



## **Bimonthly Report**

# **Summary of Information on Jihadist Web Sites The Second Half of April 2013**



**International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT)**

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## Highlights

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

- At the end of April 2013, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan warns of a coming wave of attacks on coalition forces.
- Jihadist Web forums publish the responses to Web surfers' questions of Sheikh Ahmad Abu Abd al-Ilah, head of the Policy Committee of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.
- Hezbollah's involvement in fighting alongside the forces of Bashar al-Assad against the Syrian rebels arouses a rancorous debate on jihadist Web forums. At the same time, calls to attack Hezbollah are backed by the establishment of local jihadist groups, like the Ahrar Al-Bekaa Brigades, which mass to fight Hezbollah.
- The Taliban in Al-Sham [The Levant] is established, and declares its aim of fighting Syrian regime forces until they are overthrown.
- Contributors to jihadist Web forums debate the merits of "lone wolf" attacks such as the one perpetrated at the 2013 Boston Marathon by the Tsarnaev brothers in the war of attrition against the West.
- Visitors to the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Web forum urge the mujahideen to infiltrate Israel from the Sinai Peninsula, crossing the border in the guise of migrant workers.
- Jihadist Web forums host a discussion of the persecution of Muslim Rohingya by the government in Myanmar (Burma).

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## New Publications

### Ideology

- The jihadist media institution Fursan Al-Balagh published an article by Sheikh Abu Abdallah Anis titled, "The Western Media Revolution Confronts the Arab Rebellions".<sup>1</sup> Anis avers that the media is an important weapon. Everyone knows this. The Jews, who certainly know the power of the media over people's thoughts, and that the media can be manipulated to distort reality, control all of the world's media. The West is collaborating with the Jews in their attempt to use the media to minimize the effect of the [Arab] rebellions and revive the secular opposition.

The West understands that the Internet is an important tool for revolutionaries, Anis writes. In order to stymie their means of communication, the West (1) virulently attacks Web sites and forums that support the [Arab] revolutions and (2) supports Web sites and forums that oppose these revolutions – including those of the secular opposition, which is a fifth column in Muslim lands. For example, the Christians in Egypt are participating in the Zionist-Crusader propaganda campaign. The West has also (3) established satellite channels, which are viewed across the Muslim and Arab world, thereby (4) disseminating its political opinions and dictates and influencing Arab regimes, which collude with its propaganda war. The article concludes by stressing the importance of jihadist media in the fight against Western media.

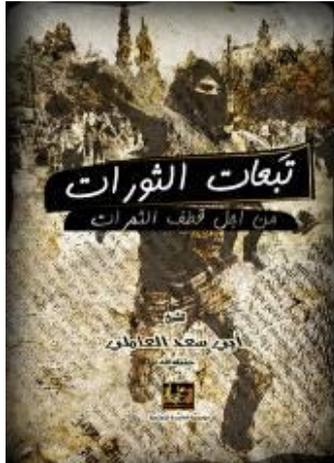
### The Arab Spring in Jihadist Discourse

- The jihadist media institution Al-Masada published an article by Sheikh Abu Saad al-Amili titled, "The Implications of the Revolutions for Fruit Harvesting",<sup>2</sup> which is devoted to keeping the spirit of the Arab Spring alive. Al-Amili insists that violence should persist and even be expanded to additional arenas. Attacks should target sitting regimes; the people should be roused and the youth recruited. So as not to dampen the revolutionary spirit, it would be best to set long-term goals. A jihadist leadership, which will guard monotheism and prevent the rise of corruption, is essential, he writes.

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

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



**Preserving the Revolution, by Abu Saad al-Amili**

## Strategy

- During the second half of April 2013, the events surrounding the 2013 Boston Marathon continued to ripple through jihadist Web forums.<sup>3</sup> A position paper featured on the jihadist Web forum Hanein praised lone wolf terrorists – *al-dhi'b al-munfarid* – like Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev. The forum visitor who uploaded the paper explained that he did so to highlight and promulgate the success of the lone wolf attack in Boston. The position paper – signed by someone calling himself Abu Usamah al-Iraqi – begins with a lengthy exhortation to fight to the death against anyone who does not share the Salafi-jihadist ideology. The war now being fought, it claims, is between the “Army of Satan”, represented by the US and its allies (the UK, France, Russia, Israel and the Shi’ites) and the “Army of Faith” – that is, jihadists. This is a religious war, al-Iraqi insists, and anyone who denies this truth “is not living the experience”. He paper urges readers to “know their place and accept their responsibility”, lest they choose the wrong side in the conflict, or find themselves “batted about” from one side to the other with no one to save them. The paper recommends that readers train themselves “physically, mentally, religiously and militarily” for what is to come, claiming that such preparations are tantamount to a commandment incumbent on every Muslim in times of peace and especially in times of war. Al-Iraqi then quotes Abdullah Azzam, the “father of global jihad”, who stated: “We are terrorists, and terrorism is a religious commandment”. By quoting Azzam, al-Iraqi intends to underscore the importance of the commandment of jihad as interpreted by a “paragon” (Azzam). Al-Iraqi adds that, through *jihad al-mal* [financial jihad], Muslims can support the mujahideen in Iraq, Al-Sham, Palestine, the

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

Arabian Peninsula, the Islamic Maghreb, Somalia, northern Mali and Chechnya with "generous" donations. In the Qur'an, he writes, Allah Himself ascribed greater importance to *jihad al-mal* than to spiritual jihad.

Al-Iraqi then discusses what he considers to be the most important type of jihad in our day: *jihad al-fadi* [individual jihad]. This most effective of jihadist means essentially turns every Muslim into a ticking time bomb who may blow (himself) up and destroy the infidel whenever and wherever he chooses – unexpectedly. To support his point, al-Iraqi notes the frustration foreign intelligence services feel at the success of "lone wolf" acts – for how can they capture potential attackers who are not allied with any terrorist organization or discrete terrorist cell? It is like seeking a needle in a haystack! Moreover, a "lone wolf" can exploit his outward appearance to confound the enemy: If he has a Western appearance and citizenship (like the Tsarnaev brothers), he can maintain his freedom of action, for he will not to arouse the suspicion of any security apparatus. To clarify his message, al-Iraqi spells out what he believes a lone wolf terrorist needs to be effective:

1. Faith: The martyr [shahid] must act from a complete identification with jihadist ideology as dictated by Allah, whose blessing is upon the shahid.
2. The ability to conceal that faith: The lone wolf must disguise the nature of his faith to the extent possible, to confound Western and Arab security forces and avoid superfluous exposure.
3. Preparedness: The lone wolf perpetrator must define his target of attack no less than his personal goals, and then prepare his operation in detail. To this end, al-Iraqi suggests that the lone wolf ask himself: "Will I be perpetrating a suicide attack/detonating a booby-trapped car/detonating an IED or mine/conducting an armed attack/carrying out an assassination?" The lone wolf should rely on the Internet to learn how to build an explosive, and, if he is preparing for an assassination, build up his physical stamina and read tales of espionage.
4. Secrecy: The fewer the people involved in an attack, the likelier its success. A lone wolf should not tell anyone of his plans – especially not women, who are known to have a yen for gossip. If the attack requires two perpetrators, the second one must be loyal to the ideology and the task.
5. Jihadist literature: The jihadist literature available on the Internet and elsewhere are full of advice and guidance – after all, that is its purpose. Al-Iraqi refers the lone wolf terrorist to the video, audio and print publications of the jihadist media institution Al-Mu'assasah Lil-Intaj Al-'Ilami, and to the English-language magazine *Inspire*.

6. Rehearsal: Before carrying out the actual attack, the perpetrator should rehearse all of its stages and tie up any loose ends. He must notice everything about his chosen location and how people behave in it.

The position paper concludes with a list of suggested targets for the lone wolf terrorist: houses of parliament; government offices such as the ministries of the interior, defense, foreign affairs, treasury and energy; individual members of parliament, military and security personnel, ambassadors, opposition lobbyists.<sup>4</sup>

### Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- A visitor to the leading jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam referred forum visitors to the possibility of using an Android-system smart phone to wrest control of a passenger airplane from the pilot and hijack the plane. He reported that a German expert on security matters, Hugo Teso, had announced at a security summit in Amsterdam that within three years' time he had developed a system, called SIMON, which used an Android application to deploy a malicious worm that would infiltrate the security system of an airplane and, using radio waves, manipulate the plane's flight plan, speed and navigational course.<sup>5</sup>

### Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- In late April, the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen published portions of the last will and testament of Haytham al-Mushal, a member of the Mujhaideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem who was killed in late April in an Israeli Air Force strike on the Gaza Strip. Al-Mushal devoted his last will to jihad, and warned against combining jihad and politics, insisting that democracy is not a unifying force in the world.<sup>6</sup>

The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem also published a eulogy of al-Mushal, in which it noted that al-Mushal had "defected" from the Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam Brigades, the military arm of Hamas, to its ranks. Al-Mushal had reportedly left Hamas because it was "toying with democracy" and had failed to impose Islamic law [shari'a].<sup>7</sup>

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

<sup>5</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>6</sup> <http://as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>7</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



**The martyr Haytham al-Mushal**

- During the latter half of April 2013, the jihadist Web forum Hanein featured a video in memory of three Salafi-jihadist martyrs from the Gaza Strip: Mu'min Abu Dif, 'Iwad Abu Nasir, and Huthayfah al-Hams, whose photos were superimposed on what looked like a "celestial Al-Aqsa' Mosque" in Paradise.<sup>8</sup>



**Mu'min Abu Dif, as he appeared in the video**

## Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published Issue No. 84 of *Al-Sumud* for April-May 2013 (54 pp.).<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xc3eo\\_4krMA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xc3eo_4krMA) (both in Arabic).

<sup>9</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).





killed and wounded some 100 Sunnis who had been demonstrating for equal rights protesters in Hawija, Kirkuk Province. In commenting on the events in Hawaja, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said, "the Naqshabandi Army and Al-Qaeda are the enemies of Iraq, and are inciting civil war".<sup>16</sup>

- During the latter half of April, visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein discussed the reports that `Izzat al-Duri, a former crony of Saddam Hussein who now headed the Sufi-jihadist Naqshabandi Army, had been arrested by state security forces. Visitors to Hanein expressed the hope that the reports were unfounded, and that al-Duri had not been apprehended.<sup>17</sup>
- According to a post on the jihadist Web forum Hanein, Shi'ite militias in Iraq were using taxis to torment Sunnis. According to the post, Shi'ite militias in Al-Sha'lah rented taxis to Sunni residents of the Ghazaliyah neighborhood of western Baghdad, and then murdered them. The post added that as many as 17 residents of Ghazaliyah had been killed lately. The post did not name the militias involved.<sup>18</sup>



**A banner warning Sunni residents of the Ghazaliyah neighborhood of Baghdad against the attacks of Shi'ite militias**

- During the latter half of April 2013, a visitor to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen posted a photograph of Seyf Ma'araj al-Imarah, the Chief Warden of Abu Gharib Prison in Baghdad. Abu Gharib is notorious as a site of severe torture and humiliation. Al-Imarah was accused of being personally responsible for the daily persecution of prisoners. One visitor to the site promised to wait for him in ambush.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>16</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>17</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>18</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>19</sup> <http://hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



**The Chief Warden of Abu Gharib Prison, Seyf Ma'araj al-Imarah**

- During the latter half of April 2013, the jihadist Web forums Hanein and Ansar Al-Mujahideen featured a position paper, which was a response to criticism of the April 9, 2013 announcement by the Islamic State of Iraq that it had merged with Syria's Al-Nusra Front to become "The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham". The writer of the position paper was tolerant of the Islamic State of Iraq's move, and compared it to historic instances of an emir's having taken control of a specific area, without any protestations from the rest of the Muslims. The writer of the position paper propounded his vision of an Islamic state and how it could be realized, including jihad – even against the entire world, if necessary – and bloodshed. To establish an Islamic state (caliphate), 38 countries would have to fight together, and some 4,000 martyrs would be sacrificed. He also insisted that the US would have to be eliminated from the area – but he did not elaborate. The position paper praised the jihadist effort and promised the mujahideen that their patience would be rewarded in the future.<sup>20</sup>
- In a paper published by the Al-Masada Media Institution, Sheikh Abu Saad al-Amili also addressed the declaration made by the Islamic State of Iraq,<sup>21</sup> which was not welcomed by some of the jihadist factions fighting in Syria, and was in fact rejected out of hand by the leader of the Al-Nusra Front. In fact, the declaration had seemed to increase the rivalry between the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State of Iraq. Al-Amili, however, praised the merger, and urged the mujahideen – especially those in the two groups in question – to maintain the unity of their ranks and not allow this or any other disagreement to cause a rift. All attention should be focused on fighting the enemy, which is bent on the Muslims' destruction – and not on disputes and divisiveness.

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<sup>20</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (both in Arabic).

<sup>21</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

## The Arabian Peninsula

- During the latter half of April 2013, the Al-Malahem media institution, which functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published the following:
  - A videotaped interview with the Saudi Arabian deputy consul in Yemen, Sheikh Abdallah al-Khalidi, who was kidnapped by AQAP on March 28, 2012. The video showed several aerial views of what it claimed were US Army bases in the Arabian Peninsula, from which the US launched drone attacks against AQAP. The video also showed ruins purportedly left in the wake of such an attack. Al-Khalidi asked Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to meet his kidnappers' demands, so that he could return to his family.<sup>22</sup>



**The kidnapped Saudi diplomat Abdallah al-Khalidi**

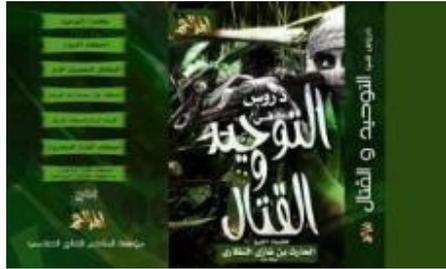
- A video clip titled, "The Spider Web", which relates how the US rules Yemen and recruits local Muslim spies to extract intelligence about Al-Qaeda and eliminate jihadists. For example, the video describes how the American and Yemeni intelligence forces supposedly used a small child and his father to spy on jihadists. The video ends with a promise from AQAP to assassinate Yemeni intelligence agents who recruit spies.<sup>23</sup>
- A series of audio statements titled "Lessons in Monotheism and Jihad" by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi al-Nadhari, a senior member of AQAP.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>23</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>24</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



**The banner for the series of audio statements**

- Abu Osama al-Kubi, a prominent contributor to jihadist Web forums, responded to a speech delivered by AQAP Deputy Emir Sheikh Abu Sufyan al-Azdi Said al-Shihri on April 10, 2013 concerning opposition to the Saudi regime.<sup>25</sup> Al-Kubi supported al-Shihri, adding that since the tide was now turning against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a golden opportunity existed to engage the Saudi regime in conflict.

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

- On April 19, 2013, a video appeared on YouTube declaring the establishment of the Taliban in Al-Sham. A spokesman for the new group stated its intention to fight the Syrian regime and the Shi'ites, and to liberate the Al-Aqsa' Mosque in Jerusalem.<sup>26</sup>



**From a video clip declaring the establishment of the Taliban in Al-Sham**

- According to the Arabic-language media, the Ahrar Al-Baqa' Brigades [The Free Men of the Bekaa Valley] published its first announcement. In it, the group announced that it had defected from the Lebanese Army to fight Hezbollah and support the revolution in Syria. According to Ahrar Al-Baqa', Hezbollah had grossly meddled in the Syrian revolution, while the Lebanese government had studiously avoided intervening. Immediate action was therefore needed to aid the rebels in Syria. Therefore, the group was establishing a brigade that would act under its auspices to prevent Hezbollah from

<sup>25</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ot6fvi4h4m8> (Arabic).

interfering in Lebanon in any way – even if this meant moving the battle to Lebanon itself.<sup>27</sup>



**The logo of Ahrar Al-Baqa'**

- During the latter half of April 2013, a position paper appeared on the Twitter feed of the jihadist strategist Abdullah ibn Muhammad, which addressed the decision of the Free Syrian Army's military command in Homs to expand the Syrian conflict into Lebanese territory. Ibn Muhammad denounced this decision, which he felt was both mistaken and harmful, and would undercut efforts to overthrow Bashar al-Assad. Moreover, the efficacy of the decision would be dependent on the popular and military capabilities of Lebanon's Sunni mujahideen, who perhaps were not up to bearing the heavy burden this would place on their shoulders. Moving the conflict into Lebanon would affect the political division of the region after [the end of the conflict], and would exert an historic influence on [the conflict's] ultimate outcome.<sup>28</sup>
- Abdullah ibn Muhammad also addressed Hezbollah's increasing involvement in the war in Syria. He began by noting that Hezbollah had sustained multiple losses and not a little of the prestige it had garnered during the Second Lebanon War (2006). Moreover, Hezbollah's interference in the Syrian civil war had only spurred the Sunni mujahideen to further arm themselves, who were a "thorn in its side". Hezbollah would experience the fall of Bashar al-Assad as if it were its own, he wrote; no doubt the group will therefore fight alongside Assad "until its final breath". Moreover, Assad's fall would play a decisive role in the fate of Hezbollah "on its home turf"; further disintegration was liable to drag it into a civil war with Lebanon's Sunnis. According to Ibn Muhammad, Hezbollah will continue to face complex challenges as long as the Syrian war continues. And once Bashar al-Assad has fallen, Hezbollah will become increasingly vulnerable, as it

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.sana-revo.com> (Arabic).

<sup>28</sup> <https://twitter.com/Strategyaffairs>;

<http://twitmail.com/email/1073730258/75/%D8%AA%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%82-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%82%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%A6%D8%A9-%D8%A3%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%B5-%D8%A8%D9%86%D9%82%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D8%A5%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AE%D9%84--%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%86> (Arabic).

will remain the sole strong force in the area besides Israel – a heavy-handed hint by Ibn Muhammad that Hezbollah may face a subsequent war with another rival.<sup>29</sup>

## The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

*For the first time since Operation Pillar of Defense in the Gaza Strip in November 2012, Israel carried out a targeted killing against a jihadist affiliated with the Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem, an Al Qaeda-linked group. The Israel Defense Forces claimed that its attack was in retaliation for the firing of two rockets at Eilat from the Sinai Peninsula one week earlier – an act for which the Mujahideen Shura Council took responsibility.<sup>30</sup> The jihadist targeted had been a member of Hamas’ Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam Brigades, but had left them because Hamas had “entered the democracy game”.<sup>31</sup>*

*The ouster of former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in January 2011 left a power vacuum in the Sinai Peninsula, which has been filled by jihadist militants, many of them affiliated with Al-Qaeda. Analysts insist that the rocket fire and terrorist attacks originating in the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip pose security and ideological challenges for Hamas,<sup>32</sup> especially given the growing criticism in the Arab world of its crackdown on Salafi-jihadists in the Gaza Strip.<sup>33</sup>*

- During the latter half of April 2013, the Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center published the following:
  - The second part of a video clip titled, “The Guardians of the Place Where Muhammad Ascended to Heaven” [the Mosque of Omar and Al-Aqsa’ Mosque in Jerusalem].<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> <https://twitter.com/Strategyaffairs>;  
<http://twitmail.com/email/1073730258/79/%D8%A2%D8%AB%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D8%AE%D9%88%D9%84-%D8%AD%D8%B2%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D9%87-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AE%D8%B7-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7> (Arabic).

<sup>30</sup> [http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2013/04/msc\\_in\\_jerusalem\\_mem.php](http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2013/04/msc_in_jerusalem_mem.php) (English).

<sup>31</sup> [http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2013/04/msc\\_in\\_jerusalem\\_mem.php](http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2013/04/msc_in_jerusalem_mem.php) (English).

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/article/20504> (English).

<sup>33</sup> [http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2013/04/hamas\\_arrests\\_more\\_jihadists\\_a.php](http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2013/04/hamas_arrests_more_jihadists_a.php) (English).

<sup>34</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



### **The guardians of the Mosques of Omar and Al-Aqsa' in Jerusalem**

- An article titled "Stemming the Tide of Arrests: Part Two – Important Guidelines on How to Behave During Arrest".<sup>35</sup>
- The Monitoring Council of the Ibn Taymiyyah Media Center announced that Hamas' internal security services use mobile phones registered with the Israeli mobile phone carrier Orange to contact the families of Salafist mujahideen. In so doing, Hamas can threaten the families with the destruction of their homes and death of their children – from an unidentifiable number. The announcement accuses Hamas of sowing fear and panic among the families, so that they will pressure their children to desist from the Salafist path.<sup>36</sup>
- During the latter half of April 2013, soon after the death from Cancer of Maysarah Abu Hamdiya, a member of Hamas imprisoned in Israel, the Salafi-jihadist Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem, which is active in the Gaza Strip, took responsibility for firing two rockets at Eilat – purportedly in response to the suffering of prisoners being held in "the Jews'" prisons.<sup>37</sup>

### **Jihadist Interest in Infiltrating Israel from the Sinai Peninsula**

- A discussion that developed among visitors to prominent jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen during the latter half of April 2013 indicates that jihadists closely follow the Israeli media, including publications about the resilience of Israel's borders, particularly its southern border. Visitors to the forum related recent reports in the Israeli media that African migrants had infiltrated Israel from Egypt. This sparked the imagination of the online jihadists.

<sup>35</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>36</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

One contributor wrote that if African migrants could evade Israel's Border Guards – despite lacking [military] intelligence or a plan – what was preventing the mujahideen, who are trained to attack, from doing so? He suggested that black mujahideen should be recruited, or even Africans, to create the impression that the mujahideen are “innocent” migrants and not terrorists. Another visitor to the forum referred readers to an item in *Ha'aretz* newspaper, which related that African migrants crawl into Israel through passages meant for animals, and even infiltrate Israeli territory through the barbed-wire fence that stretches the length of the border. This writer asked, “Where are the mujahideen who could exploit these means of ingress?”.

Another discussant responded by noting that it would take time to build up a jihadist front in the Sinai Peninsula. He referred readers to the case of Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad – a precursor of the Islamic State of Iraq, Al-Qaeda's arm in Iraq – which began small before becoming several-hundred strong.

Yet another contributor wrote that he does not understand why the mujahideen do not unite and establish an Islamic emirate in the Sinai Peninsula. He propounded his belief that they should form an “assistance front” in the Sinai like that in Syria, which welcomes mujahideen from all over. Moreover, he suggested establishing training camps in the Sinai Peninsula for “the shabab” – young men eager to fight. This contributor, who wrote at some length, identified himself as a resident of Al-Tur in the southern Sinai Peninsula; he also addressed infiltrating Israel. He claimed that African migrants tended to reach Israel by sea, and added that he thought it would be wonderful if the migrants could infiltrate through the Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel, a passageway under the Suez Canal that connects the Sinai Peninsula to the city of Suez, as well as over the Suez Canal Bridge, which crosses the Canal to Al-Qantarah Al-Sharqiya. He explained that this would enable the mujahideen to comfortably situate themselves on the eastern shore of the Red Sea where they could easily benefit from a supply of food and weapons, far from the watchful eyes of “the Jews”. He then discussed the establishment of an Islamic emirate in the Sinai Peninsula, and highlighted the advantages of Al-Tur, most of whose residents love Islam and would not oppose an Islamic emirate. Moreover, Al-Tur is close to the sea, to ports and wells, and be easy to guard. Lastly, he apologized that, despite his support for jihad against “the Jews” and despite wanting to see Islamic law [shari'a] become the constitution of Egypt, he was a weak man, untrained in using weapons, who lives far from the Shura Council of the Mujahideen in the Environs of Jerusalem and other similar a Salafi-jihadist groups. Were it not for the geographic distance between Al-Tur and the Gaza Strip, he would gladly join such a group.

The thread concluded with a request for advice from “the brothers” in the name of Abu Hamzah, also a resident of Al-Tur. Additional participants in the discussion expressed the hope that an Islamic regime would be established and the Jews would be killed.<sup>38</sup>

## The Maghreb [North Africa]

*One day after France decided to extend its military operation against jihadist rebels in Mali, Islamist radicals detonated a car bomb outside the French Embassy in Tripoli, injuring three people. Officials accused Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) of perpetrating the attack.<sup>39</sup> The bombing was seen as retaliation for the French decision, and raised concern of growing Islamist violence against Western targets in Libya.<sup>40</sup> Some Western diplomats suggested that the jihadist rebels who had been driven from Timbuktu had fled northward, passing through Niger and Algeria into Libya, where they were now trying to promote an Islamist insurgency.<sup>41</sup> This was confirmed by at least one Malian Army commander. It appears that rebels entering Libya from Mali are joining existing jihadist groups in the eastern cities of Benghazi and Derna, and in the south, where they exploit a lack of state control. The car bombing in Tripoli also raised questions about government control of the capital.<sup>42</sup> Overall, the dispersal of rebels from Mali into other areas of North Africa has increased fears that the French offensive has actually spread the jihadist threat.*

*Jihadists are continuing to recruit young Tunisians to join the war in Syria. Algeria, however, is actively trying to prevent its citizens from going to the Levant, in part by cracking down on individuals affiliated with the Islamic Salvation Army in Algeria, which is allegedly linked to jihadist groups in Syria.<sup>43</sup> According to security sources, the Algerian mujahideen who are entering Syria are mainly recruited through Internet forums. This underscores the importance of the Internet to Al-Qaeda.*

- Al-Andalus, the jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published the responses of Sheikh Ahmad Abu Abd al-Ilah, the head of AQIM’s Policy Council, to questions posted by Web surfers as part of an “open session” that was held via the Al-Andalus Twitter feed.<sup>44</sup> It should be noted that, since the beginning of 2013, AQIM has increased its Internet outreach, establishing a blog and a Twitter feed and featuring open sessions during which readers can directly communicate with various

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<sup>38</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.worldtribune.com/2013/04/24/al-qaida-said-responsible-for-bombing-of-french-embassy-in-tripoli/> (English).

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/apr/28/libya-mali-islamist-violence-tripoli> (English).

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/24/us-libya-security-idUSBRE93N0ZG20130424> (English).

<sup>43</sup> [http://al-shorfa.com/en\\_GB/articles/meii/features/2013/04/25/feature-03](http://al-shorfa.com/en_GB/articles/meii/features/2013/04/25/feature-03) (English).

<sup>44</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

authorities. This trend is indicative of AQIM's desire to reinforce its image, and provide a counterweight to draw exerted on young jihadists by the civil war in Syria.

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida drew attention to the incarceration in Algeria of Sheikh Salah Abu Muhammad, who heads the Propaganda Council of AQIM media organ Al-Andalus. Abu Muhammad's imprisonment has been confirmed by Sheikh Ahmad Abu Abd al-Ilah, the head of AQIM's Policy Council.<sup>45</sup>



**Sheikh Salah Abu Muhammad**

## Mali

*Muhammad al-Zawahiri, the brother of Al-Qaeda Emir Ayman al-Zawahiri and a prominent Egyptian Salafi-jihadist in his own right, has warned France that it is "playing with fire" in Mali, and that Al-Qaeda will retaliate against targets there and "on French territory".<sup>46</sup> He made these comments a few days after an attack on the French Embassy in the Libyan capital, which was attributed to Al-Qaeda. France continues to withdraw its troops from Mali, but has announced that 1,000 soldiers will remain there to assist the 12,000-strong UN peacekeeping mission set to take over in July.<sup>47</sup> The French have already withdrawn from Timbuktu. There are concerns that the UN peacekeeping mission, comprised of soldiers from Mali and neighboring African countries, is ill-prepared to maintain security in Mali.<sup>48</sup>*

*According to military sources, rebels who were driven out of Mali's cities are beginning to enter Libya, Sudan and Algeria. Members of the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) are believed to have entered Algerian camps belonging to the separatist Polisario Front. Although the rebels have reportedly left their weapons in Mali so that they could move more freely, they are quickly rearming, thanks to an efficient arms*

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<sup>45</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-98956-France-%22playing-with-fire%22-in-Mali,-Al-Qaeda-says> (English).

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/04/201342516533718814.html> (English).

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Mali-French-forces-leaving-Timbuktu-20130428>; <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-22296705> (English).

supply chain from Libya.<sup>49</sup> Some rebels remain in Mali. For example, local police dismantled a MUJAO terrorist cell in Bamako, the capital. This indicates that terrorists are able to circumvent the roadblocks set up throughout the country.<sup>50</sup>

## Egypt

- Al-Bayan, the media platform of Ansar Al-Sharia, published an article titled, "Nasr Hamad Abu Zayd, 'Opponent of the Qur'an': The Path of a Supercilious Marxist" by Sheikh Hazem al-Masri. The article, which is the third in a series titled, "The Despicable Acts of Egyptian Secularists",<sup>51</sup> criticizes Hamad Abu Zayd (1943-2010), an Egyptian philosopher and liberal Muslim theologian whose interpretation of the Qur'an aroused ire and led to his being tried and declared an infidel.

## Somalia

Security officials in the northern province of Puntland executed 13 alleged members of the Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen for their involvement in terrorist attacks on clerics in the region.<sup>52</sup> After being driven out of their strongholds in central and southern Somalia, Al-Shabab fighters have gradually infiltrated the semi-autonomous region of Puntland, where they have reorganized.

In an open letter to Al-Shabab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane (aka Mukhtar Abu al-Zubayr), a foreign member of the group discussed internal "problems", including the unwarranted arrest of some Al-Shabab mujahideen.<sup>53</sup> The letter highlights the tensions that have arisen within Al-Shabab as it has tried to regroup. Terrorism analysts predict that this tension will grow, as Al-Shabab's Somali members increasingly come into conflict with its foreign recruits. They draw attention to the rift between the group and Omar Hamammi, an American jihadist who fought with the group for years until a 2012 falling out.<sup>54</sup>

- During the latter half of April 2013, the Al-Kataeb Media Foundation, which functions under the auspices of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published the following:

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<sup>49</sup> <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130416/defeated-mali-islamists-begin-reorganise> (English).

<sup>50</sup> <http://news.yahoo.com/terrorist-sleeper-cell-dismantled-mali-132125664.html> (English).

<sup>51</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>52</sup> <http://news.yahoo.com/somalias-puntland-region-executes-suspected-islamist-militants-173546931.html> (English).

<sup>53</sup> <http://allafrica.com/stories/201305010472.html> (English).

<sup>54</sup> [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201\\_162-57581575/american-jihadist-omar-hammami-in-somalia-tweets-hes-just-been-shot-by-al-shabab/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201_162-57581575/american-jihadist-omar-hammami-in-somalia-tweets-hes-just-been-shot-by-al-shabab/);  
[http://blog.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2013/04/30/rapping\\_jihadist\\_s\\_tweets\\_showcase\\_al\\_shabab\\_s\\_internal\\_divisions](http://blog.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2013/04/30/rapping_jihadist_s_tweets_showcase_al_shabab_s_internal_divisions) (English).

- A video clip documenting the laying of an ambush for the Kenyan Army in Bibi, in Islamic Jouba Province.<sup>55</sup>
- A video clip documenting the return to Islam of eight soldiers who had been sent to fight the mujahideen in Diinsoor, Bay Province, and Bakool Province.<sup>56</sup>
- Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Hanein noted that Abu Mansur al-Amriki, who was born in the US and became a prominent member, and even a leader, of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, had recently survived an assassination attempt in Somalia, taking a bullet to the neck. This is yet another sign of the growing tension between native Somali Al-Shabab members and foreign mujahideen affiliated with Al-Qaeda who are also fighting in Somalia. During the past year, Al-Amriki posted status updates and video clips on social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook, in which he denounced the leadership of Al-Shabab, in general, and the group's emir, Mokhtar al-Zubayr, in particular. Al-Amriki blamed al-Zubayr for the decline of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, and of acting in defiance of the real values of jihad. Although al-Amriki's potential assassins were not identified, it is likely that they are members of Al-Shabab who support al-Zubayr. It should be noted that this is not the first time al-Amriki has faced assassination: In 2012, false accounts circulated in the Somali media that Al-Shabab had executed him.<sup>57</sup>



**Abu Mansur al-Amriki after the recent assassination attempt**

- During the latter half of April, 2013 a post was uploaded to the jihadist Web forum Hanein concerning the continuing rift between Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen Emir Mokhtar al-Zubayr and his underlings. According to the post, Al-Shabab commander Sheikh Abu Baker al-Zali'i wrote to Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri to complain of al-Zubayr's behavior. According to al-Zali'i, al-Zubayr had turned away commanders, propagandists

<sup>55</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>56</sup> <https://whamikh1.info/vom> (Arabic).

<sup>57</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb>(Arabic);

[http://sabahionline.com/ar/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/05/08/newsbrief-01?change\\_locale=true](http://sabahionline.com/ar/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/05/08/newsbrief-01?change_locale=true);

[http://sabahionline.com/ar/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/04/26/newsbrief-01?change\\_locale=true](http://sabahionline.com/ar/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/04/26/newsbrief-01?change_locale=true) (both can be read in Arabic, Kiswahili, Somali or English).

and religious leaders who had the right to hold positions of influence in Al-Shabab, thereby fracturing the group and jeopardizing the entire jihadist enterprise. One visitor to Hanein responded to this post by asking how it was possible to view the future of the jihadist project in Somalia, when the conflict among Al-Shabab's commanders was "pushing [the group] into the abyss". Another visitor to the site asked to know the source of the post, but received no response.<sup>58</sup>

## The Caucasus

*Following the capture of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the Chechen militant who with his deceased brother Tamerlan is believed to have carried out the Boston Marathon bombings, and an apparent FBI investigation into the brothers' relationship with the jihadist Caucasus Emirate, the Emirate disavowed any connection with the brothers and insisted it was not waging militant activities against the US.<sup>59</sup> Apparently, the brothers watched radical Islamist video clips posted on YouTube. Also, Tamerlan reportedly visited Dagestan for six months in 2012. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev admitted to authorities that he and his brother had learned how to build the bombs used in the attack from Inspire, an English-language magazine published by Al-Qaeda's media institution.<sup>60</sup> The brothers' path to radicalization, which allegedly culminated in the Boston Marathon bombings, is illustrative of what Abu Musab al-Suri has called "individual jihad".*

- In addressing the Boston Marathon bombings, the Web site Valiat Dagestan responded to specific articles posted on Western Web sites, which claimed that the elder Tsarnaev brother, Tamerlan, had spent some six months in Dagestan in 2012. Valiat Dagestan averred that these articles were causing speculation about an alleged tie between Tamerlan and the mujahideen of the Caucasus in general, and the mujahideen of Dagestan in particular. According to the leadership of the mujahideen in the Caucasus, the Caucasus Emirate was not waging war against the United States. Jihad in the Caucasus is against the Russian occupying forces there, which are responsible for horrific crimes against the Muslim population. Valiat Dagestan wished to remind its readers that the leaders of the mujahideen had long ago distinctly forbidden them from attacking civilians, even Russian civilians. The leadership of the mujahideen therefore

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<sup>58</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://sabahionline.com/ar/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/04/12/feature-01> (can be read in Arabic, Kiswahili, Somali or English); <http://www.iwisc.net/vb/showthread.php?p=838> (Arabic).

<sup>59</sup> [http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hz0tmpokJ\\_dZ-S6DbTJa6nmUJpsA?docId=CNG.018e1625845b5f1688282300d99320f1.4d1](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hz0tmpokJ_dZ-S6DbTJa6nmUJpsA?docId=CNG.018e1625845b5f1688282300d99320f1.4d1) (English).

<sup>60</sup> <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2313782/Dzhokhar-Tsarnaev-Boston-Marathon-bomber-admits-learned-build-bomb-Inspire-magazine.html> (English).

asked the American media to cease disseminating rumors and collaborating with Russian propaganda. If the American authorities really want to find the culprits, the Caucasus leadership recommends that they examine the brothers' ties to Russian espionage agencies.<sup>61</sup>

- The Web site Ummanews published an open letter from a Muslim resident of the Caucasus, Aslan Magomadov, which summarized the opinions of Caucasus Muslims about the terrorist attack in Boston. According to Magomadov, the media review of the event did not reveal the truth behind the attack. Since this was the case, it was easy for lies and half-truths to be spread by various spy agencies. The US is the only country that has participated in every violent conflict in the world since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, wrote Magomadov, none of which took place on American soil. Consequently, Americans do not know the horrors of war. In contrast, the reality of the Muslim Nation is a sorry one, he wrote, since there is no Muslim superpower – not Saudi Arabia, not Turkey and not Egypt – to defend simple Muslims. Every Muslim must protect himself as best he can against American aggression, even if he is young and inexperienced in war. It was only a matter of time before Al-Qaeda, the Taliban and the Caucasus Emirate would try to solve this problem. Magomadov concluded his letter by tying the attack in Boston to the fear of acts perpetrated in the name of Islam, which must rest in the heart of every American and every Russian.<sup>62</sup>
- The Kavkaz Center Web site discussed a “transparency report” published by Google, according to which the Russian government is increasingly demanding the identifying details of Web users, and to erase content from the Internet. According to the site, a new law has been passed in Russia which allows government authorities to remove prohibited political content from the Internet. Kavkaz Center saw this as part of the general efforts of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) to interfere with Caucasus Web sites.<sup>63</sup>

## The Indian Subcontinent

- During the second half of April 2013, jihadist strategist and analyst Abdullah ibn Muhammad published a position paper on his Twitter account concerning the situation in Burma (Myanmar). According to Ibn Muhammad, Muslim public opinion was riveted to the horrors occurring in Syria, to the exclusion of those transpiring in Burma, where the

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<sup>61</sup> <http://vdagestan.com/zayavlenie-v-svyazi-s-sobytyami-v-bostone-ssha.djihad> (Russian).

<sup>62</sup> <http://ummanews.com/news/last-news/10347-2013-04-23-13-17-44.htm> (Russian).

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.shamilonline.org/ru/2009-08-18-08-08-27/11934-----google-----html> (Russian).

Rohingya Muslims were being persecuted. Ibn Muhammad believed the Rohingya were suffering for two main reasons:

- Burma was a “primitive land at the edge of the world”.
- The alliance among Burma, China and the US gave the Burmese regime license to persecute the Rohingya.

At the same time, Ibn Muhammad believed that the situation of the Rohingya would change. Just as the Syrian people had changed their attitude toward the rule of Bashar al-Assad, when the longed-for time came, the Rohingya, too, would embark on an armed struggle that would upset the balance of power in Burma. Ibn Muhammad thus claimed that jihad in Syria and Burma was essentially similar, because in both cases, war was being fought to promote the rights of Muslims. Moreover, the past would not be repeated, because unlike in the past, jihad now had outside support. Thanks to the increasing influence of the Islamic movement, which wished to help the Muslim brothers in Burma no less than in Syria, circumstances had changed unrecognizably. Ibn Muhammad insisted that the ultimate goal was that the Rohingya be accepted as citizens of the future Islamic caliphate, with equal rights.<sup>64</sup>

## China

- During the latter half of April 2013, Sawt Al-Islam, the media institution of the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), published the following:
  - A video clip titled, “Painful Memories of the Prisons of Communist China”.<sup>65</sup>
  - A video clip titled, “The Fate of Jihad in Eastern Turkistan and the Fate of the Chinese Communist Aggressor Enemy”.<sup>66</sup>



**An advertisement for a video clip about the “Chinese aggressor”**

<sup>64</sup> 16.4.13 <https://twitter.com/Strategyaffairs>  
<http://strateagy.wordpress.com/2013/04/16/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%AF-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%85%D8%A7/> (Arabic).

<sup>65</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>66</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

## The West

- On April 26, 2013, Sheikh Abu Usama al-Gharib, a member of the Salafi-jihadist group Millat Ibrahim and an Austrian citizen, denied a report in Austria's *Kronen Zeitung* that, when he was arrested, he had cried and wet his pants, and denounced it as a biased report meant to besmirch his name.<sup>67</sup> Al-Gharib is known primarily for posting a video clip of himself burning his Austrian passport. He was arrested in March by Turkish security forces, as he was en route to Syria to fight the regime of Bashar al-Assad.
- An item uploaded to the jihadist web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen claimed that Abdellah Ahmad Tunisi, 18, was recently arrested in Chicago, Illinois on suspicion of planning to join the Salafi-jihadist Al-Nusra Front in Syria, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda. Tunisi was apprehended as he was waiting to board a flight to Turkey at Chicago's O'Hare Airport; he had intended to cross the Turkish border into Syria. American security forces have been following Tunisi's Internet activity for nearly a year, ever since he was first recruited by a member of the Al-Nusra Front. Tunisi was reportedly also friendly with an American named Adel Daoud, who was also suspected of involvement in terrorism. Daoud, who had planned to blow up a bar in Chicago last year, was under arrest and awaiting trial.<sup>68</sup>
- During the latter half of April 2013, a prominent contributor to jihadist Web forums who goes by the pseudonym Assad al-Jihad2, discussed the Boston Marathon attack on his Twitter account. Assad al-Jihad2 enthused about its destructive results, and referred readers to a newspaper article describing how American media and security personnel investigated the site of a terrorist attack.<sup>69</sup>



**How US authorities traced potential perpetrators of the Boston Marathon attack**

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

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>69</sup> <https://twitter.com/AsadAljehad2> (Arabic); <http://www.infowars.com/boston-bombing-culprits-found/> (English).

- During the second half of April 2013, Dr. Iyad Qunaibi, who is a lecturer in the pharmaceutical faculty of the Jordan University of Science and Technology and the administrator of Al-Furqan, a Web site devoted to religion (<http://www.al-furqan.org>), posted an item on his Twitter account concerning the terrorist attack in Boston and the poisoned envelopes sent a short time afterwards to the US president and a Republican senator. According to Qunaibi, these are but a reminder that the American media toys with the thoughts of its people. Since the events of September 11, 2001, the American media has incited the public, to justify the US invasion of Iraq. Qunaibi referred his readers to statistical data, which purportedly indicate the American media's incitement of the American public against the Iraqi regime following September 11<sup>th</sup> and prior to the invasion. Based on these data, it appears that the media's bias and distortions have borne fruit: According to one survey quoted by Qunaibi, by 2003, 70% of Americans believed the Iraqi regime had indeed taken part in the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Qunaibi concluded by saying that the US did not care about the suffering of anyone but itself, not even the suffering of its own soldiers who were dying in battle. All America cared about was earning money and making a profit.<sup>70</sup>

## Miscellaneous

- On April 13, 2013 a new jihadist Web forum was launched – Jaljalat: Ansar Al-Sharia in Jerusalem – apparently to spearhead jihadist propaganda in Jerusalem. The new forum was meant to add to, and not replace, other Web forums.<sup>71</sup> “Jaljalat” means “rolling thunder”. The term, which has been used to refer to small militant Salafi-jihadist groups, is thought to have originated in a famous hymn to jihad known as “The Song of the Rolling Thunder”.



**From an announcement of the launching of a new jihadist Web forum**

<sup>70</sup> <http://twitmail.com/email/532700952/66/>; <http://ar.islamway.net/scholar/1426>  
<https://twitter.com/EYADQUNAIBI> (both in Arabic).

<sup>71</sup> <http://www.jljl-t-1.net/showthread.php?t=91> (Arabic).

- The jihadist Web forum Al-Fida published the third installment in a compendium of advice by Sheikh Ayman Al-Zawahiri – as a gift to the Islamic caliphate.<sup>72</sup>
- During the latter half of April 2013, visitors to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen responded to two questions:
  - How can the “brothers” fighting in the various arenas earn a living, when they do not even have a vocational certificate?
  - Why do the fighting “brothers” [the mujahideen] refuse to wear a helmet and an armored vest?

One visitor to the forum addressed the second question, writing that while everyone wished to die a martyr’s death, it would first be best to kill as many of the enemy’s soldiers as possible. This, he felt, justified wearing protective gear.

Another forum visitor answered the first question by stating that the mujahideen were supported by the various jihadist groups, even if not with a steady salary, as dictated by the Qur’an and Sunnah. He responded to the second question angrily: “Where exactly would [the mujahideen] get helmets?! From the Persian Gulf?! China?! Perhaps from Japan?!...” When all the countries of the world were fighting the mujahideen, all they could rely on was the “Lord of Heaven and Earth”. Nevertheless, he added, if they had protective gear, they would surely know how to use it. The visitor who had posted the questions thanked this writer for his responses, and reported that protective gear could now be purchased through the Internet – even journalists were using it. Moreover, he iterated that his question about protective gear was not meant to indicate his preference for the life of this world, but rather only his passion to kill as many “soldiers of the armies of Satan” as possible. Another forum visitor noted that although the best defenses were available to the mujahideen, they could not always obtain them. In any case, he concluded, no protection is superior to that of Allah and His angels.<sup>73</sup>

## Facebook and Twitter

- On April 20, 2013, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen clarified that it had only one Twitter feed, at: <https://twitter.com/HSMPRESS1>.<sup>74</sup>

<sup>72</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>74</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).