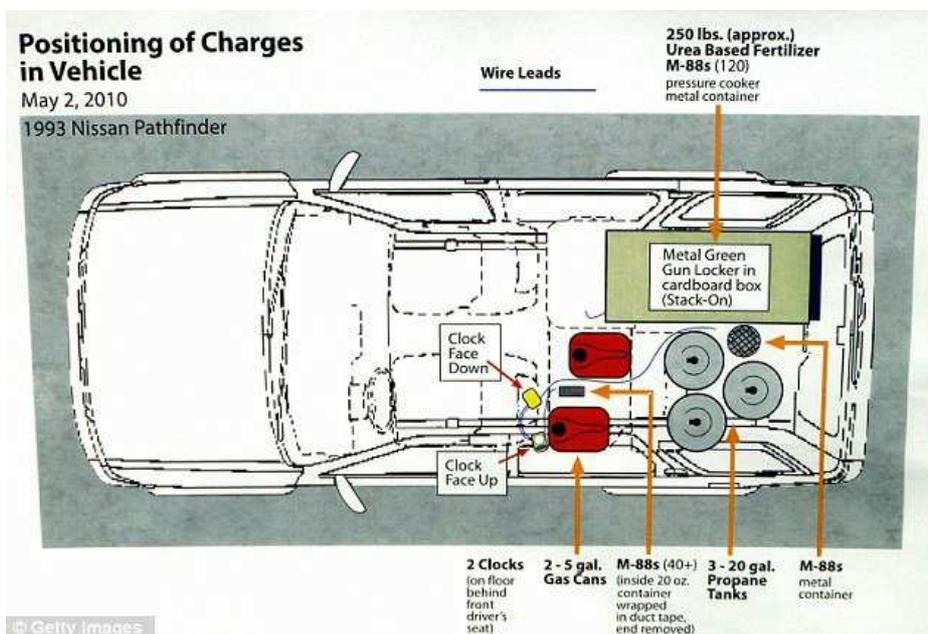
According to him, the equation the West wishes to instill – sending soldiers to Muslim lands in the name of fighting terrorism – should be broken. Therefore, the surfer provides an explanation of the preparation of a car bomb and claims that it can be built using simple components, like the one made by the terrorist who tried to detonate a car bomb in Times Square in May 2010. According to the surfer, in order to assemble a car bomb, one must at first gather the following items:<sup>76</sup>

- Purchasing a large car, such as a family car, appropriate for placing explosives.
- Appropriate materials for the assembly of the explosive charge, such as a gas tank and gasoline containers.

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<sup>75</sup> <http://al-jahafal.com/vb/showthread.php?t=13682>

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=72371>



Later on the surfer provides a very detailed explanation on turning gas tanks into bombs, and information on the preparation of a timer.



Using a cell phone as an explosives mechanism

- In the National Security Preparedness Group's report written last year, 43 American citizens or people residing in the United States with ties to militant Islamic organizations or organizations with a radical Islamic ideology, were charged with or convicted of, committing crimes of terrorism inside the United States and abroad. The report discusses the social background of terrorist activists and points to a trend of smaller scale terrorist attacks.<sup>77</sup>

All the while, the US Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitani, declared that the United States is not completely safe from terrorist threats. In August 2010, 14 indictments were served against Americans who helped the Somali "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" organization.<sup>78</sup>

- Division within the Mujahideen in the Caucasus – the Amir of the Caucasus, Dokka Abu Uthman, explained that he was forced to use the internet when addressing the Arab Mujahideen as he does not have another way to contact them. He refers to Muhannad, who is one of the Mujahideen, and is trying to create division amongst the Mujahideen in the Caucasus. He explains that since the establishment of the Caucasus Emirate he has been trying to sabotage it. He claimed in vain that Jihad stopped after the establishment of the Emirates in Iraq and Afghanistan, as according to him, Allah has sent his punishment.

The Amir explains that in the last Shura Council, Muhannad claimed that the Shura Council is the deciding party and not the Amir, as was during the reign of the first two Amirs. Abu Uthman said that he refuted this statement, and called on him to ask someone who was present during the time of the first two Amirs. This person, Abu Sayfan, confirmed the Amir's statements.

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<sup>77</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=586369&issueno=11611>. The report can be found via the following link:

<http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/library/report/assessing-terrorist-threat>.

<sup>78</sup> <http://arabic.cnn.com/2010/world/9/13/napolitano.threat/index.html>

Muhannad was not convinced and is still calling on the Mujahideen to bring down the Amir Dokka Abu Uthman. The Amir concludes his statements and emphasizes that Muhannad is a warmonger.<sup>79</sup>

This matter relates to the Fatwa published on Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi's website, according to which three senior leaders in the Caucasus – Aslanbek, Muhannad and Hussein – have announced that they are not bound by a pledge of allegiance to the Amir of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus, Dokka Abu Uthman.<sup>80</sup>

This information supplements previous information pointing to disagreements and power struggles amongst senior operatives in the Jihad theaters and global Jihad fronts. We cannot estimate at this time the scope of this phenomenon and its effect on the organizational activity on all levels – operational activity, recruitment, financing etc.

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper published an article on the phenomenon of the spreading of radical Islam in Tajikistan.<sup>81</sup> At the same time, the Tajikistani Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of three Islamists suspected of being involved in a suicide attack carried out recently at a police station. According to the Tajikistani authorities, the three were operatives of the Islamic movement in Uzbekistan. The attack they are suspected of being involved in was carried out at the beginning of September 2010, in which a suicide bomber drove a car into a police station, killing two policemen and injuring 25 others. The Tajikistani government was quick to blame the attack

<sup>79</sup> <http://al-jahafal.com/vb/showthread.php?t=13681>

<sup>80</sup>

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_September\\_2010\\_No\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_September_2010_No_2.pdf), pages 29-30.

<sup>81</sup>

<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11621&article=587836&feature=>

on the Islamic movement in Uzbekistan, operating in Afghanistan and tied to Al-Qaeda.<sup>82</sup>

- The "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya" Jihadi forum (Al-Mojahden Electronic Network) calls for a boycott on German goods all over the Islamic world, because Angela Merkel welcomed the Danish artist who drew caricatures offending the Prophet Muhammad.<sup>83</sup> Furthermore, the forum calls for a boycott of Chinese goods due to the Chinese policy against the Muslims.<sup>84</sup>
- The "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya" Jihadi forum (Al-Mojahden Electronic Network) calls for the Jihad in Kashmir to be reignited following the massacres carried out, according to the forum, against the Muslims by the Indian Forces.<sup>85</sup>

### Miscellaneous

The opening of a new forum called "Shabakat Al-Nur Al-Islamiya"

- During the second half of September 2010 the "Atahadi" Jihadi forum published an announcement on the opening of a new Jihadi forum called "Shabakat Al-Nur Al-Islamiya" with accompanying links and the logo of the forum.<sup>86</sup> This announcement caused a stir and disagreements amongst the surfers. According to some of the surfers, this forum has not been authorized and recognized by the "Al-Fajr" Jihadi media institute, which serves as a mouthpiece for Al-Qaeda,<sup>87</sup> and therefore its reliability is questionable. One of the surfers asked the other surfers not to register for the forum in view of the

<sup>82</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=587340&issueno=11618>

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2010/09/08/118840.html>,  
<http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=7751>

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=7560>

<sup>85</sup> <http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=7792>

<sup>86</sup> <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?p=123672>

<sup>87</sup> <http://as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=28827>

many doubts surrounding it. Another surfer stated that the server on which the new Jihadi forum is operating is Palestinian, and that is why there are so many doubts. Another surfer criticized the "Atahadi" Jihadi forum's conduct and claimed that neither it nor any other entity other than the "Al-Fajr" institute have the authorization to allow the opening of new Jihadi forums.

- In response to these accusations, one of the representatives of the new "Al-Nur" Jihadi forum published a clarification stating it is an independent forum that does not represent any other forum. Finally, following the surge of protest on the part of the surfers, the "Atahadi" forum published an official announcement retracting its authorization of the new "Al-Nur" Jihadi forum. The announcement stated that it has been closed down and is no longer active and therefore the surfers are requested not to use links, if any are published, leading to the "Al-Nur" forum.<sup>88</sup>

A re-examination revealed that the "Atahadi" forum has removed all correspondence pertaining to the issue of the "Al-Nur" forum. One of the surfers on the "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" Jihadi forum also testifies to the fact.<sup>89</sup>

This case shows that apparently the activity of Jihadi forums is contingent first and foremost on receiving the authorization and consent of the "Al-Fajr" Jihadi media institute. However, it is yet unclear why the "Atahadi" forum has decided to take this authority upon itself and provide authorization for a new Jihadi forum, knowing that this right is reserved to "Al-Fajr".

From the above discussion one can deduce that despite the proliferation of Jihadi forums and blogs there is a certain level of order and hierarchy, with a guiding hand regarding the reliability or appearance of new forums.

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<sup>88</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=70920> ,

<http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=28916>

<sup>89</sup> <http://as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=28827>

- In one of the posts placed on the "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" Jihadi forum in Arabic, it was reported that a page dedicated to Jihadi propaganda, called "Al-Moraseloon" has been founded. In accordance with this announcement, this page located on the Facebook social network is updated twice a week and divided into four main categories: the news segment, the Da'awa segment, the technical segment and the women's segment. The correspondence calls on the surfers to follow this page on Facebook and remain updated.<sup>90</sup>



- The "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum announced that the veteran "Al-Faloja" Jihadi forum has been shut down permanently and will not return.<sup>91</sup>
- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum quotes an article published on the BBC website, claiming there is an increase in women's activity in Al-Qaeda.<sup>92</sup>

<sup>90</sup> <http://as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=29535>,  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/almraslwn/117894331567336>

<sup>91</sup> <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=70526>. On this matter, see:  
[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWGMG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_August\\_2010\\_No\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWGMG_Periodical_Review_August_2010_No_2.pdf), pages 22-25.

<sup>92</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=199564>,  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2010/09/100930\\_female\\_alqaeda.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2010/09/100930_female_alqaeda.shtml)