



**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 First Half of December 2013

## Highlights

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

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed responsibility for a large-scale terrorist attack that its members carried out against Yemen's Ministry of Defense compound in Sana'a, the capital. The attack was in revenge for the Yemeni government's use of U.S. supplied drones against Muslims in Yemen. A senior member of AQAP criticized the attack that one of the militants carried out at the hospital located within the compound, and emphasized that such actions were contrary to the organization's code of ethics and to the path of Allah.
- Sirajuddin Zurayqat, a senior leader in the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, called on young Muslims in Lebanon to carry out individual terrorist attacks if they were unable to join a jihadist group, and focus on military, political and security-related targets belonging to Iran and Hezbollah in Lebanon.
- The Ibn Taymiyyah jihadist media institution reported that the Salafi-jihadist movement had penetrated the West Bank after three Salafi-jihadist activists were killed by Israel.
- The Al-Furqan Brigades in Egypt, which was responsible for several terrorist attacks against various targets within Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula, published a new video documenting a series of assassinations and attacks that were carried out by Egyptian soldiers and security forces.
- The Taliban in Pakistan published the fourth edition of its jihadist magazine, *Azan*. One of the articles offered advice to Muslims living in the West on how to join the arenas of jihad.

## Table of Contents

Highlights .....	2
New Publications .....	4
Ideology .....	4
Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets .....	5
Magazines.....	8
Reports from the Field .....	11
Afghanistan-Pakistan.....	11
The Arabian Peninsula.....	12
Iraq.....	14
Al-Sham [The Levant] .....	15
The Al-Nusra Front .....	17
The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham: Operations in Syria .....	18
Lebanon .....	25
The Palestinian Authority .....	26
The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip .....	27
Ansar Beit Al-Maqdas .....	27
Jundallah in Palestine .....	28
General .....	28
The Maghreb [North Africa] .....	28
Egypt.....	31
Somalia .....	32
The Indian Subcontinent .....	32
China.....	33
Iran.....	33
The Caucasus .....	34
Miscellaneous .....	34
Facebook and Twitter .....	36

## New Publications

### Ideology

- During the first half of December 2013, the jihadist media institution of the Shumukh Al-Islam jihadist Web forum, Al-Masada, published the following:
  - An article titled, “The Annihilation of the Jewish State from Iraq”, by Sheikh Abu al-Khatab al-Maqdisi.<sup>1</sup> The author provided proof from Islamic holy sources that the destruction of the State of Israel was near. He claimed that the presence of jihadist leadership in Iraq and Syria’s transformation to an arena of jihad were preconditions of Israel’s destruction and the liberation of Palestine from the Israeli occupation. In addition, the author emphasized that the Palestinians must prepare for the war of jihad and help to establish an Islamic Caliphate.
  - An article titled, “A Memorandum Regarding the Hadith [the statements and actions of the Prophet Muhammad] – Part 1”, by Sheikh Abu Hamam Abd al-Aziz al-Athari, a Salafi-jihadist sheikh and mufti [Islamic scholar and interpreter of Islamic law]. The article was published on the Salafi-jihadist Web portal, Minbar al-Tawhid wal-Jihad.<sup>2</sup>
- The jihadist propaganda group, Nukhbat al-‘Ilam al-Jihad, published an article titled, “The Ten Horses of the Emirs, the Battalions and the Brigades” by Abdallah al-Jazairi, in which he addressed the mujahideen and discussed the importance of spreading knowledge of shari’a [Islamic law].<sup>3</sup>
- Minbar al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, the Salafi-jihadist Web portal and center for Islamic legal rulings concerning jihad, published an article titled, “Who Determines if a Person is an Infidel?”, by Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a senior member of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan and founder of the above-mentioned Web portal who is currently being held in a Jordanian prison for supporting the Taliban in Afghanistan.<sup>4</sup>
- A visitor the Hanein jihadist Web forum published a survey in which he asked visitors to speculate as to which jihad leader was “Emir of the Faithful” [the title reserved for the leader of

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>3</sup> [https://twitter.com/Al\\_nukhba](https://twitter.com/Al_nukhba)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.tawhed.ws/dl?i=13121303>

the Muslim Nation]. Many visitors, including the administrator of the forum, said that the “Emir of the Faithful” was Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham. Another visitor said that he believed the “Emir of the Faithful” was actually the spiritual leader of the Taliban, Sheikh Mullah Omar, because Afghanistan was the first territory to become an Islamic emirate in recent times while al-Baghdadi was the “emir” of a specific area within Iraq and Al-Sham. The survey led to scathing arguments among the forum visitors, which led the administrator of the forum to close the discussion.<sup>5</sup>

This discourse provides additional evidence of the tension that exists among global jihad activists, especially in light of the weak central leadership that is being exploited by dominant field leaders, such as Baghdadi, who strive to strengthen their position.

- Visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum began a discussion regarding who presents the greatest danger to the mujahideen and the Muslim Nation. According to one visitor, history has proven that the Shi’ites and the Jews are the most dangerous. Another visitor believed that the greatest enemy was actually the United States and its allies as they “represent the global heresy that is battling Islam”. Another visitor said that, in his opinion, the real lurking danger to Islam was civil war. Other visitors agreed more with the assertion that “close enemies”, such as Shi’ites in Iraq, are the greatest risk to Islam and added that, while Jews can be easily identified, it is more difficult to discern Shi’ites who, in theory, look just like Sunnis.<sup>6</sup>

### **Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets**

- The jihadist media institution of the Turkestan Islamic Party, Sawt Al-Islam, published an instruction video (No. 11) on how to construct a mine out of sulfur. The video was published as part of the series titled, “Express Mail of the Mujahideen in Turkestan”.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>7</sup> <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).



The video banner

- A visitor to the official Web forum of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham asked his fellow visitors for books or files with explanations regarding explosive materials. In response, one visitor sent him a link to a file containing a great deal of information on the subject, including material for planning terrorist attacks using vehicles (private cars, commercial vehicles and trucks), types of explosions, preparation of explosive barrels and Molotov cocktails.

One of the files discussed the pressure cookers that the Chechen Tsarnaev brothers used in the terrorist attack that they carried out at the Boston Marathon in April 2013. The author of the file emphasized that he was willing to provide details about the perpetrators to the U.S. government in order to collect the 50,000 dollar [reward], which would enable him to purchase hundreds more pressure cookers.<sup>8</sup>



A pressure cooker bomb

- A visitor to the official Web forum of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham shared an article about frightening the West by using “modern murderous methods” in the spirit of [the adage] “fight your enemy using the weapon that he most fears, not the weapon that you most fear”. As an example, the visitor mentioned the 2009 “underwear bomber” episode, in which an Al-Qaeda activist of Nigerian origin sought to blow up Flight #253 from Amsterdam to Detroit. The terrorist had injected chemical material into his thigh in order to cause a chemical reaction that

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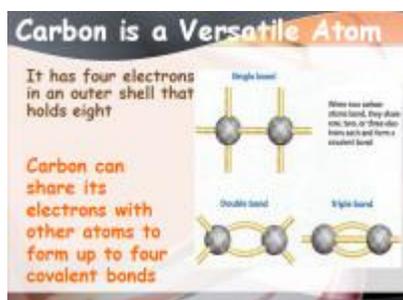
<sup>8</sup> <http://iraqsham.com/vb> (Arabic).

would activate the powerful explosives planted in his underwear. The visitor also discussed, among other things, the use biological weapons, various bomb-launching equipment, methods of storage and dispersal of explosives, and instructions on how to prepare Molotov cocktails.<sup>9</sup>



**A diagram of the “Underwear Bomber” episode (2009)**

- The military department administrator of the Snam Al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a series of presentations about basic biology, and noted that such information could lead to great things for the benefit of the [Muslim] Nation. Among the topics covered in the presentations: Introduction to Biology, Introduction to Chemistry, Biochemistry of the Cell, Amino Acid, Proteins, and Macro-molecules.<sup>10</sup>



**A page from one of the presentations**

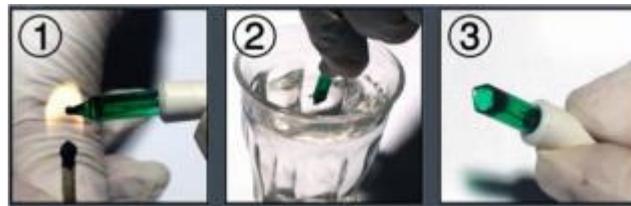
- The military department administrator of the Snam Al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a guidebook in which it described an easy way to create an explosive charge and listed the materials needed in order to produce a bomb: matches, fireworks, a cooking gas tank, small glass light bulbs, a wireless doorbell, gasoline and an empty water bottle. The purpose of the

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<sup>9</sup> <http://iraqsham.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>10</sup> <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

guidebook was to explain how explosive material could also be created using simple household products.<sup>11</sup>



**A page from the guidebook on creating an explosive charge using simple household products**

- The military department administrator of the Snam Al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a video explaining how to create a homemade bomb using matches and aluminium or sulphur powder.<sup>12</sup>
- The military department administrator of the Snam Al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a guidebook explaining how to create an inexpensive explosive charge and explosive belt.<sup>13</sup>



**Photos from the guidebook**

- The military department administrator of the Snam Al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a video guide about basic electrical theory, in which it explained the concepts of electrical resistance, voltage and current, as well as how to measure them and how to apply the information to explosive materials.<sup>14</sup>

## Magazines

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<sup>11</sup> <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>12</sup> <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>13</sup> <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>14</sup> <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published new issues of its jihadist magazines in Arabic, English and Urdu: Issue No. 91 for December 2013 of the Arabic-language magazine *Al-Sumud* (44 pp.)<sup>15</sup>; Issue No. 59 of the English-language magazine *In Fight* (170 pp.)<sup>16</sup>; The December 2013 issue of the magazine *Nawai Afghan* (71 pp.)<sup>17</sup>, all of which cover jihad in Afghanistan.



The covers of, from left to right, *In Fight*, *Nawai Afghan* and *Al-Sumud*

- The eighth edition of the jihadist magazine, *Fursan al-Balag* (86 pp.), was published. Among the topics covered in the magazine were: a review of jihad operations, an interview with a jihad fighter who was freed from the Abu Gharib prison in Iraq, Saudi Arabia's involvement in Syria, an article criticizing the rulers of the Gulf States, and Muslim women's' contribution to jihad.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>15</sup> <http://alsomod-iea.info/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.ansar1.info>

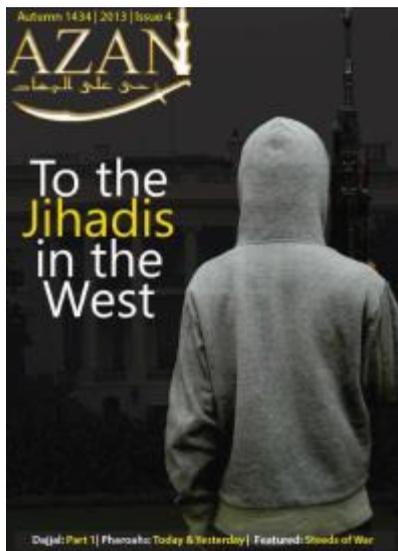
<sup>17</sup> <http://nawaiafghan.blogspot.co.il/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

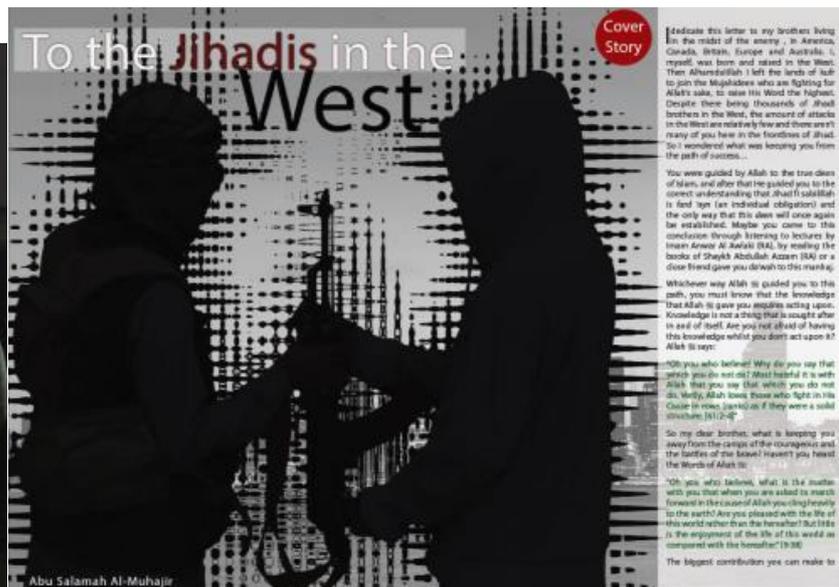


The banner of *Fursan al-Balag*

- The Taliban in Pakistan published the fourth edition of its jihadist magazine, *Azan* (39 pp.),<sup>19</sup> in English. Among the topics covered in the magazine were: advice to Muslims living in the West on how to join the arenas of jihad, an article criticizing the nation-states, and an article criticizing the aggressive policies of the United States against Islam.



The magazine banner



The banner of the article about Muslims in the West who want to reach the arenas of jihad

<sup>19</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

## Reports from the Field

### Afghanistan-Pakistan

*On December 1, 2013, Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan, claimed that the United States had stopped providing military aid, including gasoline, to the country in an effort to pressure Afghanistan to sign the security agreement. The United States Embassy in Kabul denied the claim and said that supplies had been delayed in Pakistan but were expected to arrive in Afghanistan.<sup>20</sup>*

*On December 14, 2013, President Karzai claimed that the United States was making idle threats in order to reach a weak security agreement and was not actually planning to withdraw its troops from the country.<sup>21</sup>*

*On December 12, 2013, an explosion was heard next to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan; a few hours after the report, a spokesman for Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security announced that the explosion had been caused by an accident and that there were no injuries.<sup>22</sup>*

*On December 9, 2013, the United States Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, arrived in Pakistan for the first time in order to hold discussions with the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, regarding security arrangements in the country.<sup>23</sup>*

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published a video titled, "Defeat the Tyrants", documenting attacks by members of the Taliban in Afghanistan against American and Afghan forces in the country.<sup>24</sup>
- The jihadist media institution of the Taliban in Pakistan, Umar, published a video titled, "Incursion into India – Part 3".<sup>25</sup>
- The Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published a video titled, "The Harvest Season – Naka (Paktia Province)". The video documented several operations carried out by the Taliban in

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<sup>20</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/01/hamid-karzai-afghanistan-us-security-deal> (English).

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/14/karzai-american-troop-withdrawal-brinkmanship> (English).

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/12/us-afghanistan-embassy-blast-idUSBRE9BB05820131212> (English).

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/09/chuck-hagel-usa> (English).

<sup>24</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>25</sup> <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

Pakistan against military camps in the country, including “German-manufactured” mortar shell fire directed at the American-Afghani camp in Zerok, Paktia Province, katyusha rocket fire directed at a military camp in Wardak Province, and machine gun fire directed at security forces.

One member of the Taliban in Pakistan took several minutes to praise a number of Taliban fighters who were killed by American “Crusaders” in 2001 in the valley of Shahi-Kot, Paktia Province, in eastern Afghanistan. In addition, a short clip was dedicated to the memory of another martyr, Hamzah al-Turki, a native of Germany who had joined the mujahideen in Afghanistan during his adult years. According to the video clip, al-Turki was killed in a drone attack along with another mujahid during one of their operations. The video also emphasized that the mujahideen undergo training on the use of anti-aircraft cannons since American planes and helicopters are one of the greatest threats facing them in Afghanistan.<sup>26</sup>



The video banner

## The Arabian Peninsula

*On December 5, 2013, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) successfully carried out a massive terrorist attack against the Yemeni Ministry of Defense compound in Sana’a, the capital of Yemen. A suicide bomber exploded in a booby-trapped car at the entrance to the Ministry of Defense while another terrorist carried out a shooting attack against patients and staff at the hospital located in the compound. 52 people were killed in the attack. AQAP claimed responsibility for the attack and explained that it was in response to the indiscriminate use of drones by the United States against Muslims in Yemen.<sup>27</sup> The attack received negative headlines in the Yemeni media, which presented it as proof of the organization’s brutality and inhumanity.*

*In addition, clashes continued to erupt between members of AQAP and Yemeni government*

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<sup>26</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OByXhYpsHzI>

<sup>27</sup> <http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/yemen/al-qaida-linked-group-claims-yemen-attack-1.1263865> (English).

forces, and there have even been attempts to kidnap foreign diplomats. On December 15, 2013, a Japanese diplomat was stabbed in Sana'a after resisting his attackers during a failed kidnapping attempt next to the Japanese Embassy.<sup>28</sup> Kidnappings are common in Yemen and Yemeni security forces have been unable to control the activities of armed tribes and rebels affiliated with Al-Qaeda who take hostages in an effort to receive money or the release of prisoners as ransom.

- During the first half of December 2013, the Al-Batar jihadist media institution published the following:
  - A video titled, “Wounded Yemen”, a propaganda video against the Yemeni regime, which it accused of collaborating with enemies of Islam and of bearing responsibility for the killing of children in Yemen.<sup>29</sup>
  - A video titled, “Help for Ansar Al-Shari’a in Yemen”.<sup>30</sup> The video shows old videos produced by the Madad News Agency about Ansar Al-Shari'a, an affiliate of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, in Yemen.
  - A video titled, “The Immigrants and Their Supporters”, by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi al-Nazari Muhammad al-Mirshadi, a senior member of AQAP, in which he emphasized the importance of fulfilling the commandment to wage jihad against enemies of Islam and to provide help to the mujahideen.<sup>31</sup>
  - A video titled, “Perhaps They Will Understand”, examining the struggle between AQAP and the Yemeni army, which it described as a puppet of the United States, and the change in perspective that took place among several soldiers who were taken captive by the organization and developed a more sympathetic outlook [during their captivity].<sup>32</sup>
- Sheikh Mamun bin Abd al-Hamid, a senior leader of AQAP, criticized the suicide attack that members of his organization carried out at a hospital in Yemen, in which innocent women were killed. He emphasized that his organization renounces such criminal acts and only sanctifies war against Yemeni soldiers and government officials, saying, “Concerning simple Muslims, on

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<sup>28</sup><http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/yemen/assailants-stab-japan-diplomat-in-yemen-embassy-1.1267209> (English).

<sup>29</sup> <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>30</sup> <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>31</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>32</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Allah's life, it is strictly forbidden". According to him, there are countries that seek to use such exceptional events in order to tarnish the reputation of the mujahideen and to justify the continued the continued use of drones by the United States to attack the mujahideen in Yemen.<sup>33</sup>



**Sheikh Mamun bin Abd al-Hamid**

## **Iraq**

*Iraq continued to cope with many terrorist attacks on the home front. In addition to the number of bomb attacks that took place in the war-torn country during the first half of December 2013,<sup>34</sup> the media reported that a militant group had seized control of the Jawahir shopping mall in Kirkuk Province. Militants stormed the mall and took several hostages in the attack. Security officials blamed the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham for the attack and emphasized that the organization was amassing more power in light of the civil war in Syria.<sup>35</sup> In addition, it was reported that more than 20 detainees had escaped from a prison in Baghdad after killing at least one guard. They had apparently persuaded the guard to enter the holding cell by claiming that one of the detainees was ill and then stabbed him to death.<sup>36</sup> The United Nations recently reported a significant rise in number of Iraqis killed in executions in the framework of the ethnic rift between Sunnis and Shi'ites. According to UN data, over 8,000 Iraqis have been executed in 2013.<sup>37</sup>*

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<sup>33</sup> <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/?p=8787>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/12/iraq-attacks-kill-at-least-12-people-2013121417337367872.html> (English).

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/12/several-feared-dead-iraq-gunfight-20131242175724158.html> (English).

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/12/detainees-launch-deadly-baghdad-jail-break-20131213144538233761.html> (English).

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/12/un-iraq-alarmed-uptick-bodies-found-2013121201647114135.html> (English).

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum published photos of a new training base belonging to the Salafi-jihadist movement, Ansar Al-Islam, in Iraq. The “Sheikh Rashid Ghazi Camp” was named after Abdul Rashid Ghazi, an Islamist preacher of Pakistani origin and a prominent supporter of the Taliban, who was killed by Pakistani soldiers in 2007.

Due to the rift between Ansar Al-Islam and the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, which is heavily supported by administrators and visitors to the Hanien Web forum, not every visitor to the forum viewed the above-mentioned publication favorably. One visitor reacted to the publication by belittling Ansar Al-Islam and said that the organization did not take part in jihad in the framework of the Syrian civil war. Another visitor defended the organization and said that it was not limited to activities in Iraq alone, but rather was also present in arenas of jihad in Syria and other places. Another visitor agreed and added that even though Ansar Al-Islam is not affiliated with Al-Qaeda, it is considered a global jihadist movement for all intents and purposes.<sup>38</sup>



**Ansar Al-Islam photos of the Sheikh Rashid Ghazi training camp**

**Al-Sham [The Levant]**

*The United States and England decided to suspend the supply of nonlethal aid to the Syrian*

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<sup>38</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic);  
<http://twitmail.com/email/574801449/205/-%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9%D8%A3%D9%86%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%7C%7C-%D8%AA%D8%AE%D8%B1%D8%AC-%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%AC%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%88%D8%B3-%D9%85%D9%86-%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%B3%D9%83%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D9%8A%D8%AE-%D8%B1%D8%B4%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D8%BA%D8%A7%D8%B2%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%B9-%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%86%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%B1->

opposition. The decision was made as a result of the seizure by the Islamic Front, a coalition of six fighting groups some of which are affiliated with Al-Qaeda, of a Free Syrian Army supply warehouse near the Bab Al-Hawa border crossing from Syria to Turkey.<sup>39</sup> Some say that the Free Syrian Army had actually petitioned the Islamic Front to protect the supply warehouse from being taken over by militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham.<sup>40</sup> The warehouse apparently stored anti-aircraft vessels, anti-missile weapons, pickup trucks, medical kits, military meal packages, and more.<sup>41</sup>

The incident at Bab Al-Hawa showed that, as a result of the suspension of non-lethal aid from the United States and England out of concern that it would fall into hostile hands, the Free Syrian Army is immersed in a deep leadership crisis. On the one hand, it needs international assistance in order to strengthen its military capabilities and the reputation of its fighters, and to prevent them from leaving to join the ranks of organization affiliated with Al-Qaeda. On the other hand, its inability to protect its warehouses without the help of Islamist groups has revealed its weakness and risked its likelihood of receiving international assistance in the future. Meanwhile, an increasing number of Free Syrian Army fighters are joining Islamist groups that enjoy generous funding from Persian Gulf Arab states.<sup>42</sup>

For now, the Islamic Front is rejecting the offer to enter talks with the United States and the Free Syrian Army. The Islamic Front is concerned about entering direct talks with Washington because any such public event could drag it into conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham. This, coupled with the Islamic Front's refusal to accept the authority of the Free Syrian Army, could create even more difficulty for the West in exerting its influence over rebel groups that want to

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<sup>39</sup>[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/12/world/middleeast/us-suspends-nonlethal-aid-to-syrian-rebels-in-north.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/12/world/middleeast/us-suspends-nonlethal-aid-to-syrian-rebels-in-north.html?_r=0); <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/11/syrian-crisis-us-uk-suspend-aid-islamist-weapons-stores>; <http://rt.com/news/us-suspends-aid-syria-060/> (all in English).

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4tWlJw2YS4>; <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/12/12/uk-syria-crisis-warehouses-idUKBRE9BB0NH20131212> (English).

<sup>41</sup> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/us-suspends-aid-to-syrian-rebels-after-islamists-seize-warehouses/2013/12/11/2b28c088-626c-11e3-af0d-4bb80d704888\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/us-suspends-aid-to-syrian-rebels-after-islamists-seize-warehouses/2013/12/11/2b28c088-626c-11e3-af0d-4bb80d704888_story.html) (English).

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-cuts-aid-to-syria-rebels-as-islamists-advance/>; <http://ara.reuters.com/article/topNews/idARACAE9BA09N20131211>; <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/12/12/uk-syria-crisis-warehouses-idUKBRE9BB0NH20131212> (all in English).

replace the Bashar al-Assad regime.<sup>43</sup>

### **The Al-Nusra Front**

- During the first half of December 2013, the media institution of the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Manarah Al-Bayda, published the following:
  - Announcements (No. 439-440) claiming responsibility for various terrorist attacks against the Syrian regime’s security forces.<sup>44</sup>
  - Four videos in the framework of a series titled, “During the Battles”, documenting various battles between the Al-Nusra Front and Syrian regime forces.<sup>45</sup> For instance, one of the videos documented members of the organization freeing the electric company in Damascus.<sup>46</sup>
  - A video titled, “The Occupation of Tameco and an Interview with the Martyr, Shamil al-Ansari, in Eastern Ghawta, Damascus”.<sup>47</sup>



**The video banner**

- During the first half of December 2013, the jihadist news agency Hemm, which tracks

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<sup>43</sup> <http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Syrias-Islamic-Front-rebuffs-talks-with-US-335408>; <http://rt.com/op-edge/syria-aid-us-control-095/>; <http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Syrias-Islamic-Front-rebuffs-talks-with-US-335408> (all in English).

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.jalnosra.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.jalnosra.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>47</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/showthread.php?t=216507> (Arabic).

developments in Syria in general and the actions of Al-Nusra Front members in particular, published the following:

- A video (No. 44) documenting Al-Nusra Front militants entering eastern Daara.<sup>48</sup>
- A video (No. 45) documenting a visit to an oil field after it was liberated by Al-Nusra Front militants.<sup>49</sup>



**Video No. 45 banner**

- Dr. Sami al-'Aridi, a member of the Al-Nusra Front Shura Council, published on his Twitter account an article titled, "Those Who Sow Division Among the Mujahideen, Hold Back! Those Who Separate Between Beloveds, Hold Back!" The article discussed the importance of maintaining unity among the mujahideen.<sup>50</sup>

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

- During the first half of December 2013, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS), Al-'Itisam, published the following:
  - A video titled, "Window to the Land of Wars (Part 33)", documenting intensive dawah [preaching of Islam] activities by members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham in Raqqa. The video included an interview with a jihadist named Abu Mansur, who claimed to have immigrated to Syria from London. The moderator asked him why he had come to Al-Sham, what his purpose was in visiting there, and what advice would he give to the locals. Abu Mansur answered the questions in English and the moderator translated them into Arabic for the benefit of viewers. Abu Mansur said that he had

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<sup>48</sup> [https://twitter.com/Hemm\\_Agency](https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency)

<sup>49</sup> [https://twitter.com/Hemm\\_Agency](https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency)

<sup>50</sup> [https://twitter.com/sami\\_oride](https://twitter.com/sami_oride)

gone to Al-Sham after seeing that the mujahideen were fighting all over the world – in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, Chechnya and especially Syria, where Bashar al-Assad was murdering many Muslims. He said that the purpose of his visit was to fight for justice and for the vision of establishing an Islamic caliphate under which people of all religions – Muslims, Christians and Jews - would live peacefully. Finally, Abu Mansur advised viewers to help in establishing an Islamic caliphate.<sup>51</sup>



**The video banner**

- A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 34)”<sup>52</sup>; a speech in which a junior commander in the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham gave a motivational speech to his soldiers before they embarked on an operation to attack the Aleppo power station located in the eastern part of the city. In addition, the video documented a small part of a class in which the mujahideen prepared for the attack and one of them explained the ground plan using a satellite map from the Google search engine. The video later documented part of the attack, at the end of which ISIS fighters successfully gained control of the power station.<sup>52</sup>



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

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IZrrDHW5tc>

### The video banner

- A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 35)”, in which a commander in the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham gave a motivational speech to dozens of fighters that had gathered around him in preparation for the Raid on Al-Khair, an operation in Deir Azzor Province.

During December, the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham announced that Deir Azzor Province had been given the new name, Vilayet Al-Khair, named for the above-mentioned operation. In addition, jihadist Web forums and media sources reported that Abu Omar al-Shishani, who until now had led the battle in Aleppo, had been transferred to oversee the battle in Vilayet Al-Khair.<sup>53</sup>



### The video banner

- During the first half of December 2013, the Al-Furqan jihadist media institution published the following:
  - A video (No. 13) in the video series, “Messages from the Land of Battles”, in which one of the judges in an Islamic court in Aleppo addressed the mujahideen in the Sinai Peninsula and Egypt, and said that jihad was the way to implement the divine and prophetic commandment to establish an Islamic state. The judge added that the Muslim

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<sup>53</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb>;  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNIRR25pe-0>; <http://www.asianews1b.com/vdchvwnq.23n-kdt4t2.html>;  
<https://twitter.com/alkheir3>;  
[https://twitter.com/search?q=%23%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9\\_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AE%D9%8A%D8%B1&src=hash](https://twitter.com/search?q=%23%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AE%D9%8A%D8%B1&src=hash);  
<http://www.assafir.com/Article.aspx?EditionId=2655&ChannelId=64303&ArticleId=2444#.UsWSIdIW1PI>

# غزوة\_الخير  
# ولاية\_الخير

Nation was one, divided not by borders but by nationalities, which unites everyone together around the religion. The judge encouraged the mujahideen by saying that if they continue to adhere patiently to the religion, the Egyptian and Israeli armies would not be able to harm them in any way. The judge also addressed Muslims in Egypt and asked them, “How much longer will you bury your head in the sand?...You have abandoned the work of jihad in Afghanistan and Iraq, you have abandoned jihad and not provided assistance to Muslims in Al-Sham...You have abandoned jihad everywhere and even in your own country!...With what self-justification will you face Allah?...” The judge advised the police and army to repent “here and now” and plead with them to read the Qur’an to learn that Allah will not forgive the murder of Muslims, [nor will he forgive] obedience and subservience to infidels.<sup>54</sup>



**The video banner**

- A video (No. 14) in the video series, “Messages from the Land of Battles”, demonstrating the range of services provided by members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham to Syrian citizens in “freed” areas near Aleppo. Among the range of services noted in the video were various ministries, all subordinate to the Islamic Administration of Public Services: the Ministry of Mills and Bakeries, the Ministry of Sanitation and Hygienic Drainage, the Ministry of Electricity and Water, and the Ministry of Transportation and Traffic Police. The head of the Islamic Administration of Public Services was interviewed in the video and said that since his organization’s intent was to build an Islamic State, it was given several large projects in fields such as economics and employment security, and he believed that with the supervision of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham his organization will complete its missions. Nevertheless, he clarified that the “regime” was

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<sup>54</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWp9MqFG1fk>

making it difficult for them to focus on fulfilling the vision [of establishing an Islamic State].<sup>55</sup>



The video banner

- The jihadist media institution, the Global Islamic Media Front, published an interview that lasted over 60 minutes with the German jihadist, Abu Talha al-Almani. In his past, al-Almani was known as the rap singer, Deso Dogg, until he converted to Islam in 2010 under the influence of his friend, the former boxer Pierre Vogel, and after he miraculously survived a deadly car accident.

During the second half of November, a rumor spread among news outlets and some jihadist Web forums that al-Almani had been killed in battle in Latakia Province in western Syria. In the video that was published by the Global Islamic Media Front, al-Almani referred to the rumor and said that it was not the first time that the media had mistakenly announced his death. Al-Almani confirmed that he had been injured in the aerial strike on the residential neighborhood where he was staying in Syria and claimed that it was populated mostly by civilians.

In addition, al-Almani called on members of the Muslim Nation in general, and those in Germany in particular, to immigrate to the arena of jihad in Syria, claiming that “there are enough houses there for everyone...” He also emphasized that it was preferable for a mujahid to immigrate along with his entire family rather than to “leave them in the land of the infidels”. Al-Almani also praised the commandment of martyrdom, calling it “the heart’s desire of every

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<sup>55</sup> <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hb9QWpWFHXw>

Muslim...accompanied by a little pain, like the prick of a needle".<sup>56</sup>



The video banner

- After the media announced that two Spanish journalists, Javier Espinosa and Ricardo Garcia Vilanova, had been abducted by jihadists in Syria, the administrators of the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted a banner in which militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham plead for their release. The Fursan Al-Malhama Al-Kubra jihadist media institution echoed the sentiments of the Hanein Web forum administrators.

The solidarity demonstrated by the Hanein jihadist Web forum and the Fursan Al-Malhama Al-Kubra jihadist media institution towards the non-Muslim foreign journalists was an unusual development in the jihadist discourse. The appeal that was published by the administrators of the Hanein forum claimed that some of the administrators knew the journalists personally and were impressed by them for acting with journalistic integrity in presenting an unprejudiced reality of the civil war in Syria (unlike most media outlets, which usually present “neutral” content). The appeal that was published by the Fursan Al-Malhama Al-Kubra jihadist media institution claimed almost the same thing, emphasizing the captives’ journalistic integrity with regard to the arena of conflict in Iraq and the suffering of Iraqi citizens in Syria and Jordan.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rm5CQOUrhYo>  
<http://www.hawamer.com/vb/> (Arabic); <http://www.saqafa.com/article/26322>;  
[http://arabic.cnn.com/2013/middle\\_east/11/20/rapping\\_for\\_al\\_qaeda\\_in\\_syria/](http://arabic.cnn.com/2013/middle_east/11/20/rapping_for_al_qaeda_in_syria/) (English);  
<http://alplatformmedia.com/vb>; <http://syrianarmyfree.com/vb> (both in Arabic);  
[http://www.alkhabar-ts.com/index.php?page=view\\_news&id=ccb6163ce9f67a2f2b5ce4b1ce76666d0e9f824f270eaec71888f61f7e2bd623](http://www.alkhabar-ts.com/index.php?page=view_news&id=ccb6163ce9f67a2f2b5ce4b1ce76666d0e9f824f270eaec71888f61f7e2bd623); <http://asianewslb.com/vdcewp8f.jh8eeibdbj.html>

<sup>57</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://new.elfagr.org/Detail.aspx?secid=7&nwsId=477987&vid=2#>;  
[https://twitter.com/Fursan\\_Malhama](https://twitter.com/Fursan_Malhama)



**The banner of the appeal by the administrators of the Hanein jihadist Web forum to ISIS to free the kidnapped journalists**

- Various jihadist media institutions reported that a Jordanian pilot named **Ahmed Attalah al-Majali**, 29, defected from the Jordanian army to join the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham in Syria in order to fight against Bashar al-Assad's regime.<sup>58</sup>



**A photo of the former Jordanian pilot who became a jihad fighter in the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham**

- A visitor to the official jihadist Web forum of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham praised the six members of a family in Morocco who joined the ranks of the organization in the arena of jihad in Syria.<sup>59</sup>



**A photo of the family who joined ISIS in Syria**

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<sup>58</sup> <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/?p=8565>

<sup>59</sup> <http://iraqsham.com/vb> (Arabic)

- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham published a third anthology, downloadable to a PC, composed of its publications, audio clips, announcements and more.<sup>60</sup>



The banner of the anthology

## Lebanon

- The Markaz Aisha Lil-l'lam jihadist media institution published an announcement in which it asked members of the Sunni community in Lebanon, “from journalist jihadist forums, from revival workshops, and from social media users”, to help spread the call of the mujahideen incarcerated in the Rumiya prison in Lebanon for their freedom. According to the announcement, the prisoners in Rumiya will be freed just as “their brothers” were freed from the Iraqi prisons, Taji and Abu Gharib. In addition, the media institution asked social network users to share the appeal, which it attached as a link (<http://justpaste.it/Assra>), and instructed Twitter users to add the hashtag, “#prisoners\_rumiya\_prison”, in order to properly help spread word of the issue.<sup>61</sup>



<sup>60</sup> <https://twitter.com/Dzrawi/status/407219080907980800/photo/1>

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://justpaste.it/Assra>; <https://twitter.com/MarkazAisha>;

أسرى سجن رومية #

**One of the banners published in the framework of the Markaz Aisha Lil-I'lam jihadist media institution's campaign to free the prisoners of the Rumiya Prison in Lebanon**

- Sirajuddin Zurayqat, a senior leader in the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, called on young Muslims in Lebanon to carry out individual terrorist attacks if they were unable to join a jihadist group, and to focus on military, political and security-related targets belonging to Iran and Hezbollah in Lebanon. According to him, these were legitimate targets for an attack since they were killing Syrian people and safeguarding the borders with the Jews.<sup>62</sup>

### **The Palestinian Authority**

- The Ibn Taymiyyah jihadist media institution, which focuses on the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist movement, published an announcement in which it criticized Fatah for the Palestinian Authority's kidnapping of dozens of Salafists in the West Bank on December 1, 2013.<sup>63</sup> A senior Palestinian official noted that those same Salafi-jihadist activists were former members of Hamas.
- The Ibn Taymiyyah jihadist media institution discussed the killing of three Palestinian Salafi-jihadist activists by Israel in the West Bank on November 26, 2013. According to the media institution, the killings were evidence of the penetration of the jihadist doctrine and the Salafi-jihadist movement into the West Bank.

A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum claimed that one of the “brothers” said that he had tried to persuade the martyr, Musa’ ‘Abd al-Majid Fanasheh, to return home but that Fanasheh had refused and asked: “Who told you that I want to go back home? I have already pledged my allegiance to Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi [the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham] until death, and I am already on my way to Paradise...”

In response, the Islamic News Agency – Haq wrote on its user account that even though it was not the agency's custom to comment on the discussions posted on the forum, it could not hide the truth and emphasized that the martyr, Fenasheh, was a member of Hamas who had adopted the Salafist ideology after serving time in prison. Another visitor, who claimed that he

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<sup>62</sup> <https://twitter.com/SirajeddineZ> (inactive link).

<sup>63</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

knew the three martyrs personally, was angered by the Islamic news agency's remark and asked, angrily: Are slain members of the Salafi-jihadist movement considered martyrs while all others are not?<sup>64</sup>



**The three Salafi-jihadist martyrs who were killed in the West Bank**

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

*On December 8, 2013, an Egyptian army spokesman announced that two attempted suicide attacks against military targets in the northern Sinai Peninsula had been foiled. It was also reported that, after Egyptian army soldiers shot at the explosives-laden cars and blew them up, DNA samples were taken from the bodies of the terrorists in order to identify them.*<sup>65</sup>

*On December 9, 2013, it was reported that Ibrahim Muhammed Hamdan Abu-Ferij, one of the leaders of the Ansar Beit al-Maqdas jihadist group, had been killed in the Sheikh Zuweid region in the northern Sinai Peninsula. The Egyptian army, which was responsible for Hamdan's murder, also arrested another person during the operation who had accompanied Hamdan and tried to shoot at Egyptian soldiers.*<sup>66</sup>

### **Ansar Beit Al-Maqdas**

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

<sup>65</sup> <http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/military-spokesperson-two-suicide-bombing-attempts-targeting-army-thwarted-northern-sinai> (English).

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2013/12/09/leading-member-of-sinai-militant-group-killed-military/> (English).

- During the first half of December 2013, Ansar Beit al-Maqdas, a Salafi-jihadist group operating in the Sinai Peninsula, published the following:
  - A video titled, “Fight Them Until There Will Be No More Civil War – Part 2”, documenting terrorist attacks that were carried out by members of the organization against Egyptian army trucks and armored vehicles.<sup>67</sup>
  - An announcement calling on students at Egyptian universities to continue to revolt against the Egyptian regime and to resist the campaign of repression being waged by the regime, led by General Sisi, against the citizens of Egypt.<sup>68</sup>

### ***Jundallah in Palestine***

- Jundallah in Palestine, a Salafi-jihadist group operating in the Gaza Strip since 2003, published a video documenting preparations for the launching of rockets into Israel.<sup>69</sup>



**The logo of Jundallah in Palestine**

### ***General***

- The Ibn Tamiyya jihadist media institution published a taped interview with the family of Sheikh Abu Hajir al-Filastini,<sup>70</sup> a member of the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Gaza Strip and former resident of Deir al-Balah in the Gaza Strip. He was arrested by Israeli security forces in 2003 for terrorist activities and was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in an Israeli prison.

### **The Maghreb [North Africa]**

<sup>67</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>68</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>69</sup> [https://twitter.com/jund\\_allah\\_pal](https://twitter.com/jund_allah_pal)

<sup>70</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

*The countries of the Maghreb continue to fight terrorism. In line with this, the media reported that Morocco had fruitful security cooperation with Spain,<sup>71</sup> and that it was investing resources in locating sources of funding for terrorist activities in the country.<sup>72</sup> It was also reported that Mauritania, Mali and Niger were preparing to face various security challenges, including terrorist attacks and smuggling.*

*According to terrorism expert, Sidati Ould Cheikh, while Operation Serval (an operation by France against terrorist hubs in control of northern Mali) has indeed weakened the militant groups operating in the region, they have not yet been defeated. Even the President of France, François Hollande, referred to the matter and said that terrorism was based not only in Mali but in southern Algeria, southern Libya and northern Nigeria as well.<sup>73</sup>*

*According to the Mauritanian journalist, Ould Mohamed Horma, Niger is liable to find itself at the center of the next conflict in light of its location and the “flow of terrorists to [the country]”. Niger is bordered by northern Mali to the West and faces the threat of the Nigerian Salafi-jihadist movement, Boko Haram, from the south. In addition, it is bordered by southern Libya on the north and by Chad on the east. According to Horma, Niger is aware today, more than ever before, of the difficulty it faces in coping with these many challenges alone.<sup>74</sup>*

*Another country that is having difficulty coping with the threat of terrorism on its soil is Libya, which is fighting militias, some of which are affiliated with Al-Qaeda, in several locations. In the city of Darnah, which is considered to be a center of radical Islam, dozens of residents protested against the lack of security in the city and demanded that the government restore sanity to the area. Colonel Wanis Bukhmada joined in the residents’ call, and asked if the government and the General National Congress (GNC) intended to fight Al-Qaeda or not. He emphasized that it was not only a matter of restoring security to one city in Libya – but rather to the entire nation.<sup>75</sup>*

- The Africa Is Muslim Twitter account, which is operated by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published an announcement by prisoners on a hunger strike in the Kuneitra Prison in Morocco. The announcement stated that, after nearly 40 days on a hunger strike, the Islamist

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<sup>71</sup> [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/12/05/feature-02](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/12/05/feature-02) (English).

<sup>72</sup> [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/12/12/feature-01](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/12/12/feature-01) (English).

<sup>73</sup> [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/12/12/feature-02](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/12/12/feature-02) (English).

<sup>74</sup> [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/12/04/feature-02](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/12/04/feature-02) (English).

<sup>75</sup> [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/12/02/feature-01](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/12/02/feature-01) (English).

prisoners located in a protected wing of the Kuneitra prison were appealing to the world's governments and human rights organizations. The prisoners, who are in jail due to their involvement with jihadist groups and terrorist activities, claimed that no organization or official had taken an interest in their welfare or checked on their deteriorating health. The announcement was signed by two of the prisoners, Radwan Hamadi and Said Sufyan Ayat Yadr.<sup>76</sup> The same account also published a video version of the letter,<sup>77</sup> as well as a video with a personal message from one of the prisoners.<sup>78</sup> In addition, the same Twitter account published an official letter from the prisoners to the President of France, François Hollande. The letter stated that France, which is collaborating with Morocco to imprison Muslims without cause, is flagrantly violating the humanitarian principles on which it prides itself. France has been committing severe racist human rights violations for twenty years while continuing to present itself as an enlightened country. Therefore, the prisoners intend to continue the hunger strike that they began until the conditions change.<sup>79</sup>

- The Africa Is Muslim Twitter account, which is operated by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published a letter by Salafi-jihadist prisoners in the Burkaeyz Prison in the city of Fess in Morocco. The letter was directed to the King of Morocco, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior, and stated that the prison was violating the prisoners' basic human rights. The prisoners claimed that they were imprisoned due to their beliefs and that they were innocent.<sup>80</sup>
- The Salafi-jihadist group, Ansar Al-Shari'a, published an announcement in which it boasted that it successfully brought about a cease-fire between two warring tribes in the Libyan coastal city of Sirt. According to the announcement, Ansar Al-Shari'a activists prevented the sides from firing at one another and returned the captives from each side to their families. In addition, Ansar Al-Shari'a claimed to be working vigorously to reconcile the two sides while emphasizing that it would not accept the killing of innocent Muslims right before its eyes. The announcement served as additional evidence of the chaos raging in Libya, not only between

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<sup>76</sup> <https://twitter.com/Africamuslima/status/407625735407292416>

<sup>77</sup> <https://twitter.com/Africamuslima/status/408005668545634304>

<sup>78</sup> <https://twitter.com/Africamuslima/status/408005668545634304>

<sup>79</sup> <https://twitter.com/Africamuslima/status/409354609845477376>

<sup>80</sup> <https://twitter.com/Africamuslima/status/408712747363221504>

supporters of the new regime and extremists, but also among the various tribes.<sup>81</sup>



The banner of Ansar al-Shari'a in Libya

## Egypt

- The Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published a public statement titled, “An Opinion on Events in Egypt”, by Sheikh Mahmud al-Bahtiti Abu Dujanah al-Basha.<sup>82</sup> In the article, the author discussed the persecution of Islamists by the Egyptian army. According to him, the Muslim Brotherhood failed to understand the reality [of the situation] and failed to implement shari’a. He added that attempts by the Muslim Brotherhood to ingratiate itself to the secular camp, the Christians and the Egyptian security forces did not only fail to benefit the organization but was even to its disadvantage. According to the author, the only way to implement shari’a is through force, not democracy. In addition, he called on Muslims to help the persecuted Islamists in Egypt not only with words but with actions, and to fight against the forces that are trying to hinder the implementation of shari’a.
- The Al-Nusra Brigades, an Egyptian affiliate of the (originally) Palestinian Al-Furqan Brigades, announced its ties to both Hamas in the Gaza Strip and to Al-Qaeda. Between the end of November and the beginning of December, the Al-Nusra Brigades published a movie titled, “Help for the Weak 2”, in which it claimed responsibility for the assassinations of several soldiers and police officers in Al-Sharqia Province on September 17, 2013.<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://arabic.people.com.cn/31662/8484062.html>

<sup>82</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>83</sup> <http://iraqsham.com/vb> (Arabic); [http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=wSJeZ9p02\\_I&desktop\\_uri=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DwSJeZ9p02\\_I&ap\\_p=desktop](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=wSJeZ9p02_I&desktop_uri=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DwSJeZ9p02_I&ap_p=desktop); <http://24.ae/Article.aspx?ArticleId=47434>; <http://www.almasryalyoum.com/News/Details/327416>



The video banner

## Somalia

*On December 2, 2013, the Prime Minister of Somalia, Abdi Farah Shirdon, was removed from office by a large majority of 184 in favor [of his removal] and 65 against in the Somali Parliament. He will retain his position until the President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud, appoints a new Prime Minister.<sup>84</sup>*

*On December 5, 2013, a car bomb exploded in the city of Bosasso in Puntland Province, Somalia. No casualties were reported and no one claimed responsibility for the attack, but it followed a similar pattern to previous terrorist attacks carried out by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in the country.<sup>85</sup> On December 6, 2013, Mohammed Warsame Faisal, a member of the Somali Parliament, was killed when a bomb placed underneath his car exploded next to the presidential palace in the capital city of Mogadishu. It is unknown who was behind the attack.<sup>86</sup>*

*On December 14, 2013, at least four people were killed in Nairobi, Kenya, apparently by an explosive device planted on a minibus in the center of the city. According to police in Nairobi, the attackers used a sophisticated, remote-controlled bomb.<sup>87</sup>*

- At a press conference held by the Somali Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen on December 14, 2013, Sultan) bin Muhammad Al Muhammad, who was appointed to the movement's Charity Department, said that his department intended to begin distributing 100,000 heads of cattle as charity to all residents of Islamic provinces in Somalia.<sup>88</sup>

## The Indian Subcontinent

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<sup>84</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/02/somalia-ejects-prime-minister> (English).

<sup>85</sup> <http://news.yahoo.com/car-bomb-explodes-somalia-39-puntland-region-witnesses-101853296.html> (English).

<sup>86</sup> <http://somalianewsroom.com/somali-mp-killed-in-car-bombing-laid-to-rest/> (English).

<sup>87</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/14/four-killed-bomb-attack-nairobi> (English).

<sup>88</sup> <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/?p=8804>

- Visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum expressed their condolences over the execution of the Muslim political leader, Abdul Quader Molla, a senior member of the Jamaat-e-Islami party in Bangladesh, after he was convicted of committing war crimes during Pakistan’s battle for independence in 1971. Abdul Quader Molla was hanged at the age of 65. In response, one visitor to the forum said that the person who said “[what separates] us from them are the funerals” was right. Other visitors expressed their hope that “Allah will welcome the martyr”.<sup>89</sup>



**Abdul Quader Molla**

## China

- The jihadist media institution of the Turkestan Islamic Party, Sawt Al-Islam, published a video titled, “Tourism of the Faithful – Part 8”.<sup>90</sup>



**The video banner**

## Iran

- The Iranian, Balochistan-based Army of Justice published an announcement in which it claimed responsibility for an attack against an Iranian army base near the city of Saravan in Balochistan,

<sup>89</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.alakhbar.info/news/1340-2013-12-13-11-11-06.html>

<sup>90</sup> <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

Iran. The announcement stated that dozens of members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard were killed in the attack. It also stated that three Army of Justice battalions, which included 92 fighters, took part in the military operation. According to the announcement, the attack was in revenge for the execution of 16 prisoners in Balochistan and for the crimes committed by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard against Syrians.<sup>91</sup>

## The Caucasus

- The Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus published a video by Abu Uhman, mufti of Dagistan Province, in which he advised Muslims seeking to join jihad.<sup>92</sup>

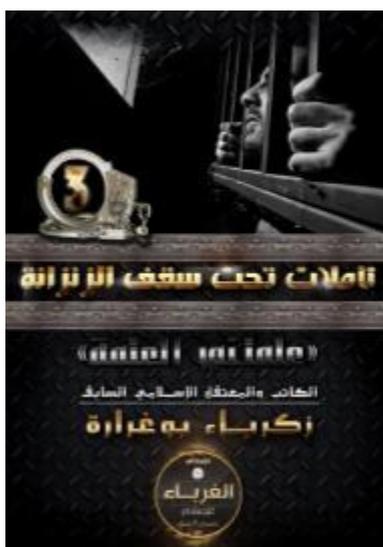
## Miscellaneous

- The Al-Ghuraba jihadist media institution, which caters to Arabic and German speakers, published an article titled, “Reflections under the Dungeon Ceiling (Part 3): The Darkness Has Taught Me”, by Zakaria Boughrara. The article discussed author’s memories and experiences from his time in a Moroccan prison. Boughrara is a Moroccan writer and journalist who writes about issues concerning the Islamic movement. He was sent to prison in Morocco several times, charged with belonging to the Salafi-jihadist movement, and was imprisoned for over ten years. The above-mentioned article was part of a series of publications that he wrote during his time in prison.

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<sup>91</sup> <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/?p=8589>

<sup>92</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



The article banner

- A visitor to the official jihadist Web forum of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham posted a photo of a Hezbollah activist who was executed by the Al-Nusra Front, an affiliate of Al-Qaeda in Syria, after he was convicted of raping a pregnant woman in a mosque in the Talkalakh region of western Syria. According to the visitor, the rapist added insult to injury by turning on the mosque's microphone so that people in the area could hear the screams of the woman being raped. The announcement served as additional testimony to the field trials and convictions being carried out in Syria by jihadists.<sup>93</sup>
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum shared a video documenting how a Syrian Muslim woman named 'Umm Saleh devotes herself to preparing hot meals for the mujahideen on the front line in Hama.<sup>94</sup>



'Umm Saleh

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<sup>93</sup> <http://iragsham.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>94</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPxNuJ\\_EbLY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPxNuJ_EbLY)

## Facebook and Twitter

- A visitor to the official jihadist Web forum of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham shared that the Emirate of the Caucasus in Dagestan had re-opened its official Arabic Web site. In addition, he posted the addresses of the organization's Facebook and Twitter accounts, which have gained popularity among thousands of users.<sup>95</sup>



From left to right: The Facebook the Twitter accounts of the Emirate of the Caucasus in Dagestan

- A visitor to the official jihadist Web forum asked if it was worth preventing the mujahideen from using social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter, noting that even though the benefit of using such sites cannot be ignored, the damage that they cause is much greater. The visitor compared the ban on using social networking sites to the ban on cell phone use that was imposed on the mujahideen in Iraq since the West controls all means of telecommunication, which places [the mujahideen] in constant danger. In response, another visitor said that a ban should be imposed only on Facebook but that Twitter should continue to be permitted. Another visitor suggested banning Twitter as well and explained that it would be sufficient to only use jihadist Web forums. One of the founders of the forum said that Twitter was open to everyone and added that no one would be able to prevent its use. Another founder offered his opinion and said that Twitter and Facebook should be avoided altogether.<sup>96</sup>

<sup>95</sup> <http://iraqsham.com/vb> (Arabic); <http://vdagestan.com/ar>; [https://twitter.com/VDagestan\\_Ar](https://twitter.com/VDagestan_Ar); <https://www.facebook.com/pages/%D9%8...29280270623725>

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



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Founded in 1996, the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) is one of the leading academic institutes for counter-terrorism in the world, facilitating international cooperation in the global struggle against terrorism. ICT is an independent think tank providing expertise in terrorism, counter-terrorism, homeland security, threat vulnerability and risk assessment, intelligence analysis and national security and defense policy. ICT is a non-profit organization located at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya, Israel which relies exclusively on private donations and revenue from events, projects and programs.

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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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