



**ICT**  
International Institute  
for Counter-Terrorism  
With the Support of Keren Daniel

# ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group

**PERIODIC REVIEW**

## **Bimonthly Report**

### **Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites**

### **The Second Half of October 2013**

## Highlights

This report summarizes notable events discussed on jihadist Web forums during the second half of October 2013. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in the Sahara threatened to carry out terrorist attacks against French targets on French soil in response to France's involvement in events taking place in northern Mali.
- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) promised to bring harm to the Yemeni regime due to prison guards' brutal oppression of Sunni prisoners in jail.
- The jihadist media institution Ibn Taymiyya, responsible for publications regarding the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip, called on Muslims to focus their efforts and take every possible action to free Muslim prisoners sitting in jails in Israel. It said that Muslims must follow the mujahideen's example of breaking into prisons in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, and apply it on Israeli soil.
- Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, a Salafi-jihadist group operating in the Sinai Peninsula, claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack that was carried out against an Egyptian intelligence building in Ismailia.
- The Indian Salafi-jihadist group, Supporters of Monotheism in India, called for jihad to be waged against infidel regimes.

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## New Publications

### Ideology

- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham published a pamphlet titled, “Responses and Clarifications for Those Who Denounce Terrorist Attacks” (40 pp.), written by Sheikh Abu al-Hasan al-Filastini. The pamphlet justified the use of suicide attacks as a tool of jihad against enemies of Islam by taking proof from Islam’s holy sources.<sup>1</sup>



The pamphlet banner

- The Al-Masada jihadist media institution published an article (Part 14) as part of a series of publications titled, “Educational Lessons from the Biography of the Greatest Person [referring to the Prophet Muhammad]” by Sheikh Abu Sa’ad al-Amili, a prominent writer on jihadist Web forums.<sup>2</sup>
- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, published a pamphlet titled, “The Word Oneness of God” (28 pp.) by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi al-Nazari, also known as Muhammad al-Mirshadi, a senior member of the organization.<sup>3</sup>

### Strategy

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<sup>1</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic).

<sup>2</sup> <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>3</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum asked other forum members if they would advise Ansar Al-Sharia, the Salafi-jihadist movement operating in Libya and Tunisia, to fight against the regime using violence, wait patiently and persist in its preaching activities, or follow a combination of both tactics. In response, another visitor said that he believed the way of patience and preaching is the best choice and that it must be continued until a viable Islamic state is established to which mujahideen from around the world will emigrate. The visitor also said that it was preferable to shut down some of the “dead” arenas of jihad, such as Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, and direct the [Muslim] Nation’s efforts to unify its young fighters under one front, such as Al-Sham, taking into account the “present need”. The visitor explained that instead of opening a new arena of jihad, which ends up weakening another one, it is preferable to unite forces in a true Islamic state and prevent losing everything all at once, as happened in Mali and the Gaza Strip.<sup>4</sup>

### Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- The jihadist media institution of the Turkestan Islamic Party, Sawt Al-Islam, published an instructional video (No. 10) on how to prepare hand grenades. The video was published as part of the series titled, “Express Mail of the Mujahideen in Turkestan”.<sup>5</sup>

Activists in the Turkestan Islamic Party are Sunni Muslims from the Uyghurs community based in the autonomous Uygur-Xinjiang Province in northwest China. Members of the movement hope to establish an Islamic state in Uygur-Xinjiang Province and are in contact with global jihad activists.



The video banner

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>5</sup> <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

- A visitor to the Al-Jihad Al-Alami jihadist Web forum published the following question to the forum’s military section: What materials can be substituted for TNT, C3 and C4 when preparing an explosive device? Another visitor to the forum answered in detail and posted a list of chemical components based on ammonium nitrate that can substitute the above explosive materials or create their own “homemade” version.<sup>6</sup>

### Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center, which focuses on publications regarding the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula, posted a banner on its Twitter account in praise of Abu Hudhayfa al-Hudhali, a member of the Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem, who took part in a terrorist attack on the Israel-Egypt border in June 2012 that killed an Israeli civilian.<sup>7</sup>



The banner showing a photo of al-Hudhali and a quote from his will, according to which jihad against the Zionists should be revered

- During the second half of October 2013, the Soqour Al-Izz Brigade, a Salafi-jihadist group operating in Syria, opened special chat rooms on Twitter in order to share eulogies and praise in memory of some of its members who died as martyrs in battles against Syrian security forces. One such chat room was opened in memory of Jufain al-Utaybi, a member of the organization who was killed near Homs on October 16, 2013, while fighting Syrian security forces. In addition to the eulogies, information was posted in the talkbacks that shed light on al-Utaybi’s early years and his family. For example, it was mentioned that he had arrived to the arena of jihad in

<sup>6</sup> <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>7</sup> <https://twitter.com/bentaymia>

Syria in order to visit his son who was fighting alongside the rebels and who had been injured in battle.<sup>8</sup>

Another chat room was opened on Twitter in memory of Abu al-Walid Akram Muhammad, in which it was mentioned that he had immigrated to Yemen in order to join the battle against the Yemeni security forces, and from there he had immigrated to the arena of jihad in Syria where he served as a military instructor for approximately 200 fighters. He was apparently shot to death by Syrian security forces in Homs on September 18, 2013.<sup>9</sup>



From left to right: Abu al-Walid Akram Muhammad, Jufain al-Utaybi

The Soqour Al-Izz Brigade also published a pamphlet (56 pp.) titled, “Chats About Existence”, composed of the drawings and memories of three martyrs from the organization who were killed in battle in Syria.<sup>10</sup> On October 30, 2013, the group launched a new series of video publications titled, “Light and Fire”. The series documented the stories of the group’s martyrs who were killed while carrying out suicide attacks against Syrian security forces.

<sup>8</sup> #استشهاد\_جفين\_العتيبي

<sup>9</sup> #استشهاد\_ابو\_الوليد\_اكرم\_محمد

<sup>10</sup> [https://twitter.com/Sqoor\\_Al3z](https://twitter.com/Sqoor_Al3z)



From left to right: The banner of the new video series; the banner of the “Chats About Existence” pamphlet

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum published a post paying his respects to Khalid Abu Anas, a martyr from the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, who was killed in battle in Syria. He was only 14 years old. In his eulogy, the visitor claimed that the “young lion”, Abu Anas, took part in the liberation of the Mannagh Military Air Base (which occurred on August 5, 2013, after 9 months of fighting) in Aleppo Province, and died during the battle against Bashar al-Assad’s 66<sup>th</sup> Brigade.<sup>11</sup>



Photo of Abu Anas

## Magazines

- The Fursan Al-Balagh jihadist media institution published the seventh edition of its magazine, *Al-Balagh*, in which several prominent writers in the jihadist discourse – including Sheikh Abu

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://eldorar.com/node/19808>; <http://www.alwatan.sy/view.aspx?id=6043>



Sa'ad al-'Amili – published position papers in praise of global jihad, finding support for its position in various fields, such as strategy, media, education, history and shari'a [Islamic law]. In addition, two of the magazine's authors addressed Al-Qaeda's resoluteness by mentioning the September 21, 2013 suicide attack in Nairobi, Kenya, as a case study, and by addressing the "role of the organization and its leadership in Islam".<sup>12</sup>

## Reports from the Field

### Afghanistan-Pakistan

*On October 18, 2013, explosions were heard at the international site in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan; no injuries were reported in the incident and it is unclear who was responsible for the attack.<sup>13</sup> Meanwhile, reports indicated that by the end of November, 3,000 Afghan leaders were expected to reach a decision regarding the presence of U.S. troops in the country.<sup>14</sup>*

*On October 26, 2013, one soldier was killed and several others were injured in a gunfight between the Afghan army and NATO forces.<sup>15</sup> The following day, on October 27, 2013, a large bomb attack took place in Andhar Province in eastern Afghanistan, in which at least 18 people were killed on their way to a wedding; according to the Afghan government, the Taliban was responsible for the attack.<sup>16</sup>*

*On October 16, 2013 eight people were killed and over 30 others injured in a suicide attack in northern Pakistan; one of those killed was the provincial minister.<sup>17</sup> Several days later, seven people were killed in an explosion on a passenger train from southwest Pakistan.<sup>18</sup> Meanwhile, the Pakistani Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, appealed to U.S. President Obama to stop the drone attacks*

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<sup>12</sup> <http://124.217.247.216/vb>; <http://iragsham.com/vb> (both in Arabic).

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/18/us-afghanistan-attack-idUSBRE99H0GX20131018> (English).

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/19/afghan-assembly-decide-future-us-troops\\_n\\_4127099.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/19/afghan-assembly-decide-future-us-troops_n_4127099.html) (English).

<sup>15</sup> <http://news.yahoo.com/afghan-soldier-killed-foreign-forces-114804645.html> (English).

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/27/us-afghanistan-attack-idUSBRE99Q05620131027> (English).

<sup>17</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/618954/explosion-at-k-p-minister-israrullah-gandapurs-house-in-di-khan/> (English).

<sup>18</sup> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/pakistan-train-derails-in-bombing-killing-at-least-7/2013/10/21/fb37301a-3a27-11e3-b0e7-716179a2c2c7\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/pakistan-train-derails-in-bombing-killing-at-least-7/2013/10/21/fb37301a-3a27-11e3-b0e7-716179a2c2c7_story.html) (English).

*in Pakistan, an issue that causes a great deal of tension between the two countries.*<sup>19</sup>

- The administrator of the Al-Jihad Al-Alami jihadist Web forum published an announcement by Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, in which he declared that the Islamic principality had no connection to the car bomb explosion that took place on October 27, 2013, in Sahib Khan, Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, in which 18 people were killed. The area where the attack occurred is under the control of army militias and the mujahideen do not operate there.<sup>20</sup>

## **The Arabian Peninsula**

*Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) continues to initiate attacks against military and government targets in Yemen. On October 17, 2013, members of the organization carried out several armed operations simultaneously: they took over a police headquarters building in Al-Najda, Al-Bayda Province; they carried out an armed attack on the 26<sup>th</sup> Brigade in Radaa, Al-Bayda Province; and they gained temporary control over a military post belonging to Special Forces in the Izza village.<sup>21</sup> On October 18, 2013, a suicide attack took place against the 111<sup>th</sup> Brigade in Abyan, southern Yemen. As a result, 13 soldiers were killed, including the brigade commander himself.<sup>22</sup>*

*While these terrorist attacks were taking place, bloody clashes resumed between the Houthis and the Salafists in Yemen. According to reports in the Yemeni media, the Houthis shelled the Dammaj region in Saada, a northern city in Yemen, considered to be a Salafist stronghold. The high death toll resulting from these shellings only fueled the hostility and clashes between the two sides. In addition, dozens of human rights activists demonstrated in Sanaa at the residence of Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, President of Yemen, against the abandonment of the residents of Dammaj to the Houthis.<sup>23</sup>*

*The ethnic conflict in Yemen, the continued attacks by Al-Qaeda against Yemeni government targets, and the traditional tension that exists between the people of northern and southern Yemen continue to erode the political order and cause the country to deteriorate into security-related and*

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/10/23/3707511/sharif-to-obama-stop-drone-attacks.html> (English).

<sup>20</sup> <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>21</sup> <http://yemen-press.com/news23353.html>

<sup>22</sup> <http://yemen-press.com/news23365.html>

<sup>23</sup> <http://yemen-press.com/news23414.html>

*social instability.*

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, published a video regarding events that took place in the central prison in Sanaa, the capital of Yemen. In the video, Jalal Bulaydi al-Marqishi, also known as Abu Hamzah al-Zinjibari, a senior member of AQAP, said that the prisoner revolt against the tyrannical prison guards was the result of accumulated frustration at the inhumane conditions under which they were being held, in severe violation of their human rights. [He claimed that] the prisoners in the security and political prison were being tortured and lawlessness reigned, and therefore the only escape was through a mass uprising against the jailers. Al-Zinjibari sent a stern warning to the Yemeni government and promised that it would pay a heavy price for the abuse of prisoners.<sup>24</sup>



**Video clip of Abu Hamzah al-Zinjibari**

- The jihadist Forums for Assistance to the Al-Nusra Front published an online anthology downloadable to a PC, including audio and video clips that had previously been published by Sheikh Abu Zubeir Adil al-Abab, an official on the Shura Council in AQAP.<sup>25</sup> Al-Abab was killed in a drone attack on October 4, 2013 in Shabwa Province.

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<sup>24</sup> <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>25</sup> <http://jalnosra.com/vb> (Arabic).



The banner of the online anthology

## Iraq

After a long period of time during which Iraq faced terrible terrorist attacks on its soil, the government decided to turn to the United States for assistance with weapons, training and manpower in order to help Iraq fight the murderous arm of Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). The Iraqi Ambassador to the United States, Lukman Faily, clearly stated that if the United States did not respond quickly to the request for assistance – “we will turn elsewhere”.<sup>26</sup>

During the second half of October 2013, approximately 600 people were killed in approximately 40 suicide attacks, some of which were carried out by AQI.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/iraq-appeal-more-us-military-aid-20131030225431170998.html> (English).

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/deadly-suicide-attacks-hit-baghdad-20131020101127602400.html>;  
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/suicide-bomber-kills-dozens-at-baghdad-cafe-20131020175333446639.html>;  
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/many-dead-attacks-iraq-checkpoints-20131022184730977811.html>;  
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/iraq-security-forces-killed-suicide-blasts-2013102384915573482.html>;  
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/many-dead-iraq-car-bomb-attacks-2013102782824252400.html>;  
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/iraq-appeal-more-us-military-aid-20131030225431170998.html> (all in English).

## **Al-Sham [The Levant]**

*While the civil war continues to paralyze Syria and claim the lives of tens of thousands of victims,<sup>28</sup> Christian citizens are left to fend for themselves when it comes to shelter,<sup>29</sup> food, livelihood, medical assistance and more.<sup>30</sup> Despite media reports about imminent international peace talks to be held in Geneva between November 23-24,<sup>31</sup> in an effort to end the Syrian crisis, 19 Syrian rebel groups declared that they will boycott the talks, claiming that they view negotiations with Bashar al-Assad's regime to be "an act of treason".<sup>32</sup>*

*Meanwhile, the Syrian government accused Turkey of supporting the rebels in control of certain areas on the Syria-Turkey border. In an interview that was conducted with residents of the Turkish border city, Kilis, residents expressed great concern over the presence of armed groups affiliated with Al-Qaeda in northern Syria, saying that they pose a threat to Turkey's security.<sup>33</sup>*

*Al-Qaeda is also coping with Kurdish fighters in Syria who seized the Yaarabiya border crossing that leads to Iraq from the control of Al-Qaeda linked groups, including the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, during the second half of October 2013. An Iraqi official confirmed that Baghdad had sent reinforcements to the region.<sup>34</sup>*

*The media is reporting on violent clashes between supporters and opponents of the Syrian regime in the Lebanese city of Tripoli. One of these reported clashes erupted between Sunni and Alawite Muslims, during which the warring sides fought with machine guns, missiles and mortars.*

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<sup>28</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/dozens-killed-syria-minibus-blast-2013101692341378306.html>;  
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/soldiers-killed-damascus-suicide-attack-20131019748325226.html>;  
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/deaths-reported-after-blast-syria-hama-20131020862767199.html> (all in English).

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/syrians-forced-build-mud-homes-shelter-20131028141650920487.html> (English).

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/reports-syria-using-starvation-as-war-tactic-2013103081531929448.html> (English).

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/syria-peace-talks-scheduled-november-2013101771352218983.html> (English).

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/syrian-rebels-reject-geneva-peace-talks-20131027125829872327.html> (English).

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/syria-developments-cause-turkish-concern-201310218028925950.html> (English).

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/syrian-kurds-capture-border-post-with-iraq-20131026235911316996.html> (English).

*The incident, which killed one person and injured ten others, was only one in a series of clashes that were recently reported to have taken place between Sunnis, and Shi'ites and Alawites in Lebanon. This specific incident is greatly reflective of Lebanon, which is enmeshed in a deep social-ideological rift between supporters and opponents of Bashar al-Assad.*<sup>35</sup>

*Another factor weighing heavily on the Lebanese government is the continuous wave of refugees fleeing the Syrian war. According to one claim, refugees account for approximately 25% of the population in the divided country, while the assistance being provided to Lebanon "is not sufficient".<sup>36</sup> Jordan is also having difficulty coping with the wave of refugees in its country and is threatening to expel approximately 6,000 "illegal" workers of Syrian origin starting on November 11 if they do not produce work permits, as required.<sup>37</sup>*

- During the second half of October 2013, the media institution of the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Manarah Al-Bayda, published the following:
  - Announcements (Nos. 409-425) claiming responsibility for various terrorist attacks against Syrian security forces. For example, the organization claimed responsibility for shooting down a Syrian fighter jet in Al-Safirah in the eastern outskirts of Aleppo.
  - A video of an interview that was conducted with Dr. Sami al-Aridi, a senior member of the Al-Nusra Front, titled, "This is Our Path and Our Faith". In the interview, al-Aridi discussed the fighting in Syria and the goals of the organization. He emphasized that the Al-Nusra Front does not consider all Syrians to be infidels, despite the lies that the enemies of Islam have spread about the organization. According to him, the Al-Nusra Front views joining jihad as an important principle intended to defend [Muslims'] religion, honor and land, and in order to implement shari'a after the fall of the Syrian regime.

Al-Aridi noted that his organization works together with most of the other factions in

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<sup>35</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/death-toll-rises-northern-lebanon-clashes-2013102510511204920.html>;

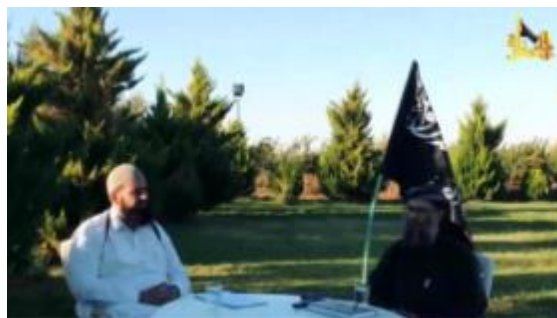
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/lebanon-army-deploys-amid-violence-tripoli-2013102813927482901.html> (both in English).

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/refugee-influx-strains-lebanon-resources-20131018121452780803.html> (English).

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/jordan-threatens-deport-syrian-workers-20131021225429712177.html> (English).

Syria in fighting [against the regime], spreading propaganda, and rehabilitating the civilian population. He emphasized that, beyond their shared goal of toppling the current Syrian regime, they also share the intention of establishing Islamic rule in Syria. Regarding the secular factions that are fighting in Syria, which want to establish a civil and secular state, al-Aridi said that they constitute a small minority and that the Al-Nusra Front is engaged in providing information designed to guide them on to the right path and teach them a lesson based on the events that transpired in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya.

Al-Aridi goes on to emphasize that his organization draws inspiration from Sheikh Ibn Taymiyyah from the 13<sup>th</sup> century A.D., from Sheikh Abdullah Azzam, one of the founders of Al-Qaeda, and from other men whose names he mentioned. He discussed the reverence that should be shown to religious clerics, the belief in monotheism, and other aspects of the organization's worldview.<sup>38</sup>



**A clip from the recorded interview with al-Aridi**

- A video of an interview that was conducted with a martyr named Abu Asim al-Muhajir, a member of the Al-Nusra Front, who carried out a suicide attack against Syrian security forces at the Tu'ma checkpoint near Damascus during the first half of October 2013.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>39</sup> <http://jalnosra.com/vb> (Arabic).



The interview banner

- During the second half of October 2013, the jihadist news agency Al-Himmah, which tracks developments in Syria in general and the actions of Al-Nusra Front members in particular, published the following:
  - A video (No. 33) documenting the Eid al-Adha (“Feast of the Sacrifice”) holiday in Dara’a Province.<sup>40</sup>
  - A video (No. 34) documenting the slaughter of cattle and its distribution among members of the Al-Nusra Front in honor of Eid al-Adha in the Al-Rushdiyya neighborhood of Deir Al-Zour.<sup>41</sup>
  - A video (No. 35) documenting the slaughter of cattle and its distribution among members of the Al-Nusra Front in honor of Eid al-Adha in Idlib Province.<sup>42</sup>
  - A video (No. 36) documenting an Eid al-Adha celebration with members of the Al-Nusra Front in Al-Ghawta, on the outskirts of Damascus.<sup>43</sup>
  - A video (No. 37) documenting Al-Nusra Front members providing medical assistance to residents of Aleppo.<sup>44</sup>
- The jihadist Forum for Assistance to the Al-Nusra Front, which serves as a platform for the Al-Nusra Front’s official publications, published an online collection, downloadable to a PC, of the organization’s official announcements (Nos. 1-409) regarding claims of responsibility for various

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<sup>40</sup> [https://twitter.com/Hemm\\_Agency](https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency)

<sup>41</sup> [https://twitter.com/Hemm\\_Agency](https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency)

<sup>42</sup> [https://twitter.com/Hemm\\_Agency](https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency)

<sup>43</sup> [https://twitter.com/Hemm\\_Agency](https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency)

<sup>44</sup> [https://twitter.com/Hemm\\_Agency](https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency)



military operations that its members carried out in the arena of jihad in Syria.<sup>45</sup>



The book banner

- The Soqour Al-Izz Brigade, a Salafi-jihadist group fighting in Syria, published a video in which Sheikh Abdullah al-Muhaisany, a Saudi Salafi-jihadist preacher who was reported to have joined the ranks of the mujahideen in Syria in October 2013, called on sheikhs and members of the Muslim Nation to join jihad in Al-Sham. He asked where the preachers, religious clerics and (Sunni Muslim) men had gone, and added in a broken voice that jihad in Al-Sham is not terrorism but rather jihad for Allah’s sake. He emphasized that “the absence of Muslim preachers and teachers of religion [from the ranks of jihad] was more dangerous than the absence of faculty, instructors and fighters”.<sup>46</sup>



The video banner

- The Al-Nusra Front released a statement denying a report made by Syria’s official television station that the organization’s leader, Abu Muhammad al-Golani, had been killed in battle in Latakia Province, western Damascus. Members of the Hanein jihadist Web forum admonished

<sup>45</sup> <http://jalnosra.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>46</sup> <http://iragsham.com/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTA3ozAmixg>; <http://www.syrianmasah.net/arabic/articaldetails33094.html>

the television station that published the report.<sup>47</sup>

- The FiSyria Web site published a letter by an anonymous voluntary recruit from the Caucasus who had spent the last four months fighting in Syria. The volunteer started his letter by saying that only in this arena [of jihad in Syria] was he able to understand the real meaning of life. He emphasized that, despite the ongoing war, the closer he got to the infidels the better he felt about himself. Some of his peers almost abandoned the fight because their commanders would not allow them to be in the arena of battle. According to the volunteer, one may experience many miracles and revelations of Allah himself in the Syrian battlefield. He said that he no longer recalls the years that preceded his arrival to Syria and that he thanks Allah each day anew for the opportunity that he was given. He stated that he does not believe that Allah will allow anyone entrance into Paradise who did not fight for the sake of Islam during his earthly life, particularly those who did not fight in Syria.<sup>48</sup>
- On its blog, the Kavkaz Center jihadist Web site referred to a directive given by Abdul-Aziz ibn Abdullah Aal ash-Shaikh, Saudi Arabia's Supreme Mufti, not to join jihad in Syria. The mufti explained that the arena of battle in Syria is new and foreign to the people and, therefore, he recommended that all Muslims should pray for peace and avoid the war, and he referred to fighters in Syria as extremists. The Web site's blog chose not to express an opinion about the mufti's call.<sup>49</sup>
- A visitor to the Al-Jihad Al-Alami jihadist Web forum published an announcement according to which the Saudi Sheikh Salman al-Ouda, a prominent religious sage and a member of the Union of Muslim Religious Sages, claimed that the Syrian intelligence agency was secretly transferring part of the chemical weapons arsenal located in Damascus to the opposition groups fighting against the Syrian regime. It claimed that the agency was doing so in order to convince the world that the rebels were the ones who used chemical weapons and not Assad's regime.<sup>50</sup>
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum directed his colleagues to a video that was published on YouTube by an anonymous and independent Web surfer examining events from the Syrian

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<sup>47</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yZTKBiDc6A>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSBUlehLAto>

<sup>48</sup> <http://fisyria.com/?p=1330> (Russian).

<sup>49</sup> [http://www.kcblog.info/2013/10/blog-post\\_9123.html](http://www.kcblog.info/2013/10/blog-post_9123.html) (Russian).

<sup>50</sup> <http://shabakataljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

civil war. In the video, it was claimed that Iranian soldiers were present in Aleppo Province, Syria. In response, the visitor said that “the Iranians are crowding Al-Sham in droves” and expressed hope that “death, and then hell, awaits them”.<sup>51</sup>

### ***The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham: Operations in Syria***

- During the second half of October 2013, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, Al-Furqan, published the following regarding the arena of jihad in Syria:
  - Video No. 11 in a video series titled, “Messages from the Land of Wars”, documenting the release of members of the Al-Nusra Front from the Abu Gharib prison in Iraq. After the freed prisoners met members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (AQI) in a desert area, they were loaded onto trucks that drove them to a meeting point where they met more Al-Qaeda fighters who welcomed them with celebratory gunfire. In addition, the video documented an operation in which members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham successfully broke into a military camp disguised in military uniforms, abducted several soldiers, questioned them and then shot them to death.<sup>52</sup>



**The video banner**

- During the second half of October 2013, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, Al-'Itisam, published the following:
  - A new series of publications titled, “Pictures from the Land of Wars”; Videos (Parts 1-2), including a collection of photos of members of the organization.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcn5b8-ZJ8o>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>53</sup> <https://twitter.com/e3tasimo>



**The opening video of the new series**

- A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 16)””; a speech given by a member of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham in a mosque in the outskirts of Aleppo Province.<sup>54</sup>
- A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 17)””; an appeal by a member of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham to Muslims around the world to join the arena of jihad in Syria.<sup>55</sup>
- A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 18)””, documenting a lesson given by members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham to children on the frontline. One of the children was interviewed in the video and said that they had already been learning together for over a month about the [Muslim] faith, including lessons on the Qur’an and religious law. He finished by saying that he wanted to become a mujahid and fight the infidels when he grows up.<sup>56</sup>
- A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 19)””; an interview with the oldest mujahid in the village of Duwayrniyah, next to Aleppo, about the importance of fulfilling the commandment to join jihad.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> <https://twitter.com/e3tasimo>

<sup>55</sup> <https://twitter.com/e3tasimo>

<sup>56</sup> <https://twitter.com/e3tasimo>

<sup>57</sup> <https://twitter.com/e3tasimo>



**A photo of the oldest mujahid in the arena of jihad in Syria**

- A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 20)”; a public opinion poll that was carried out by representatives of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham regarding the organization’s image in the eyes of the people.<sup>58</sup>



**A clip from the public opinion poll that was carried out on the street**

- A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 21)”; in the video, Abu Jihad al-Tunisi, a member of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, appealed to the Muslim Nation in general, and to Muslims in Tunisia in particular, to fulfill Allah’s commandment and join the arena of jihad in Syria. In addition, al-Tunisi quoted Abu Mus’ab al-Zarqawi, the founder of Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI): “Fight in Iraq while our eyes are [turned to] Jerusalem”. Al-Tunisi reinforced al-Zarqawi’s words and said that it is indeed the case – “We are fighting in Iraq, in Al-Sham, and we are at the borders of Jerusalem”.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>58</sup> <https://twitter.com/e3tasimo>

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



**Abu Jihad al-Tunisi**

- A video documenting the launching of Grad rockets towards the Lebanese city of Al-Hermel, a Hezbollah stronghold. An activist in the organization said that the shelling, which was directed at the “Party of Satan”, was just “a drop in the sea”.<sup>60</sup>



**The video banner**

- During the second half of October 2013, the Al-Baqiyya jihadist media institution, which distributes publications for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, published the following on its Twitter account:
  - A photo of a rocket called “Ibn Laden 2”, which it claimed the organization developed itself in eastern Ghouta, Syria.<sup>61</sup>

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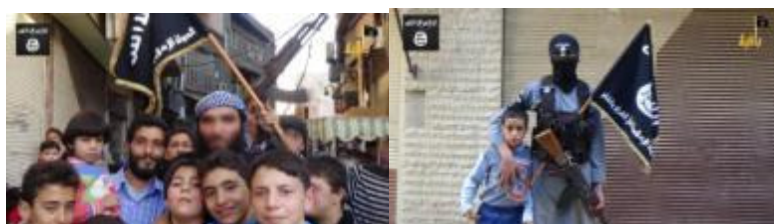
<sup>60</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbBvBT1ebfk>

<sup>61</sup> [https://twitter.com/Baqiya\\_Media](https://twitter.com/Baqiya_Media)



**A photo of the rocket, “Ibn Ladene 2”**

- Photos of members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham carrying out a propaganda campaign among Syrian children in eastern Ghouta, Syria.



**Photos of members of the organization with children**

- The Al-Batar jihadist media institution launched a video documenting military exercises, including live shooting by dozens of members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham in the “Camp of Two Sheikhs”, which it claimed is located in Syria.<sup>62</sup>

<sup>62</sup> [https://twitter.com/AL\\_Bttaar/](https://twitter.com/AL_Bttaar/); <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



The video banner

- A visitor to the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham Web forum posted a series of photos documenting the training of children to be jihad fighters in the organization’s military camps in Syria. Two of the camps bear the name of the founder of the organization, Abu Mus’ab al-Zarqawi, and are said to be located near the Ghouta oasis in southwest Damascus. According to the photos, relatively young children receive training in “Camp Al-Zarqawi Lion Cubs”, while teenagers receive training in “Camp Al-Zarqawi”.<sup>63</sup>



Photo from one of the training camps

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted photos documenting the distribution of “80 baskets of food” by members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham to firemen in the city of Al-Raqqah in north central Syria.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> <http://iragsham.com/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qI0fj9X79o>

<sup>64</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).





**Photos of the food packages distributed to firemen by members of the organization**

- The Twitter account, Al-Badiyyah Province News, which tracks the activities of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham in Al-Badiyyah Province, published identifying details about a Russian intelligence officer by the name of Alexey Boikov, who it claimed had been killed by members of the organization during a raid on a convoy carrying Russian intelligence officers from Palmyra to Al-Sukhne. According to the organization, other Russian intelligence officers were also killed in the attack.<sup>65</sup>



**The identity card belonging to the Russian intelligence officer who was allegedly killed by members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al Sham**

## **The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip**

*On October 20, 2013, Ismail Haniyeh, Deputy Head of Hamas's political bureau, gave a speech in the Gaza Strip in which he declared that Hamas was not party to the events taking place in the Sinai Peninsula or anywhere else in Egypt; According to Haniyeh, Hamas is interested in avoiding*

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<sup>65</sup> [https://twitter.com/dw\\_badia](https://twitter.com/dw_badia)

anything that could cause tension with its brothers in Egypt or in any other Islamic state.<sup>66</sup>

*Ansar Bayt Al-Maqdis, a jihadist organization operating in the Sinai Peninsula, claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack in Ismailia, Egypt, in which the Egyptian military intelligence headquarters was attacked and six people were injured. The organization reported that the attack had been carried out using a car bomb in response to crimes committed by the Egyptian regime.<sup>67</sup> On October 22, 2013, three improvised explosive devices were detonated on two buses carrying Egyptian military personnel in Al-Arish, in the Sinai Peninsula.<sup>68</sup>*

- During the second half of October 2013, Ansar Bayt Al-Maqdis, a Salafi-jihadist organization operating in the Sinai Peninsula, published the following:
  - A claim of responsibility for a terrorist attack on an Egyptian military intelligence building in Ismailia, which it claimed was carried out in response to the repressive actions taken by the Egyptian army against civilians, including arbitrary arrests. [It also claimed that] Egyptian intelligence is a significant element in promoting the regime's crimes. The organization reiterated its recommendation to Muslims to keep their distance from areas under the control of the Egyptian police and army, as they are targets for attacks.<sup>69</sup>
  - A video documenting an assassination attempt on the Egyptian Interior Minister using a car bomb driven by one of the group's members, known as Walid Badr, during the beginning of September 2013.<sup>70</sup> The unsuccessful attempt took place in Nasr Province in the capital of Cairo, a Muslim Brotherhood stronghold.

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<sup>66</sup> <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2013/10/20/we-are-no-party-to-any-incident-in-sinai-or-elsewhere-in-egypt-haniyeh/> (English).

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2013/10/21/jihadists-claim-responsibility-for-ismailia-military-bombing/> (English).

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2013/10/22/two-dead-five-injured-in-sinai-attack/> (English).

<sup>69</sup> <http://shabakataljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>70</sup> <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).



**The video banner in which the suicide bomber, disguised in police uniform, is seen driving the explosives-laden vehicle**

- During the second half of October 2013, the Ibn Taymiyya Media Center, responsible for publications regarding the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip, published the following:
  - A propaganda video (Part 3) titled, “Images of the Egyptian Army’s Crimes in the Sinai Peninsula”, documenting the destruction of over ten residences in the city of Rafah by the Egyptian army on October 13, 2013.<sup>71</sup>
  - A public statement regarding prisoners being held in Israeli jails. According to the Ibn Taymiyya Media Center, the sharp deterioration in the health of Sheikh Yusri Atiyya al-Masri (also known as Abu Hajer al-Filastini), a terrorist being held in an Israeli prison, and the disgraceful condition of Muslim prisoners being held in Israeli jails, demand that immediate action be taken to free them. According to the Center, the break-ins that the mujahideen carried out in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria in order to free prisoners should serve as a model for [freeing] Muslim prisoners held in Israeli jails.<sup>72</sup>

Sheikh Abu Hajer al-Filastini was identified as a member of the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Gaza Strip and previously lived in Deir Al-Balah in the Gaza Strip. He was arrested in 2003 by Israeli security forces for involvement in terrorist activities and was sentenced

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<sup>71</sup> <https://twitter.com/bentaymia>

<sup>72</sup> <https://twitter.com/bentaymia>

to 20 years in an Israeli prison.

On October 20, 2013, the Ibn Taymiyya Media Center launched a publicity campaign for al-Filastini's release via its Web site's Twitter account.<sup>73</sup>



**The banner launched as part of the publicity campaign for the release of Sheikh Abu Hajer al-Filastini**

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum commemorated the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the murder of Fathi al-Shqaqi, founder of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, who was killed on October 26, 1995. Since Iran provides the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine with “generous” financial assistance and finances almost its entire budget, visitors to the forum criticized the publishing of the post. One furious visitor called al-Shqaqi an “agent” of the Shia, while another described him as someone who followed in the steps of the Iranian cleric, Ayatollah Khomeini. The discourse among visitors indicated the hostility that exists among supporters of jihad when it comes to the use of Iranian financing.<sup>74</sup>



**The grave of Fathi al-Shqaqi**

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<sup>73</sup> <http://bentaymia.tumblr.com>

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

## The Maghreb [North Africa]

Security analyst Hamady Ould al-Dah said in a newspaper interview that Al-Qaeda and its allies are reinforcing their presence in the Sahel in general, and in northern Mali in particular. Al-Dah noted that Al-Qaeda was taking full advantage of the security vacuum that exists in Libya and questioned the present coordination between Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Al-Qaeda in Mali. Al-Dah also discussed the implications of the “Arab Spring” revolutions on Middle Eastern and North African countries, and said that various groups with special interests, including terrorist organizations, had hijacked the revolutions from the public protesters who had sought to improve their quality of life.<sup>75</sup>

One example testifying to al-Dah’s recent claim lies in the model of the revolution that took place in Libya, which marked two years since its liberation on October 23 and still faces many challenges - from assassinations and terrorist attacks targeting government sympathizers,<sup>76</sup> to the militant extremism surging in the streets – due to its failure to build a professional army.<sup>77</sup>

Others countries in the Maghreb that experienced their own “Arab Spring” are also coping with a constant security threat. According to the media, Tunisia and Algeria have taken several measures on this front, including strengthening their intelligence sharing system, tightening security on their borders,<sup>78</sup> and increasing tracking of terrorists and extremists operating on their soil.<sup>79</sup>

Despite the efforts being made to defeat terrorism in the countries of the Maghreb and the Sahel, the threat of terrorism still exists there. Even in Mali, which recently benefited from foreign military intervention and was bolstered by the presence of thousands of fighters in its time of need, the security situation has not been stabilized. In addition, during the second half of October 2013, citizens in the northern part of the country reported the return of violence to the region. A resident

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<sup>75</sup> [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/24/feature-04](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/24/feature-04) (English).

<sup>76</sup> [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/10/18/reportage-01](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/10/18/reportage-01);  
[http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/21/feature-01](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/21/feature-01);  
[http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/24/feature-01](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/24/feature-01) (all in English).

<sup>77</sup> [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/22/feature-01](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/22/feature-01)

<sup>78</sup> [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/23/feature-02](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/23/feature-02);  
[http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/29/feature-02](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/29/feature-02);  
[http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/30/feature-02](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/30/feature-02) (all in English).

<sup>79</sup> [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/22/feature-02](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/22/feature-02);  
[http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/30/feature-01](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/30/feature-01);  
[http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/25/feature-02](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/25/feature-02) (all in English).

of the city of Gao expressed great concern over the planned reduction of French forces in the region due to take place in January 2014, calling [the forces] “our only hope”. Terrorism expert Sidati Ould Cheikh emphasized that the international community must continue to provide support to Mali, and warned that the Malian authorities clearly lack the means and ability to cope with the anticipated security challenge.<sup>80</sup>

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Al-Andalus, published a video titled, “Harvest Time” (Part 2) – a compilation of publications that were previously published by the organization during the second half of 2013.<sup>81</sup>
- Visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum discussed a newspaper article that reported release of four French individuals who had been kidnapped from the city of Arlit, in Niger, by AQIM in 2010, in exchange for a ransom of tens of millions of Euros. In response, visitors expressed happiness at Al-Qaeda’s financial gain from the abduction.<sup>82</sup>

## Mali

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Al-Andalus, published a video by its affiliate, Al-Qaeda of the Great Sahara, titled, “France and the Search for the Fata Morgana [a special type of mirage]”. In the video, the organization threatens to begin a new wave of terrorist attacks in France due to the country’s involvement in the fight against AQIM in northern Mali, and it called on Muslims to carry out individual and collective terrorist attacks on French soil.

The video is the first media publication released by Al-Qaeda of the Great Sahara, and members of the organization appear openly in the video, boasting about their familiarity with the Sahara [region]. The fighters noted that they do not remain in one specific place, in order to make it difficult to locate them using industrial spy satellite dishes.<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/25/feature-02](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/10/25/feature-02) (English).

<sup>81</sup> <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>82</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; (Arabic); <http://www.maghress.com/andaluspress/38145>

## Somalia

On October 19, 2013 a suicide attack took place at a restaurant in a small town in central Somalia, in which at least 13 soldiers were killed; Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack and announced that its main targets had been Ethiopian soldiers who had invaded Somalia.<sup>84</sup> On October 28, 2013, two armed militants from Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen were killed in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, in an American drone attack on the vehicle in which they were traveling.<sup>85</sup> On October 31, 2013, the Kenyan army bombed several Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen targets in Somalia in response to the terrorist attack that was carried out at the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi in September, in which at least 67 people were killed; an Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen training camp was destroyed in the attack.<sup>86</sup>

- The jihadist media institution of the Somali Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Kataeb, published a propaganda video titled, “Punish Them Severely As a Warning to Those Who Follow Them”, documenting retaliatory acts carried out by members of the organization against enemy targets.<sup>87</sup>
- The Al-Batar jihadist media institution, which distributes publications for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, published a banner threatening to attack Kenya if it harms Muslims, as a sign of solidarity with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.<sup>88</sup>



The banner published on Al-Batar's Twitter account

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<sup>84</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/10/suicide-bomber-kills-troops-somalia-2013101995224984937.html> (English).

<sup>85</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/29/us-drone-strike-somalia-al-shabaab-expert> (English).

<sup>86</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/31/us/kenyan-al-shabab-attack/> (English).

<sup>87</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>88</sup> [https://twitter.com/AL\\_Bttaar/](https://twitter.com/AL_Bttaar/)

## The Caucasus

- The Valiat Dagestan Web site began to summarize 2013 through a series of letters to the editor. The first letter was published towards the end of October and discussed the differences between events that transpired during 2013 and in previous years. According to the letter, the uniqueness of 2013 lies in the fundamental change to the infidels' approach towards Muslims in the Caucasus: If, prior to 2013, the Muslim population enjoyed certain concessions in the realm of individual liberties, these concessions entirely disappeared in 2013 and were replaced with oppression. As a result, the local muhajideen's calls for jihad intensified and spread beyond the infidels to include the Muslims who help them. The authors of the letter concluded that the physical battle between the infidels and Muslims is only in its beginning stages, and it is expected to worsen significantly during 2014.<sup>89</sup>

## The Indian Subcontinent

- The Al-Isabah jihadist media institution, which serves as the media outlet of the new Indian Salafi-jihadist organization, Supporters of Monotheism in India, launched a video documenting members of the organization during shooting practice. The video opened with a map of the Indian subcontinent colored in black, symbolizing Al-Qaeda. The jihad activists who appeared in the video had arrived from various Muslim regions of the world, including Uttar Pradesh in northeast India, Karnataka in southwest India, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia. The video ended with a speech by Abdul Rahman Al-Hindi, leader of the organization, in praise of jihad and the importance of its implementation against infidel regimes.<sup>90</sup>

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<sup>89</sup> <http://vdagestan.com/vojna-s-islamom-v-dagestane.djihad> (Russian).

<sup>90</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic);

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5auj4Z1\\_u6g#t=43](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5auj4Z1_u6g#t=43); <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/?p=7719>





A clip from the video

- The Salafi-jihadist organization, Al-Mujahidun in East Indonesia – Timur, launched a video in which it claimed responsibility for the second time for a suicide attack that was carried out on June 3, 2013, against a police station in Poso, Indonesia. In the video, members of the organization were seen giving parting hugs to their colleague who [later] carried out the suicide attack, and even the body of the martyr was shown in the video.<sup>91</sup>



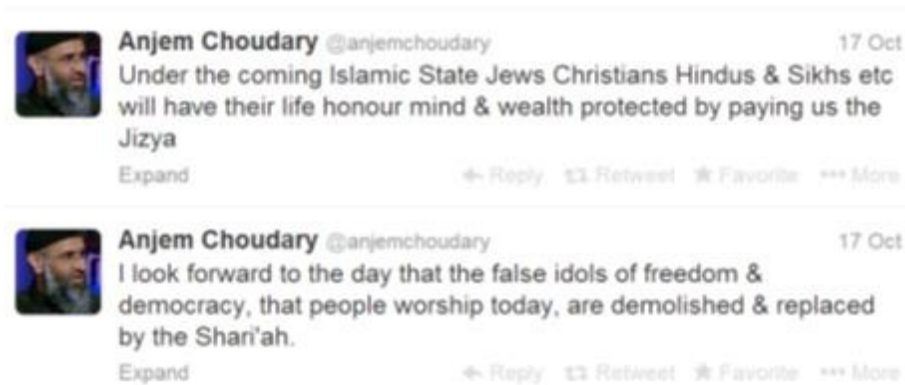
A clip from the video

## The West

- Anjem Choudary, a radical Salafist preacher in England, continued to preach against the West on his Twitter account, blamed Western “infidel” leaders for committing acts of terrorism against innocent Muslim civilians, including children, and expressed his hope for the establishment of a regime based on shari’a as well as the subjugation of all non-Muslims in the West to the Islamic regime.<sup>92</sup>

<sup>91</sup> <http://iraqsham.com/vb>; <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=337242>;  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAweJylli90> (all in Arabic).

<sup>92</sup> <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary>



**Anjem Choudary's posts on his Twitter account**

## Facebook and Twitter

- The Islamic news agency, Haq, which publishes news about jihad, shared with visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forums its uncertainty regarding the worthwhileness of opening a new Facebook page after the old one was closed due to a [relatively] large number of users (over 7,000). In response, many visitors expressed support for the opening of a new page. One of them even suggested creating a new account to be managed by several administrators in order to prevent a situation in which the entire page would crash.<sup>93</sup>
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham posted a warning about the surveillance and use of the organization's Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/iraqsham>), claiming that it had been hacked. In his message, he noted that anything published starting at 9:30am on October 29, 2013, will be from the hackers. In light of this, visitors were requested to spread the word using as many Facebook pages, Twitter accounts and email lists as possible. In addition, the message noted that the popular jihadist Twitter account belonging to Muharib al-Ansari (<https://twitter.com/m7arb7>) had also been hacked.<sup>94</sup>

In response, a visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted a warning in which he claimed that "hackers [working on behalf] of the counter-terrorism agencies are hacking into Twitter

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<sup>93</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic)

<sup>94</sup> <http://iraqsham.com/vb> (Arabic).

accounts.”<sup>95</sup>



From left to right: Muharib al-Ansari’s Twitter page, AQI’s Twitter page

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum informed his colleagues that “the project of jihad can be better disseminated and clarified from the point of view of religious law” by using the Hashtag (#) symbol on Twitter and Facebook. According to him, by adding the Hashtag symbol before a certain topic, one can label and categorize posts, responses, photos and tweets according to topic. As such, it is a tool worthy of exploitation for the benefit of jihadist content distribution.<sup>96</sup>
- Muharib al-Ansari, the administrator of a popular jihadist Twitter account, posted a photo of a mujahid’s explosives belt on which it was written, “Lover of Maidens of Paradise”. Al-Ansari praised the mujahid, expressed hope that Allah will watch over him, and dedicated the post to jihad fighters in Iraq.<sup>97</sup>
- Qarin al-Kalash (aka “The one that holds a Kalashnikov”), a jihad fighter of Saudi origin fighting in Syria and the administrator of a popular Twitter account, recommended that his followers read the “most beautiful” book about Islam, which also deals with military topics. In addition, “Qarin al-Kalash” directed his followers to a library full of books with extremist Islamist content that many others had also recommended. Even though it was reported in a newspaper article in the beginning of October that the “Qarin al-Kalash” had announced his retirement from Twitter, he continued to post many items to his account on a daily basis. The article even claimed that the “Qarin al-Kalash’s” words indicated that he was a close associate of the Al-Nusra Front leader and that he had taken part in the initiative to establish the Salafi-jihadist umbrella organization, The Islamic Front of Free Men, which was unsuccessful in light of alleged

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<sup>95</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>96</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>97</sup> <https://twitter.com/m7arb7>

intervention by Saudi sheikhs.<sup>98</sup>



**The photo banner on “The one that holds a Kalashnikov” Twitter account**

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<sup>98</sup> [https://twitter.com/K\\_L7](https://twitter.com/K_L7);  
<https://twitter.com/search?q=%23%D9%83%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%A8+%D9%85%D9%82%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%AD+%D9%84%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%86&src=hash>;  
<http://www.dawaalhq.com/?p=1623>;[http://www.znobia.com/?page=show\\_det&select\\_page=22&id=16274](http://www.znobia.com/?page=show_det&select_page=22&id=16274)

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The Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group (JWMG) is a specialized research and analysis team at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT). Composed of researchers fluent in Arabic, the JWMG monitors websites that support and serve the Global Jihad organizations. The unique characteristic of JWMG publications is the team's integration of diverse materials from a wide variety of Arabic sources. JWMG connects each source to larger trends, providing a complete understanding of events on both a local and a global scale.

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