

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from the Jihadist Forums

The First Half of May 2011

This report summarizes the most prominent events brought up in the Jihadist online forums in the first half of May 2011. Following are the main issues raised in this report:

- Global Jihad organizations, media institutes and Jihadist forums eulogize Bin Laden and vow revenge following his death in the hands of American Special Forces.
- Anwar Al-Awlaki escaped an American assassination attempt in Southern Yemen.
- The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU): A special review.

Responses to Bin Laden's Elimination

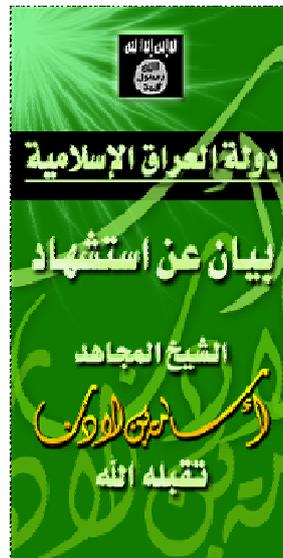
The Global Jihad Organizations

- Al-Fajr Jihadist media institute, operated by Al-Qaeda's general leadership, published an announcement confirming Bin Laden's death, under the heading "You lived a life which is worthy of praise and you died as a shahid: An announcement relating to the war of arrogance and the holy death of Sheikh Osama Bin Laden". The leadership stated that Bin Laden's death was an historic day for the Islamic Nation.
- According to the message, although the Americans and their allies succeeded in killing Bin Laden, they did not destroy his legacy: "Can the Americans, with their media, collaborators, instruments, soldiers and intelligence, kill what Sheikh Osama lived and fought for? Absolutely not. Sheikh Osama did not build an organization so that it would die or pass on from this world".
- According to the General Leadership, the Americans' joy and that of their cohorts will be promptly replaced by sorrow, both on American soil and elsewhere. The announcement then quoted Bin Laden, saying that the US would not enjoy safety so long as the Palestinians are not safe in their homeland. The organization called upon Muslims in Pakistan to rebel against the current regime, due to the treacherous collaboration with the US government and to cleanse their country of American presence.
- The organization also warned the US not to desecrate Bin Laden's corpse or mistreat his family and demanded the return of the bodies to the family. The forum surfers also called for revenge over the killing of Bin Laden.¹
- The Shura Council of the Islamic Emirates in Afghanistan published an announcement following the death of Bin Laden. According to the Council,

¹ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/>

Bin Laden was a distinguished and courageous fighter against Soviet forces until they withdrew from Afghanistan. He also defended the issue of Al-Aqsa and Palestine and cared for the oppressed. The announcement stated that the US is mistaken if it thinks that Bin Laden's assassination will damage the Mujahideen's morale in Afghanistan or elsewhere. On the contrary, it is apparent that the trend of Jihad is strengthening. The announcement also stated that "the Islamic Emirates in Afghanistan believe that Sheikh Bin Laden's martyrdom, at this sensitive stage of the Jihad, will instill new strength in the Jihad against the occupiers and will rouse the waves of Jihad even further".²

- The Islamic State of Iraq also published eulogies for Bin Laden in which it threatened to attack American targets worldwide, particularly on American soil.³



² <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/>

³ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/>

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published a eulogy in memory of Bin Laden. The organization stressed that although Bin Laden is dead; his legacy lives on and will continue to exist.⁴



- The Al-Andalus Jihadist media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, published a eulogy for Sheikh Osama Bin Laden. It stated that the assassination proves the United States does not seek peace or reconciliation with the Muslims and that its contention that it does not wish to fight against Islam is false. The organization also threatened that the Americans' elation at Bin Laden's death will soon be replaced with misery.⁵
- The Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen movement threatened to avenge Bin Laden's death. In an official declaration published by the movement's spokesman, Ali Muhammad Raji, it was stressed that Bin Laden's blood was not spilled in vain and his death will not go unpunished. He called upon the Mujahideen to

⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/>
⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/>

prepare for attacks of vengeance.⁶ The movement's leadership also published an official announcement eulogizing Bin Laden's death and stating that the path of Jihad will continue and the Mujahideen will exact revenge on the US.⁷

- The Abdullah Azzam Brigades published an obituary announcement following Bin Laden's death, which stated that the death of Bin Laden will chart the path of the Mujahideen and they must invest great efforts, particularly at this moment in time and close ranks.⁸
- The Fatah Al-Islam organization, a Salafist Jihadist organization in Lebanon identified with Al-Qaeda, published a eulogy for Bin Laden. The organization promised to avenge the spilling of Bin Laden's blood and to strike at the US and its allies.⁹



- The Al-Nur Jihadist media institute, operating on behalf of the Army of Islam, a Palestinian Jihadist Salafist group, published a an obituary and condolences announcement following the death of Bin Laden.¹⁰



⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>

⁷ <http://www.snam-s.net/vb/>

⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/>

⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/>

¹⁰ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/>

- The Al-Riyah Jihadist media institute, operating on behalf of the Ma'asadat Al-Mujahideen Fi Filastin organization (the Lions' Den of the Mujahideen in Palestine), a Jihadist Salafist group operating in the Gaza Strip, published a eulogy in memory of Bin Laden.¹¹
- The Jama'at Al-Tawhid Wal-Jihad - Bayt Al-Maqdis, a Palestinian Salafist Jihadist group active in the Gaza Strip, published a eulogy in memory of Bin Laden.¹²



- The Jama'at Jund Allah in Palestine organization praised Bin Laden's legacy and the heritage of Jihad he left for future generations. It expressed confidence that the masses will follow in his path and that the US, Israel and their allies will receive their retribution. It called for attacks on American and Jewish targets worldwide.¹³

Media Institutes

- The Al-Fajr Jihadist media institute published an obituary and expressed its condolences for the death of Osama Bin Laden.¹⁴
- The Jihadist propaganda group, Sariyyat Al-Somood, published an obituary following Bin Laden's death and threatened to avenge it.¹⁵

¹¹ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/>

¹² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/>

¹³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>

¹⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>

¹⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/>



- The Al-Ma'asada Jihadist media institute published a Qasida in memory of Bin Laden titled "We Shed Tears and We Will Spill Blood" by Abu Al-Hassan Al-Azdi.¹⁶
- The Al-Ansar Al-Baridiya Jihadist media group published a eulogy in memory of Bin Laden and stressed that his legacy will not perish but continue.¹⁷

Magazines

- The Al-Waqi electronic Jihadist magazine published an announcement following Osama Bin Laden's death. The magazine's writers expressed their hope that Bin Laden will be received as a shahid in Paradise and offered condolences to the Islamic Nation and particularly to the Mujahideen.¹⁸



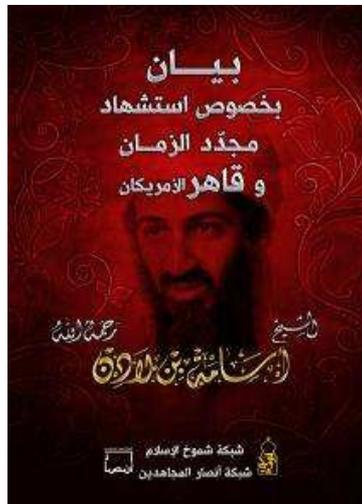
¹⁶ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/>

¹⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/>

¹⁸ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/>

Forums

- The Shumukh Al-Islam and the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Jihadist forums published a joint announcement following Osama Bin Laden's death. In addition to the eulogies and expressions of commitment to continue in his footsteps, the forums stressed that the US and its allies will soon be punished and that "the loud voices of delight over the honorable Sheikh's death will be silenced with the help of God".¹⁹



- The Atahadi forum's manager, Salman bin Muhannad, expressed his sorrow over the death of Bin Laden and stressed that his death and that of other leaders of the Jihad only instills motivation in the Mujahideen and their followers to continue in their footsteps and avenge their death.²⁰
- A member of the Atahadi Jihadist forum's Shura Council, Muhammad Al-Makki, published an announcement calling upon the members of the forum to eulogize Bin Laden ²¹

¹⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/>

²⁰ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/>

²¹ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/>



- A member of the Shumukh Al-Islam Jihadist forum published a correspondence titled "How Can We Move the Campaign to the United States?" The writer proposed Mujahideen should infiltrate the US through its northern or southern borders, in order "to transform it into another Iraq".²²
- A member of the Shumukh Al-Islam Jihadist forum wrote that with Bin Laden's death, manuals on how to prepare explosives should once again be circulated. He also asked whether it was possible to demolish a building with a petroleum laden vehicle.²³
- A member of the Shumukh Al-Islam Jihadist forum, Abu Ja'afar Al-Irhabi, published a list of books and films, some in English, to be downloaded for the Mujahideen's benefit. These materials deal with various aspects of warfare such as a sharp shooting manual, technical explanations regarding the manufacture of explosives, a first aid manual, identity theft, etc. The reference is to manuals which were published in the past on various Jihadist forums but are being published again. According to the surfer, as revenge for Bin Laden's death.²⁴

²² <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/>

²³ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/>

²⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/>

- A member of the Atahadi Jihadist forum remarked that thousands of Muslims prayed in memory of Osama Bin Laden in Khartoum, Sudan.²⁵



- A member of the Hanein Jihadist forum wondered why no eulogy was heard from Ayman Al-Zawahiri, Bin Laden's second in command. Another writer advised patience and promised that Al-Zawahiri will soon make his voice heard. Another surfer believed that Al-Zawahiri will speak only after a high caliber attack avenging Bin Laden's death has taken place. Another surfer contended that as soon as a new leader is named, he will publish an official eulogy. He also pointed out that Al-Zawahiri and those close to him are currently in great danger and must remain vigilant.²⁶

²⁵ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/>

²⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>

New Publications

Ideology

- The Hanein Jihadist forum reported that Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb published an announcement which views the current revolutions in the Arab countries as a victory for the organization. The announcement, which also eulogized Bin Laden, stated that the events occurring in the Arab world are part of the fruits of the Jihad in which Bin Laden played a central role.²⁷

Strategy

- Assad Al-Islam, an Atahadi Jihadist forum member, posted a correspondence, which was highly ranked by the forum's management, titled: "America... Ceasefire, the Destruction of Israel". The writer stated that the fast pace of events in the Middle East, particularly the Arab revolutions in the states surrounding Israel and the likelihood of a military decline and economic crash in the US, necessitate the examination of two situations the US will experience:
 1. The US will have to withdraw its forces from the Gulf or maintain considerably smaller garrison there and will strengthen its naval presence to compensate. Such a dangerous scenario will threaten the Gulf States, which will be obligated to deal with the Shiites, led by Iran, on their own.
 2. European influence in the region will increase and Europe will bring strong pressure to bear on the US to refrain from involvement in Al-Sham (the Levant). UNIFIL, as well as other organizations, will serve as a European influencing factor, until such time as the American occupation is no longer discernible. This turn of events will give the Jihadist Salafist movement a

²⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>

reason to declare Jihad and to threaten Israel. Distancing the US, the country which nurtured Israel, from the region will weaken Israel's position with the surrounding countries and the Jihadist Salafist groups. This situation will not allow any country to support Israel, as the Americans did.

Saudi Arabia will try to take the place of the United States through Islamic propaganda and will emphasize the urgent need to protect the region from the Shiites by what it will term "Islamic Jihad". Saudi Arabia will try to involve the Jihadist leaderships in a war against the Shiites.

As a result, Israel will be forced to live in constant fear for its fate owing to the revolutions in the neighboring countries, as "these revolutions will give rise to the courage needed for the nations to cross their borders". Israel will exert pressure on the US to intervene in Syria in order to subdue the Syrian revolutionary flames. This is because Syria is close to Islamic Iraq and the Jihadist Salafist movements in Palestine and Lebanon. These movements will close ranks and wait for the right time to cross the Golan border towards Israel". According to the writer, as soon as the situation in Syria is similar to that in Libya, there will be an opportunity to destroy Israel.²⁸

- Suleiman Al-Nasser, a self professed supporter of Global Jihad, published a declaration in which he called upon all supporters of Global Jihad to declare maximum alertness and prepare to carry out "Jihad attacks against the Zionist-Crusader alliance". He urged that immediate and serious action be taken regarding the organization and preparation of attacks, first and foremost against the US and NATO countries which support it. He stated that US and NATO targets worldwide are legitimate for the Mujahideen and called upon

²⁸ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/>

Muslims worldwide, particularly in the US and Europe, to participate in the attacks. He warned those living in Muslim countries not to approach embassies, foreign institutions or any target in those countries appearing on the Mujahideen's targets list.²⁹

Instructional and Guidance Publications

- The supervisor of the technical column on the Ansar al-Mujahideen Jihadist forum in Arabic published an instruction manual with illustrations and explanations titled: "Safety Principles for the Supporters of the Mujahideen When Surfing the Internet: Part One". According to the supervisor, the manual provides basic rules for safe and covert surfing on Jihadist forums. One can find, for example, information on programs, coded links, increasing the surfer's security, use of the TOR program, *etc.*³⁰

Magazines

- Jihadist forums published links to download the 18th edition of Talai' Khorasan magazine (The Khorasan Pioneers).³¹

²⁹ <http://www.snam-s.net/vb/>

³⁰ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/>

³¹ <http://www.snam-s.net/vb/>

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan - Pakistan

- The Hanein Jihadist forum published statements made by the Emir of the Mujahideen in South Waziristan, Mawlawi Nadhir Ahman, who stated that they are prepared to hold a dialogue with the Americans but that now is not the time. He further stated that Al-Qaeda and the Taliban are one and the same and despite operational disagreements, their overall policy is identical.³²



- The Hanein Jihadist forum reported that the Taliban published a video tape showing the Canadian hostage accused of espionage.³³
- The Hanein Jihadist forum reported on fighting between Afghan forces and Taliban fighters in Kandahar, Southern Afghanistan. The Taliban claimed that 16 soldiers and government officials were killed and injured in those skirmishes, while the border police claimed that there were only three casualties and 46 wounded.³⁴

³² <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>

³³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>

³⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>

- The Hanein Jihadist forum reported, quoting sources in the Pakistani Army, that a Yemeni Al-Qaeda leader, Muhammad Ali Qassem, also known as Abu Suhaib Al-Makki, was arrested in Karachi.³⁵
- The Hanein Jihadist forum reported that the Taliban denied any involvement in the shooting of the Saudi Consul in Karachi on May 16th 2011.³⁶

Iraq

- The Islamic State of Iraq published a list of 23 attacks perpetrated by the organization in the Southern Region, including the placing of explosives, assassination of Iraqi security personnel, *etc.*³⁷

The Arabian Peninsula

- The Hanein Jihadist forum reported that Anwar Al-Awlaki escaped an American assassination attempt in Southern Yemen in early May 2011.³⁸

The Maghreb

- The Kataib Al-Rased Jihadist media institute published an announcement following the attack carried out in Marrakesh on April 28th 2011. The announcement stated that the Arab revolutions prove that the best way to remove a regime is through large scale popular dissent, as in the uprising of January 25th 2011, *i.e.* - the popular uprising against Mubarak's regime. The announcement called upon the Moroccan nation to adopt this model of protest, as the Moroccan government does the Americans' bidding and that of Israel and the West. In order to satisfy them, they imprison many Salafist

³⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>

³⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>

³⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>

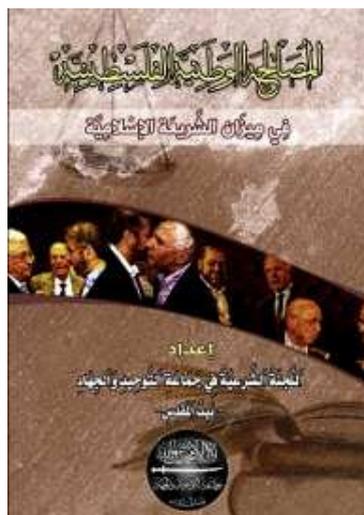
³⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>

Muslims on charges of being affiliated with a terrorist organization. For instance, the Moroccan regime accused the Salafists in the country of being behind the attack in Marrakesh in late April 2011.³⁹

- The Al-Andalus Islamic media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, published a report on its operations against Muslim security personnel, including officers who were killed or wounded.⁴⁰

Al-Sham

- The Jama'at Al-Tawhid Wal-Jihad - Bayt Al-Maqdis' Sharia Committee, a Palestinian Jihadist Salafist group active in the Gaza Strip, published a booklet titled: "The National Palestinian Reconciliation Counteracting the Islamic Sharia".⁴¹ The group stated that the reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas is inherently null and void, as it is based on future elections and not on the Quran and the Sunna. Moreover, the reconciliation agreement reflects betrayal, manifested in the handing over of a large part of Palestine to the Jews.



³⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/>

⁴⁰ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb/>

⁴¹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/>

Africa

- The Hanein Jihadist forum reported that two engineers, a Briton and an Italian, who worked for a contracting firm, were taken hostage in mid May 2011 in North Western Nigeria.⁴²

General Reports

- The management of the Atahadi Jihadist forum announced that the forum decided to become independent and will decide on its own policy and make its own decisions without obligation or ties to official or unofficial institutes or forums, stating that "This is a step to strengthen people's security and credibility". The forum's management also announced "that it was removing all its reports from the other forums". The forum stressed that all future material published in its name or on other forums, will not represent it and will be considered a clear breach of information security. At the same time, the management stressed that the forum would continue to adhere to its previous policies, *i.e.* – to remain loyal to the Sharia and aid the Mujahideen everywhere.⁴³

⁴² <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>

⁴³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>

Miscellaneous

The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) – Profile

Historical Background

The IMU's roots can be traced to the Islamic group Adolat (justice), which called for an Islamic uprising in Uzbekistan. The group itself was formed in 1991 in Namangan, Uzbekistan, by two Islamists; Tahir Yuldashev and Juma Namangani. It received a great deal of support from the local population but in March 1992 the President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, banned the group and arrested 27 of its members. As a result, most of the group's members escaped to neighboring Tajikistan, including the two founders.

During the civil war in Tajikistan (1992-1996), members of the group fought alongside units of The United Tajikistani Opposition against the Tajikistani regime, but in 1993 they were forced to relocate to Afghanistan. Yuldashev, desiring to strengthen his group and to find financing sources, visited a number of Muslim countries, including Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey. He even forged connections with intelligence agencies, particularly the Pakistanis, who allowed him a base in Peshawar between the years 1995-1998. There are conjectures that he received financing from intelligence agencies and welfare organizations in Saudi Arabia, Iran and Turkey. He met with Chechen rebel leaders during the first Chechnya war (1994-1996), and succeeded in forming underground cells throughout central Asia, which were vital to the establishment of the The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. Namangani, whose reputation soared during the civil war in Tajikistan, also strengthened the group's infrastructure and financed it by smuggling heroin and opium through central Asia.

In 1998, the two declared the establishment of The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and decided to remain in Afghanistan due to the political developments in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, but also due to the large sums of money they received from the Afghan Taliban movement. There is evidence that Osama Bin Laden donated considerable sums to the movement, as he perceived it to be an instrument for increasing Jihadist activities in central Asia, particularly in Uzbekistan, in order to establish an Islamic state there.

In 2000, the movement's members relocated to Afghanistan in order to fight alongside the Taliban against the Northern Alliance forces led by Shaa Masud. In November 2001, many of its members were killed following the United States invasion to Afghanistan, including the leader Namangani. Upon his death, Yuldashev became the movement's leader. The surviving members of the movement found shelter in North Western Pakistan. On August 27th 2009, Yuldashev was killed in an American air raid at the village of Kanigoram, known to be a Taliban stronghold. At present the movement is headed by Uthman Adil.⁴⁴



Tahir Yuldashev

44

http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_October_2010_No_2.pdf, page 11.

Attacks (Partial List)

- **1999-2000** – An attempt to overthrow the secular government of Uzbekistan.
- **March 2004** – A series of bombings in Tashkent and Bukhara which killed 50 people.
- **May 2005** – A triple attack in Tashkent, one next to the Israeli Embassy, another next to the US embassy and the third in the lobby of the offices of the General Prosecutor. The attacks occurred four days after the opening of the trial of 15 members of the movement, who were accused of carrying out a series of suicide bombings in Tashkent in March 2004.
- **May 2009** – A number of attacks in Uzbekistan.
- **September 2010** – The killing of 23 Tajikistani soldiers on Tajikistan's eastern border.

Additional Details

- **Influence:** The members of the movement were influenced by the Wahhabi ideology, which was spread mainly by Saudi preachers sent to Uzbekistan by the Saudi Arabian government, as well as by Al-Qaeda activists and radical Islamic leaders in Tajikistan and particularly in Chechnya.
- **Areas of activity:** Waziristan, Paragon Valley in the border area of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Currently, some of its members are also participating in the fighting against the Pakistani regime in the Tribal Region.
- **Members:** According to various estimates, there are a several thousand members, mostly from central Asia and some who speak Turkish.

- **Ties:** The Taliban, the Chechen rebels, the Uygur rebels (who operate against China) and Al-Qaeda.
- **The Islamic Jihad Union (IJU):** The movement has a branch named The Islamic Jihad Union, which recruits volunteers who speak Turkish. Western intelligence agencies estimated that it tried to carry out an attack in Europe, based on the 2008 Mumbai attacks' *modus operandi*.
- **Media institute:** Jund Allah



- **The movement's website** is <http://www.furqon.com> (in Russian).