



On May 1st, 2011, Al-Qaeda's leader Osama Bin Laden was killed in a ground operation carried out by U.S. forces in Pakistan. Bin Laden had been the most wanted terrorist since the September 11 attacks, for which he was responsible. Whilst this is a milestone in the War on Terror, experts have warned that although Bin Laden may be dead, Al-Qaeda lives on, both as an organization and as an ideology. Dr. Boaz Ganor recently commented that "In the wake of the Bin Laden era, terror groups worldwide will have growing motivation to carry out revenge attacks". According to Dr. Ganor, American symbols such as embassies and citizens will be targeted first; "In the long term, Al-Qaeda may attempt to carry out a mega-attack similar in scope to the September 11 offensive". While Al-Qaeda has yet to make any official statement on the subject, Jihad forums and websites have been abuzz with comments from Al-Qaeda and Bin Laden supporters. According to Dr. Ely Karmon, "There are three kinds of reaction so far – some deploring the death and writing about the martyrdom of Bin Laden. Others are talking about revenge for his death. Still others – including two Taliban spokesmen – have threatened retaliation."

Following is an interim report by the ICT on Osama Bin Laden. This report includes significant extracts and summaries of information from Jihad websites and forums relating to the former Al-Qaeda leader, as well as a profile of Bin Laden. The report also contains ICT analysis and reaction to Bin Laden's death in the global media, and past articles published by the ICT on the subject of Bin Laden.



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Osama Bin Laden's Elimination – First Responses from Jihadi Forums

General

On the night of May 1st, 2011 (U.S. time), the U.S. President Barack Obama announced that U.S. special forces had succeeded in eliminating Osama Bin Laden, Al-Qaeda's leader and the no. 1 wanted man in the world. The operation took place in Abbotabad, about 50 kilometers north of the Pakistani capital, Islamabad.

As expected, immediately upon the release of this dramatic news, many surfers on the Jihadi forums identified with Al-Qaeda began addressing the subject. At the time of writing, a formal announcement on behalf of Al-Qaeda's leadership or senior officials, or on behalf of one of the organization's affiliates around the world has yet to be published. However, it is clear that in the upcoming hours and days, the global Jihad organizations will address the issue.

In the meantime, three main themes can be identified in the Jihadi forums' surfers' responses: (1) eulogies of Osama Bin Laden; (2) praise for Bin Laden's path of Jihad and his character; (3) general threats to carry out retaliatory terrorist attacks against the "heretics", and especially against the Americans - anywhere and anytime.

It is still too early to estimate how Bin Laden's death will affect Al-Qaeda's development and activities as well as who, if anyone, will be appointed his heir. The general belief is that the Jihadi discourse on the forums will surround these issues in the upcoming days and weeks. As of now it seems that no one in Al-Qaeda's leadership has yet to take control of the organization.

Furthermore, as of yet no comments have been made on the forums regarding the great security oversight that was required for the military operation for the



elimination of Bin Laden to succeed. It will be very interesting to see the formal announcement by Al-Qaeda's general leadership regarding this matter, as well as others. In addition, it will be interesting to examine the conduct of the leaders of the other Jihadi theaters, such as Iraq, the Arabian Peninsula, the Islamic Maghreb, Somalia, the Gaza Strip, the Taliban in Afghanistan, etc.

Bin Laden's elimination constitutes a severe moral blow to the global Jihadi organizations and their supporters. However, to date it appears that the terrorist activity in the Afghanistan–Pakistan region will continue under the Taliban's leadership, despite the fact that Al-Qaeda's leadership in Afghanistan–Pakistan has lost substantial power due to Bin Laden's elimination as well as due to the elimination of other leaders over the past two years. It is expected that localized leadership will also continue in the other Jihad theaters.

The following document summarizes the main responses found on the most prominent forums of global Jihad organizations, as well as in the Arab media, over the first hours following Bin Laden's elimination.



Detail

Surfer responses – praise, eulogies and threats of revenge

In a way similar to the elimination of previous Jihad leaders, the surfers on the Jihadi forums were quick to eulogize Osama Bin Laden and to bemoan his death, while at the same time praising his works and his adherence to the path of Jihad. Some even posted songs in his memory, praising his determination and resolve in the fight against the “heretics”.¹ Over the next few days the Jihadi forums will probably be filled with songs of praise for Bin Laden, alongside visual and textual publications praising his leadership and his honorable death as a “shahid” and calling on every Muslim to follow in his path and view him as a role model.

Already in the first hours following news of his death, various surfers were quick to pledge their allegiance to Bin Laden and to the path of Jihad against the heretics, emphasizing that although Bin Laden is dead, his path of Jihad will never die. One surfer stated: “We will not surrender, we will win or die”.² Other surfers compared Bin Laden to the Prophet Muhammad and the first Caliphs. The surfers explained that just as belief in Allah and Jihad did not cease after their deaths: “Those who think we shall be defeated with the death of our leaders or their incarceration, as many heretic armies have been defeated in the past, is making a grave mistake”.³

A surfer on the “Hanein” Jihadi forum expressed sorrow over Bin Laden's death, while at the same time addressing America and stressing that “Islam and its groups are not connected by people and individuals but rather by schools of thought, ideas and faith”. Therefore, even though Bin Laden has been killed, his legacy shall

¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=37865>,
<http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=238243>

² <http://www.aljihad.com/vb/showthread.php?t=5024>,
<http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=238195&page=2>,
<http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=17409>

³ <http://www.aljihad.com/vb/showthread.php?t=5017>



continue to live on in the world. The surfer threatened that America shall pay a heavy price “with the blood of its sons and leaders...the men and women in America will weep for their sons, wives and offspring, and we shall look at them while they drown in their blood, if Allah so wishes”.⁴

Another surfer posted words of praise in honor of Bin Laden being killed as a martyr for Allah while “fighting a holy war against the Crusaders and the heretics”. That same surfer called on the Muslims everywhere to rise up and fight as Bin Laden has done, while promising that victory is near.⁵ A different surfer published the following: “He [Bin Laden] has founded bases on earth that are willing to fight the Crusaders everywhere and in all the border regions. The soldiers of Allah will come out against them”.⁶ Another surfer expressed hope that the death of the “Mujahideen's Sheikh” will bring about the defeat of “the enemies of the religion, the Jews, the Christians and anyone helping them from amongst those seceding from Islam”.⁷ In another correspondence, some of the members of the “Atahadi” Jihadi forum called for attacks on American targets in Afghanistan, Iraq and in the U.S. itself as revenge for Bin Laden's death.⁸

Another surfer on the “Al-Jahafil” forum mentioned Bin Laden's legacy, writing that America will not feel safe for as long as the Muslims around the world do not feel safe. He also mentioned that following Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi's death, the global Jihad movement gained momentum and Islamic Emirates were founded in various places, including Iraq. Furthermore, the surfer stressed that it is legitimate to

⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=238195>

⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=238197>

⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=238193>

⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=238280>

⁸ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=17418>



attack enemy targets, whether they are military or civilian, and called to “attack the enemy everywhere at any time”.⁹

Another surfer on the forum expressed his aspiration that various Jihad groups will respond in an “efficient and decisive” manner to the elimination of Bin Laden, just as Bin Laden kept all of his promises to attack “the heretic Crusading West”. However, one of the surfers had reservations and said that Al-Qaeda has ideological and theoretical goals and that it does not fight for people.¹⁰ The surfer who wished for retaliatory attacks by Jihad groups claimed in another correspondence that following Bin Laden's death the Americans have no legitimacy in remaining in Afghanistan, and called for their immediate withdrawal from the country.¹¹

And what about the identity of Bin Laden's replacement? Surfers on the Jihadi forums have already begun discussing the issue and some pledged their loyalty to Ayman Al-Zawahiri and called on him to take revenge on the Americans for Bin Laden's death.¹² One of the surfers wrote that it is believed Ayman Al-Zawahiri will rise as Bin Laden's heir, but wondered who will be appointed the new no. 2 man. This surfer mentioned that there are many figures that had key roles in founding Al-Qaeda and in managing it, but since the war in Afghanistan began at the end of 2001, these figures have become anonymous and unknown. The surfer named several senior figures in the organization that could potentially hold key roles now that Bin Laden is dead, such as: “Muhammad Makawi, Abu Al-Walid Al-Masri, whose real name is Mustafa Hamid, Abu Hafs Al-Mauritani and Thirwat Salah Shehata”. Later on, the surfer quoted estimations according to which the candidates for replacing Bin Laden are: Ayman Al-Zawahiri, Seif Al-Adel and Sulaiman Abu Al-

⁹ <http://al-jahafal.com/vb/showthread.php?t=18618>

¹⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=238209>

¹¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=238204>

¹² <http://www.aljihad.com/vb/showthread.php?t=5029>



Ghaith, who was Al-Qaeda's spokesperson. Finally, he named several figures that may fulfill an essential role in the organization, such as: Anwar Al-Awlaki, Fazul Abdullah Muhammad, Adam Yahya Gadahn, Fahd Muhammad Ahmad, Abdullah Ahmad Abdullah, Nazih Abd Al-Hamid Nabih Al-Raqi'i. It should be noted that most of the surfers have estimated that Al-Zawahiri will take on Al-Qaeda's leadership.¹³

#1
منذ 11 ساعات

أسماء تتداول لتصبح خليفة بن لادن..؟

اللهم اهدي الى صراطك

مشارك

الحالة: 0

تاريخ التسجيل: 26-03-2011

رقم العضوية: 7111

المشاركات: 45

معدل تقييم المستوى: 0

أسماء تتداول لتصبح خليفة بن لادن..؟

اهتمت عديد وسائل الاعلام بالرجل الذي سيكون خليفة لاسامة بن لادن الذي جرى اغتياله بأيد مخابراتية أمريكية يوم الاثنين 2-5 العام 2011 ويقفّر إلى الذهن اسم د. أيمن الظواهري فور سماع خبر مقتل أسامة بن لادن، لكن في الحقيقة هناك العديد من الأسماء التي لعت أدواراً جوهرية في تأسيس وإدارة «القاعدة» لا يمكن التقليل من أهميتها دورها في المرحلة المقبلة، وإذا كان أيمن الظواهري هو الرجل الثاني في «القاعدة»، ما يؤهله ليصير الرجل الأول بعد مقتل بن لادن، فمن يكون الرجل الثاني بعد الظواهري ومن هم القادة ذوو الشغل الكبير الذين سيلعبون أدواراً مهمة في الفترة المقبلة؟ لقد شهدت القاعدة إجراءاتها الأمنية بعد غزو الناتو لأفغانستان العام 2001 فلم يعد من المستطاع تحديد شخصيات شاغلي المناصب العليا في القاعدة بعامة، وفي جهازها الأمني والعسكري بخاصة، لكن من الشائع أن عقيد الصاعقة المصري محمد مكاوي لا يزال طليقاً في باكستان، وهو اللغز الذي تثار حوله تساؤلات كثيرة منذ اختفى عام 1996، حيث ظل من قادة القاعدة المتميزين عسكرياً. لكنه يعاني وجود خلافات قديمة وكبيرة بينه وبين أيمن الظواهري، تعود إلى أكثر من عشرين عاماً بسبب خلافات شخصية بينهما قد تعيق توليه مسؤوليات كبيرة في الفترة المقبلة، علماً بأنه من المتوقع أن يؤدي مقتل بن لادن إلى توحيد جهودهما وتقريب وجهات نظرهما. على مستوى المفكرين الاستراتيجيين لا يزال اسم أبو الوليد المصري، وهو صحافي مصري اسمه الأصلي مصطفى حامد، عمل فترة طويلة في الكويت، وكان في بدايته ناصرياً، لكنه تحول إلى التدين، قبل أن يسافر إلى باكستان أواخر الثمانينيات، وانضم إلى القاعدة منذ نشأتها، لأنه كان في أفغانستان قبل نشأة القاعدة بأكثر من ثلاث سنوات، بعدما كان قد شارك في مقاومة إسرائيل في جنوب لبنان، ضمن صفوف منظمة فتح الفلسطينية، إبان الاجتياح الإسرائيلي عام 1982. قاد أبو الوليد عدداً من معسكرات القاعدة في أفغانستان ولعب دوراً بارزاً في التوعية والتوجيه السياسي والاستراتيجي بالقاعدة، ومن الوجود المشهورة أيضاً ضمن قادة القاعدة أبو حفص الموريتاني، وهو على قائمة المطلوبين أميركياً، اسمه الأصلي محفوظ ولد الوالد «موريتاني» الأصل، في أواخر الثلاثينيات من عمره، وهو من الشخصيات المؤثرة في اتخاذ القرار في تنظيم القاعدة، وهو فقيه شرعي وله كتاب حول العمل الإسلامي، وعادة ما يتكلم عنه الظواهري باحترام كبير، وتردد كثيراً أن الولايات المتحدة قبضت عليه لكن في كل مرة كان الخبر يتم تكذيبه من قبل مصادر القاعدة. أما بالنسبة لمجموعة قادة القاعدة الموجودة في إيران، فإن محمد الشقيق الأكبر لخالد الإسلامبولي قاتل الرئيس أنور السادات هو أبرز من تضمه هذه المجموعة. ولقد كان من القادة التاريخيين للجماعة الإسلامية المصرية، لكنه استقال منها لعدم موافقته على مبادرة وقف العنف وانضم إلى القاعدة. ويأتي ثروت صلاح شحاتة، تالياً له في الشهرة، وهو محام كان من قادة الجهاد المصري ودخل إيران بجواز سفر إيراني مزور باسم «على أكبر» بعد الغزو الأميركي، وهناك أيضاً سليمان أبو الغيث وهو جهادي كويتي ومن القادة المهيمنين في القاعدة وموجود أيضاً في إيران. أما القادة الأمنيون والعسكريون من المستوى الوسيط في القاعدة فهم الآن بالمئات وربما بالآلاف، إذ كان الجيل القديم يأتي أغلبه من الجهاد المصري ومن التنظيمات الجهادية في اليمن

References made by the leaders of discourse on the forums

As the hours since Bin Laden's death passed, more and more responses by senior writers on the Jihadi forums were published. Hafid Al-Hussein, a senior writer on the "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" forum, wrote that the photograph allegedly showing Bin Laden's body after his death is fabricated. In order to support his contention he combined three photographs demonstrating it. Some of the surfers also agreed that this is a fabrication.¹⁴

¹³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=238429>

¹⁴ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=37856>



The supervisor of the technical chat room on the "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" Jihadi forum in Arabic opened a virtual workshop called "Where are Bin Laden's offspring?". The supervisor added the following: "Destroy, destroy and do not rest... Oh the respectable men of the invasion of Manhattan. Destroy, destroy, destroy. To the Lions of Tawhid... to the Lions of Publicity... to the offspring of the Mujahideen... to Bin Laden's offspring... declare it out loud in front of the worshippers of the cross...". He further mentioned that there is nothing better than the blood of Christians and threatened to attack them.¹⁵

Abu Saed Al-Amili,¹⁶ a prominent ideologist on the Jihadi forums, posted a message titled "The Martyr's Death of Al-Qaeda's leader". In his message, Al-Amili stressed the high value of a martyr's death and noted that the enemies of Islam are operating to eliminate the Jihad commanders. According to him, Bin Laden's death does not mean that the path of Jihad is over; on the contrary – Bin Laden is a

¹⁵ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=37820>

¹⁶ On him and his ideology, see: http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG_Open_Forum_Sheikh_Al-Amili.pdf



symbol that has left the Muslims with a method of operation that should be adhered to.¹⁷

Asad Al-Jihad2, considered to be a prominent writer on the Jihadi forums in recent years, eulogized Bin Laden, stressing, like others, that his death is not the end and threatening to avenge his blood: "The campaign between us and global tyranny is long and will not end with his death in the name of Allah of the dear and noble, the Lion of Islam, Osama Bin Laden, Allah's mercy be upon him. Oh, how many potential shahids were born today?!"¹⁸

#1 منذ يوم مضى

تاريخ التسجيل: Feb 2011
الدولة: تحت طلال السيوف
المشاركات: 1,966

اسد الجهاد

الشمس العام
إداري

اسد الجهاد 2 باسْتِشْهَادِ فَارِسِ الْإِسْلَامِ وَارْتِفَاعِهِ لِبَارِكِهِ . اِرْدَدْنَا فَحْرًا وَنِيَابًا

الحمد لله الذي خلق الموت والحياة ليبلوونا أيُّنا أحسن عملاً ..
والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله ، خير من وطأ الأرض ، الذي قال ربِّي جل جلاله فيه : (إِنَّكَ مَيِّتٌ وَإِنَّهُمْ مَيِّتُونَ) ، وعلى آله وصحبه ومن اهتدى بهديه ..
رضينا بالله ربًّا ، مديِّر الأمر ، مصرِّف الأيَّات ، وهو على كلِّ شيء قدير ..

درسنا التاريخ والأهم ، فلم نجد فيها أن الأمم والدول قد اجتمعت على رجل واحد ، كما اجتمعت على الشيخ الفارس أسامة بن لادن ، الذي ثبت ولم يستسلم ، ولم تزد مؤامراتهم إلا عزًّا ونصرًا ..

لله دره ، هو رجل بأمٍّ ، ولم ير مثله بمنزلة أمة كاملة في شخصه ..
لله دره ، هو أمة في رجل ، ولم ير مثله يمثل أمة كاملة في شخصه ..

يقول بوش الأصغر الذي لم يستطع منازلة الشيخ أسامة رحمه الله وهرب وطاقم حكمه من مواجهته ، بأن مقتله يمثل انتصاراً لأمريكا . وهذا صحيح ! لأن وزن الشيخ أسامة تقبله الله في شخصه يوازي حجم أمريكا كلها بل يفوق ، وانظروا إلى أمريكا الآن وستعرفون حجم الشيخ الأسد ..

The manager of the "Al-Maqreze Center for Historical Studies" in London, the Islamist Dr. Hani Al-Sibai, published a eulogy of Bin Laden in a special announcement posted on his website. In his eulogy, Dr. Al-Sibai justified Bin Laden's path, which, according to him, has helped Islam. Furthermore, he praised

¹⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/showthread.php?t=107166>

¹⁸ <http://www.aljahad.com/vb/showthread.php?t=5023>



the campaign waged by Bin Laden over the years for Islam, cursed President Obama and the traitorous Pakistani government, and mocked their lengthy pursuit of one man and the celebrations they are now holding after his death.¹⁹

Hussein bin Mahmud, considered to be a prolific writer on the Jihadi forums, wrote in the "Hanein" Jihadi forum the following: "We say to Obama: we will not bemoan Osama, we will not express sorrow over his death, we will not receive condolences over him nor write lamentations. We will allow you to celebrate for a few days, and afterwards we will resume the Islam war on the heretics, but it will not be a war in the old fashion... the heretic should not breathe a sigh of relief".

Later on he added: "Heretics, we do not weep for our dead, but you will weep for yours... Osama is one of the nation of Islam... and this fighting nation is clear and open until the last of its men fights the liars. The Mujahideen are those that created the history following 'September' and today the Americans are those creating the history of the period following 'Osama'. While they waited for almost 10 years and spent over a trillion dollars in order to reach Osama, the blows of the Mujahideen will become closer and more painful".

He concluded with the following words: "I call on all of the Mujahideen on earth and to all of the men supporting them to stop the tears and conquer the anger until it becomes a volcano that erupts in due time. We do not wish for retaliation here and there, we wish for quality operations whose planning will be done wisely... The leaders of Jihad must organize their ranks, declare an heir to Sheikh Osama and then begin preparing for the next phase..."²⁰

On May 3rd, 2011, the "Islamic Army" group in Iraq published a message condemning the "heinous crime" perpetrated by the Americans and claiming that

¹⁹ <http://www.almaagreze.net/ar/news.php?readmore=1156>

²⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=238275>



burying Bin Laden's body at sea is against Islamic law. The organization stressed in its message that the Jihad against the Jews and the Christians will not stop with Bin Laden's death, as it is a divine commandment imposed on Muslims.²¹

جماعة الجيش الإسلامي في العراق / الشيخ أسامة شهيداً حياً بإذن الله

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الشيخ أسامة شهيداً حياً بإذن الله

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على نبينا الأمين محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين، أما بعد:

فقد طالعتنا وسائل الإعلام بالخبر الفاجعة، ألا وهو مقتل الشيخ أسامة بن لادن على يد قوة أمريكية في باكستان، وتعليقاً على ذلك الخبر نقول: إن الشيخ رحمه الله من عباد وزهاد هذا الزمان الذين لم تعرهم حياة النعيم والشرف إذ ترك مذات الدنيا المكسبة بين يديه، واتجه إلى قتال أعداء الله بنفسه وماله ولم يرجع منهما بشيء، في الصحيحين عن أبي سعيد الخدري رضي الله عنه قيل: يا رسول الله، أي الناس أفضل؟ فقال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: «مؤمن يجاهد في سبيل الله بنفسه وماله». وقد كانت سيرته الجهادية في مرحلتها الأولى شاهداً على خيريته وهذا الحال يعرفه الجميع ولا يخفى على بعيد أو قريب، إلى أن وقعت أحداث سبتمبر وما تبعها، وزاد الحال سوءاً بالنهج الذي سلكه لتنظيم القاعدة في العراق الذي عاد بالسمعة السيئة لتنظيم القاعدة العالمي بل وللجهاد والمجاهدين جميعاً، ولا تزال تدفع ثمنها غالياً من الدماء الطاهرة على يد التنظيم في العراق، بيد أن العدل يجب أن يقف حائلاً دون تحميل الرجل كلما فعله من انتساب إليه، وليس من العدل أيضاً تحويل يوم مقتل شخص أياً كان إلى يوم محاكمة له أو لأفكاره.

إننا نشكك بالسيناريو المزعوم للعملية الذي يتغير بين ساعة وأخرى، ونرجح أن الأمر لم يأت بهذه البساطة وإنما هو أمر دبره لبيال مظلمة في سرايب المخابرات الأمريكية والباكستانية، والخيانة ليست من شيم الأحرار وإنما لبئس الضمير.

ورغم ما يلف الخبر من غموض وكثير من علامات الاستفهام والغرائب، إلا أن هذه النتيجة هي التي كان يتماها الشيخ ويسمى إليها، فإن كانت فذاك وإن لم تكن فهي غاية ينتظرها، قال تعالى: **﴿وَلَا تَحْزِنَ الَّذِينَ الَّذِينَ قَتَلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَمْوَاتًا بَلْ أَحْيَاءٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ يُرْزَقُونَ﴾**، نسأل الله تعالى أن يغفر ذنوبه ويتقبله شهيداً عنده ويرفعه في عليين، ورغم اختلافنا الواضح مع الشيخ في كثير من السياسات وعدم وجود أي رابط تنظيمي أو منهجي بيننا، فإنه يبقى في نظرنا أحد أهم رموز الجهاد في هذا العصر، وقد أخذ النصب الأوفر من قوله تعالى: **﴿يُنَبِّئُ بِهِمُ الْخَبْرَ﴾**

ابوعبدالله المقدسي

نصير المستمعين

الحالة: 0

تاريخ التسجيل: 04-2010-02

رقم العضوية: 5392

المشاركات: 2,633

معدل تقييم المستوى: 4

Responses on the Jihadi forums in English

In the first hours following the announcement made by the U.S. on the killing of Osama Bin Laden, reactions on the English speaking forums were varied. The "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" forum started two discussions on the matter and received over 7,000 views and over 140 replies. The content is only visible to registered users.²²

The Somali affiliated "Al-Qimmah" forum published a statement calling for patience in reacting until an official confirmation of the death of Bin Laden has been made.²³ The author of the post also emphasized that "Allah does not depend on the life of a leader" for the cause of Jihad.

²¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=238506>

²² <http://www.ansar1.info/showthread.php?t=32989>

²³ <http://www.alqimmah.net/showthread.php?t=22510>



The UK based “Islamic Awakening” forum started a few threads on its Jihad and Current Events sections. As the entire forum and corresponding site was brought down, no links are currently available. However, the discussion on the subject was heated, with a distinct emphasis on retaliation against Pakistan. The consensus was that the U.S. could not have pulled off a successful operation without the help of the Pakistani military and leadership. Forum members declared that action will be taken against Pakistan. The terminology and views expressed on the matter were some of the most extreme and direct to be posted on this forum, as there are rules prohibiting such wordings. Other forum members stated that Osama Bin Laden’s death was written by Allah and that he has received the highest honor and that therefore no tears should be shed for him.

The “Ansar Al-Mujahideen” English forum removed all threads relating to the death of Bin Laden from all its public forums. There is a new thread declaring the death of U.S. President Obama with a picture showing his head exploding (both the U.S. and the Israeli flags are in the background).²⁴

The Responses of the Jihadi groups on “Facebook”

Today Facebook is a fertile ground for Jihadi propaganda. The anonymity, the ability to create closed discussion groups, the ability to spread Jihadi content to a large potential audience and to recruit new operatives to the Jihad organizations – all of these aspects caught the attention of the supporters of the Salafi-Jihadi movement.²⁵

²⁴ <http://www.ansar1.info/showthread.php?t=33018>

²⁵ On Facebook as a platform for promoting global Jihad objectives, see: http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG_Periodical_Review_March_2011_No_1.pdf, pages 22 – 26.



Several hours after Bin Laden's death, a surfer on the "Hanein" forum asked all the Muslims registered on Facebook to change their profile pictures to a picture of Osama bin Laden in order to demonstrate their love for him.²⁶

A social group called "Al-Tawhid" (18,112 registered members), which is identified with Al-Qaeda, posted a photograph of Osama Bin Laden and a eulogy in his memory on its homepage. The group's founder addressed the members, asking them to spread the Sheikh's photograph. He also wrote a poem in Bin Laden's memory. Another member of the group called Otmane Saadouni posted a video praising Bin Laden on Facebook.²⁷

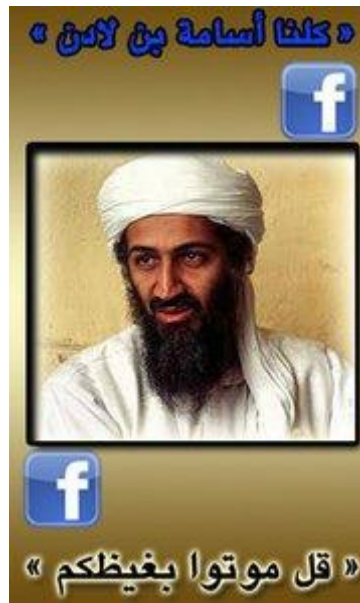


²⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=238282>

²⁷ <http://www.facebook.com/al.tawhid>



Upon news of Osama Bin Laden's death, a Facebook page was created in his memory, titled: "We are all Osama bin Laden". As of now, several dozen members have joined the group.²⁸



Another page that was created in memory of Osama Bin Laden on Facebook on May 2nd, 2011, began spreading materials connected to him, such as photographs and videos, one of them praising the September 11 terrorist attacks. Several thousand members have already registered on this page.²⁹

²⁸ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/%D9%83%D9%84%D9%86%D8%A7-%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D9%86-%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%86-we-are-all-osama-bin-laden/170878122968374#!/pages/%D9%83%D9%84%D9%86%D8%A7-%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D9%86-%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%86-we-are-all-osama-bin-laden/170878122968374>
²⁹ <http://www.facebook.com/Rip.BenLaden>



A photograph posted by one of the members registered to said Facebook page



Reports in the Media in Arabic

Reactions to Bin Laden's elimination also appeared in the Arabic media. On May 2nd, 2011, the "Al-Jazeera" network reported that following the declaration of Bin Laden's death, the Taliban-Pakistan movement threatened to carry out terrorist attacks against the Pakistani government and army, as well as against the U.S. According to "Al-Jazeera", the movement's spokesperson, Ihsanullah Ihsan, said that "Now the Pakistani leaders, including President Zardari and the Army, will be our first target". He added that "the U.S. will be our second target".³⁰

The "Al-Jazeera" network also reported that the leader of the Somali "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement, Hasan Tahir Awis, said that Bin Laden's death "does not mean that the issue has reached its conclusion". Hasan Tahir Awis added in an interview to "Al-Jazeera": "The Jihad has not ended with Bin Laden's death".³¹

Later, the "Al-Jazeera" website quoted statements made by expert commentators in the field who said that this is not the end of Al-Qaeda. According to these experts, whilst the organization's hard core is constantly on the run in Pakistan and its operational abilities and funding have been severely harmed, several groups carrying the banner of global Jihad have sprouted from it and are continuing the fight on a local level.

The website quoted Hasan Abu Haniya, a Jordanian expert on Salafi-Jihadi organizations, who said that Bin Laden was only a symbol, and that the *Inspire* magazine "has taught the future suicide bombers that they do not need to train in Pakistan or Yemen, but that a person can train individually, can constitute a terrorist cell by himself, can choose targets and can carry out terrorist attacks without instructions from Al-Qaeda's hard core". He further said: "Bin Laden's

³⁰ <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/4DF7AD0D-4252-481C-A216-EA27CB8536C6.htm>

³¹ <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/42924BD3-49CD-4C58-84D4-C6732DA5A7E7.htm>



absence, despite his symbolism for the Salafi Jihad movements, will not greatly affect these groups, as he no longer controls the various affiliates since the September 11 terrorist attacks, and also there no longer exists a larger Al-Qaeda organization”.

The website quoted another Jordanian researcher called Muhammad Abu Rumman, who claimed that Al-Qaeda no longer enjoys great popularity and that if Bin Laden had been killed earlier, it would have had a greater effect. According to him, the local conflicts take a more important place amongst the perceptions of the general public, rather than the concerns of the Salafi organizations. However, he anticipates that following Bin Laden's death the organization will suffer a leadership crisis as the other leaders in the organization do not have his charisma. According to Abu Rumman, Al-Zawahiri is not at the heart of the consensus.³²

The “Al-Quds Al-Arabi” newspaper, which is published in London, took the following quote from the AFP news agency of statements made by the radical Salafi preacher, Umar Bakri: “News of Sheikh Osama bin Laden's martyr's death is both sad and joyful: sad because we lost our leader in this Arab expanse, and joyful because he has received what he wished for, and that is a martyr's death”. Bakri, who was put on trial in Lebanon on charges of belonging to an armed organization, added: “There is no doubt that Osama bin Laden's martyr's death will breathe new life to the new generation, as the Jihad convoy will not end, and it will continue with the parade of giving”. He continued: “We expect responses from the same generation in Europe [...] retaliatory attacks for Sheikh Osama's death will occur there, as has

³² <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/D16EADB8-0319-4326-9DF9-9B00241470EF.htm?GoogleStatID=9>



occurred with other fallen leaders". Bakri rejected the possibility of retaliatory attacks in Arab countries.³³

On May 3rd, 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper published statements made by the Egyptian Islamist, Hani Al-Sibai: "the ideological organizations will not die together with their leaders and emirs, and for 20 years Bin Laden has raised generations supporting the idea of Jihad and war on the conquerors of the Islamic countries, and these generations do not have to have an organizational tie with the mother-organization, but rather settle for an ideological and theoretical tie, and thus, local groups can carry out the role of Al-Qaeda the mother organization, as is done in Pakistan, Indonesia, Iraq, Al-Qaeda in Yemen and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, and furthermore, the sympathetic supporters such as the Taliban-Pakistan, the Jihad fighters in Chechnya and the 'Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen' in Somalia, and quiet masses from amongst those sympathizing with Bin Laden's character as a symbol of a hero that has challenged the American hegemony around the world".

The newspaper also quoted the Islamist Yaser Al-Sirri, director of the "Islamic Information Center" in England, who said that Bin Laden died an honorable death and that "Bin Laden has succeeded in recruiting the Muslim youth by connecting them to the idea of Al-Qaeda". Al-Sirri added that "There are many young people ideologically connected to Bin Laden's path and to his Da'awa without having a connection with the mother organization". He further said that in due time the organization's Shura Council will announce their choice for Bin Laden's replacement and that it will probably be his second-in-command, Ayman Al-Zawahiri.³⁴

³³ <http://www.alquds.co.uk/index.asp?fname=latest\data\2011-05-02-11-40-30.htm>

³⁴ <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=619901&issueno=11844>



On May 3rd, 2011, in a review of the responses of commentators and researchers from the Arab world, the "Al-Jazeera" network quoted Dr. Iyad Al-Barghuthy, the political commentator and professor at the Bir-Zeit University, who predicted that the organization will continue in the same path of Bin Laden, and that Al-Qaeda is more of an ideological state than a passing phenomenon. Al-Barghuthy further predicted that so long as the Israeli occupation of Arabic lands and the foreign intervention in Arabic and Islamic matters continues, Al-Qaeda's ideas will continue to exist. He added that the fact that the West is promoting its war on Islam perpetuates Al-Qaeda's ideology. The website also quoted the political commentator, Khalid Al-Amayrah, who estimated that Al-Qaeda will not be greatly affected by the death of Bin Laden, as it is an ideological organization that will not be affected by the death of a leader. He further added that over the years Bin Laden has become more of a symbol than a leader who is involved daily in the organization's affairs.³⁵

In another report the "Al-Jazeera" network quoted researchers from North Africa who speculated on the ramifications of Bin Laden's death for Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb. Al-Manar Al-Salim estimated that Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb "will be less affected by Bin Laden's death. As it has a certain independence from the mother organization, in part due to conflicts between several leaders such as Ayman Al-Zawahiri and Abu Yahya Al-Libi".

The head of the "Moroccan Center for Strategic Studies and Research", Dr. Tarik Al-Talati, said that Bin Laden's elimination "will automatically cause the activation of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb sleeper cells in order to create a security shock on an international level". He added: "Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb may also carry out retaliatory attacks". The director of the "Moroccan Center for Strategic Studies

³⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/EB503CE2-42B6-4AD1-BDF6-E949137A630E.htm>



and Research”, Mustafa Al-Khalfi, also said that Bin Laden's elimination will not have a great effect on the organization because it has become “amorphous”, “creating ideas and leaving the local organizations to carry out the terrorist attacks in the field, in addition to Bin Laden's withdrawal from the role of a planner of terrorist attacks, in favor of other leaders such as Ayman Al-Zawahiri”.³⁶



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<http://www.aljazeera.net/Mob/Templates/Postings/NewsDetailedPage.aspx?GUID=A0729479-BBC7-43DD-8136-E21B486ADFC6>



Further Information on Osama bin Muhammad bin Awad bin Laden³⁷



Aliases: *bin Laden, Laden, Usama Bin Laden bin Laden, Osama, Usama Bin Muhammad Bin Laden, Shaykh Usama Bin Laden, the Prince, the Emir, Abu Abdallah, Mujahid Shaykh, Hajj, the Director, Osama Bin Laden*

Date of Birth: March 10, 1957

Born: Saudi Arabia

Osama Bin Laden is viewed as the mastermind behind a number of mass casualty terrorist attacks, including the 1998 bombing of two U.S. embassies in East Africa and the 9/11 attacks in New York and Washington. His Al-Qaeda network had been indirectly linked to bombings on the island of Bali in Indonesia and its capital Jakarta, as well as suicide attacks in Casablanca, Riyadh and Istanbul. Post 9/11, Al-Qaeda leaders are believed to have regrouped in Pakistan's tribal areas. Bin Laden was killed on 2 May 2011 in a U.S. military strike on his compound near Islamabad, Pakistan.

Osama bin Laden was one of the 53 children of Saudi construction magnate Muhammad Awad bin Laden. His mother was reportedly a Palestinian, and the least

³⁷ Information for this profile is taken from ICT's database.



avored of his father's ten wives. The elder bin Laden moved to Saudi Arabia from Yemen and amassed a fortune. Most of this money came from a number of successful construction and contracting companies. At the time of Al-Qaeda's founding, the bin Laden family fortune was estimated at \$5 billion, of which Osama had access to an estimated \$300 million. He saw himself as the model businessman, a graduate of Riyadh University's management and economics department. The difference was that his product was war.

The making of a Jihadi

Bin Laden embarked on the path of holy warrior in 1979, the year Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan. Osama moved his business to Afghanistan--several hundred loyal workmen, some heavy construction tools--and set out to liberate the land from the infidel invader. Recognizing at once that the Afghans were lacking both infrastructure and manpower to fight a protracted conflict, he set about solving both problems at once. The first step was to set up an organized program of conscription. He advertised all over the Arab world for young Muslims to come to fight in Afghanistan. He paid for their transportation to Afghanistan, and set up facilities to train them. The Afghan government donated land and resources, while bin Laden brought in experts from all over the world on guerilla warfare, sabotage, and covert operations. Within a little over a year he had thousands of volunteers in training in his private boot-camps.

The war in Afghanistan was the stage for one of the last major stand-offs between the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. The Americans at that time had the same goals as bin Laden's mujahedin – the ousting of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. In what was hailed at the time as one of its most successful covert operations, America's Central Intelligence Agency launched a



\$500 million-per-year campaign to arm and train the impoverished and outgunned mujahedin guerrillas to fight the Soviet Union. The most promising guerilla leaders were sought out and “sponsored” by the CIA. The United States' official sources are understandably vague on the question of whether Osama bin Laden was one of the CIA’s “chosen” at that time. Bin Laden’s group was one of seven main mujahedin factions. It is estimated that a significant quantity of high tech American weapons, including “Stinger” anti-aircraft missiles, made their way into his arsenal. The majority of them are reported to be still there.

What is certain is that the CIA plan was wildly successful. The mujahedin vanquished the Soviet Union in ten years of savage fighting. What had begun as a fragmented army of tribal warriors ended up a well-organized and equipped modern army--one capable of beating a superpower. The departing Soviet troops left behind an Afghanistan with a huge arsenal of sophisticated weapons and thousands of seasoned Islamic warriors from a variety of countries.

The Afghan Veterans

Some of these veterans returned to their own countries and got on with their lives. Others returned to their own countries steeped in Islamic fundamentalism and a will to topple “western-influenced, infidel governments” in favor of Islamic regimes. They used the knowledge gleaned in the Afghan war to set up guerilla and terror cells. In Egypt and Algeria, the “Afghan Veterans,” as they came to be called, aided Islamic extremists in their fight against the secular governments. In most Arab countries, the veterans were not at all welcome, and the governments kept a close eye on their doings. However, in some countries the Afghan veterans were accorded a warm welcome. Such was the case in Sudan, where the government



gave them jobs, helped them to set up training camps, and appointed some of them to government posts.

In addition to these facilities established in “friendly” Arab countries, the majority of the mujahedin training camps in Afghanistan continued to operate, supplying Islamic mercenaries to conflicts in a number of countries. Afghanistan was still seen as the hearth-stone of the mujahedin, from whence trained fighters could be sent out to fight wherever they were needed. Mujahedin veterans began showing up in Islamic struggles in such places as Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Chechnya.

Meanwhile, Osama bin Laden returned to his native Saudi Arabia to take up the fight against the infidel government there. The Saudis were not disposed to tolerate his calls to insurrection, and quickly acted against him. In April 1994, his Saudi citizenship was revoked for “irresponsible behavior,” and he was expelled from the country.

A State-Sponsoring Terrorist Organization

Together with his family and a large band of followers, Bin Laden moved to Khartoum in Sudan. There he set up factories and farms, some of which were established solely for the purpose of supplying jobs to out-of-work mujahedin. He built roads and infrastructure for the Sudanese government and training camps for the Afghan Veterans. Among bin Laden’s numerous Sudanese commercial interests are: a factory to process goat skins, a construction company, a bank, a sunflower plantation, and an import-export operation.

His construction company “el-Hijrah for Construction and Development Ltd.” – in partnership with the National Islamic Front and the Sudanese military--built a new airport at Port Sudan, as well as a 1200 km-long highway linking Khartoum to Port Sudan. Another company reputed to be owned by bin Laden was the “Wadi al-Aqiq”



Company, an export-import firm. He also ran the Taba Investment Company Ltd. and the “el-Shamal Islamic Bank” in Khartoum, a joint effort with the NIF, in which bin Laden is said to have invested \$50 million.

For many years, bin Laden lived in Khartoum, in a residence guarded by the local security forces, while he was arranging for many of the “Afghan veterans” to move to Sudan. Bin Laden was said to be close to Sudanese leader Omar Al-Bashir, and to Hassan Turabi, the head of the National Islamic Front (NIF) in Sudan.

However, Sudan--long on the U.S. State Department’s list of state sponsors of terrorism--in recent years began to thaw toward the West. As a gesture toward the United States, the Sudanese government requested that bin Laden depart. In May 1996, he moved to Afghanistan, leaving behind him in Sudan a network of Afghan Veterans and several successful factories and corporations. Several major companies in Sudan were linked to him, and were believed to be doing double-duty as logistics support for bin Laden’s network.

In Afghanistan, bin Laden was given a house and a force of bodyguards by the Taliban, now in control of most of the country. He quickly entrenched himself in a mountain fortress near the city of Kandahar. There he is held in awe by his followers, who have given him the title “Sheikh,” though he was not a cleric.

Building a network

In Afghanistan, bin Laden put his extensive international network to effective use. Working through high-tech means, such as faxes, satellite telephones, and the internet, he was able to keep in touch with an unknown number of followers all over the Arab world, as well as in Europe, the United States and Canada. He issued three “Fatwas” or religious rulings calling upon Muslims to take up arms against the United States. In February 1998, he announced the formation of an umbrella



organization called "The Islamic World Front for the Struggle Against the Jews and the Crusaders" (Al-Jabhah al-Islamiyyah al-`Alamiyyah li-Qital al-Yahud wal-Salibiyyin) Among the members of this organization are the Egyptian al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya and the Egyptian al-Jihad. Both of these groups were active in terrorism over the past decade.

On August 20, 1999 the U.S. launched some sixty cruise missiles at camps believed to be affiliated with bin Laden. Most did little damage.

Following the 9/11 attacks, Bin Laden made a number of recorded statements. Later these became much less frequent, though several recent audio messages were attributed to him - including one in September 2009 that called on US to stop its military campaign against Al-Qaeda. Audio messages carried still images thought to show Bin Laden, but the Al-Qaeda leader stopped making video messages, possibly as a security precaution or because of poor health. However, in October 2010, Bin Laden again resurfaced with several recorded messages signifying the re-emergence of an emboldened bin Laden, who reportedly endorsed the Europe plot. On 1 October 2010, Osama bin Laden released an audiotape message in which he called for the creation of a new relief body to help Muslims seeking to exploit discontent following the 2010 floods in Pakistan by depicting the region's governments as uncaring. It was the third message in several weeks from Al-Qaeda figures concerning the massive floods that affected around 20 million people in Pakistan, signaling a concentrated campaign by the group to tap into anger over the flooding. Whilst previous messages had taken an angry tone urging followers to rise up, bin Laden took a softer – even humanitarian tone – apparently trying to broaden Al-Qaeda's appeal by presenting his group as a problem-solving protector of the poor.



The Pakistani Connection

Pakistan's external intelligence agency (ISI), and bin Laden maintained a close association with each other for many years. The ISI actively assisted bin Laden in the expansion of his Islamist terrorist infrastructure across various parts of South Asia, particularly India. The ISI extended intelligence and logistics support to bin Laden. Bin Laden also had close links with a number of Pakistan based terrorist organizations, including the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM), which has links with the Dhaka-based Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islami. Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islami has reportedly been assigned the task of recruiting Bangladeshi and Indian Muslims to fight in Kashmir under the command of HuM. Some of its cadres are trained in camps around Khost in Afghanistan, built by bin Laden. He also supported and financed various other terrorist organizations operating from Pakistan, including the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), who are trained by the ISI. Laden has also increasingly become a rallying point for Islamist terrorists in different parts of the world, including, prominently, India where his photographs are reported to have been found in the possession of slain terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

Bin Laden was killed on 2 May 2011 in a U.S. military strike on his hideout in Abbottabad, Pakistan. He had been living for years in a spacious villa only a kilometer away from a major Pakistani military academy.

Current Status: Deceased - May 2, 2011



ICT Analysis and Reaction in the Global Media

03.05.2011

Interview with Dr. Boaz Ganor to [The Jerusalem Post](#): 'Pakistani intel. likely aware of Bin Laden's hideout'.

03.05.2011

Dr. Boaz Ganor's op-ed in [The Jerusalem Post](#): "How will al-Qaida plan attacks without bin Laden?".

03.05.2011

Interview with Dr. Boaz Ganor to [Ynetnews](#): "Experts: Bin Laden's death to prompt terror waves".

02.05.2011

Interview with Dr. Ely Karmon to [The CS Monitor](#): "On jihadi websites, disbelief and vows of revenge over bin Laden's death".

02.05.2011

Interview with Dr. Boaz Ganor to the [San Fransisco Chronicle](#): "U.S. Faces Broad Terror Threat After Bin Laden, Analysts Say".

02.05.2011

Dr. Boaz Ganor's op-ed on [Walla](#), Israeli News Website: "Bin Laden is dead; the Global Jihad is still alive" (in Hebrew).

02.05.2011

Interview with Dr. Ely Karmon to [CBN News](#): "Israel: Bin Laden Killing 'Resounding Triumph'".

02.05.2011

Dr. Boaz Ganor interviewed on the Israeli [Channel 10](#) Morning News Show on the death of Osama Bin Laden (in Hebrew).



Past Selected Articles about Bin Laden Written by ICT Fellows

Yael Shahaar, ICT Researcher, "Osama bin Ladin: Marketing Terrorism", 22/08/1998.

<http://212.150.54.123/articles/articledet.cfm?articleid=42>

Dr. Ely Karmon, ICT, "Bin Ladin is out to get America! ", 29/10/1998.

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<http://www.ict.org.il/Articles/tabid/66/Articlsid/71/Default.aspx>

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Col. (Res.) Jonathan Fighel and Yoram Kehati, "The Master-Trap from the School of the Al-Qaida Organization, Analysis of al-Qaida Documents - Part 2", 30/11/2002

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