

## 143 Al-Qaeda blogs were blocked

In the course of October 2008, the Al-Faloja online forum, identified with Al-Qaeda, published a report by an online surfer calling himself Hamazacom<sup>1</sup> about the blocking of 143 Al-Qaeda blogs in northern Africa by the Maktoob<sup>2</sup> website. The online surfer quotes the website manager, who said that the diversion of the Organization's blogs will continue with the purpose of blocking them. The online surfers, as expected, express concern for the fate of the Jihadi means of communication and seek to protect them.

However, despite these attempts, many blogs supporting the idea of Jihad continue to operate in the internet<sup>3</sup>. In fact, in the electronic Jihad arena there are both blogs and online forums. Each, in its own way, contains Jihadi messages, content and ideas of terrorist organizations. Thus we are witnessing every day the phenomenon of Jihadi blogs and online forums changing appearance, shutting down and resurrecting, waging a war of existence for the awareness and the recruitment of additional supporters to the idea of Jihad.

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<sup>1</sup> He identifies himself as an Algerian man, born November 1975. His Email address: elafak@maktoob.com

<sup>2</sup> A website allowing anyone to open their own blog, free of charge, in the Arabic language. The website's address: [www.maktoobblog.com](http://www.maktoobblog.com)

<sup>3</sup> The Al-Mutabe Al-A'am blog is an active blog operating at the <http://jaber-m-b.maktoobblog.com/> address under the Maktoob website. The blog belongs to Jaber Mahmud Al-Bustani who claims to be writing from the United States. The blog publishes Jihadi content and defines itself as "dealing in the matters of the general population and the political matters of the Islamic nation. The blog follows world events and Jihadi and Mujahideen news [...]". As of the date of this document, the blog still receives patronage from the Maktoob website and operates despite the all out war declared by the website on the blogs.