



Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Web Sites The Second Half of June 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 June 2013. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- The Afghanistan-Taliban opens an official embassy in Qatar.
- Sheikh Hussam Abd al-Rauf, a prominent leader of Al-Qaeda, calls on Arab Muslims to preserve the achievements of the Arab Spring revolutions and not to deliver power into the hands of members of previous regimes.
- The jihadist strategist Abdullah Ibn Muhammed urges Yemen's Sunnis to prepare for imminent war with the Shi'ite Houthis, who are gaining in might.
- The Abdullah 'Azzam Brigades excoriate Hezbollah and exhort it to desist from its gross involvement of in the civil war in Syria. They also urge Lebanon's Sunnis to support the Sunnis in Syria.

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New Publications

Ideology

- Sheikh Abu Sa'ad al-'Amili, a prominent contributor to jihadist Web forums, published an article on the imperative of implementing Islamic law [shari'a].¹
- Fursan Al-Balagh, a jihadist media institution, published an article by Sheikh Abu Nuseiba al-Maqdisi titled, "Rejecting Doubts about Monotheism and Jihad: The Jihadist Relinquishes the Ways of the Kharijites". The article refutes the claim that Palestinian Salafi-jihadists are Kharijites – literally, "those who go out". During the seventh century CE, the term referred to one of the first sects to split from nascent, orthodox Islam. Isolationism and a tendency to attack other Muslims earned the Kharijites a rather negative reputation; their name has since been used by Muslims to slander other Muslims with whom they disagree. In the article, Abu Nuseiba al-Maqdisi writes that the Salafi-jihadists of the Gaza Strip are in no way similar to the Kharijites, and praises the former for following the true path.²



Abu Nuseiba al-Maqdisi in defense of Palestine's Salafi-jihadists

- The jihadist media institution Al-Farouq, an organ of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Egypt, published an article titled, "The Pearl of 'There Is No God But Allah' Monotheism: Politics and Economics (Part Four)".³

The Arab Spring in Jihadist Discourse

- The Al-Sahab media institution, which functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda, published a video clip of Sheikh Hussam Abd al-Rauf, a member of Al-Qaeda's Strategic

¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

and Propaganda Council.⁴ Sheikh al-Rauf begins his comments by empathizing with the oppressed Muslims of Kashmir, Palestine, Eastern Turkistan, and Burma. He regrets the Western Crusade against the Muslims, as reflected in the recent French military incursion into Mali.



Al-Rauf then defends the mujahideen, adding that da'wa [proselytizing] and jihad are the only ways to liberate Muslim lands from foreign occupation. He then notes that Al-Qaeda serves the Muslim Nation by fighting the colonialist West, destroying the "fear barrier" of the Muslim masses, and defending the Muslim Nation by fulfilling the commandment of jihad. Al-Rauf then expounds at length on the extensive media campaign against jihad, which used the Arab Spring to claim that the ideology of Al-Qaeda is obsolete. According to al-Rauf, Al-Qaeda preached revolution against tyrannical regimes long before the Arab Spring.

Al-Rauf then asks the Muslim Nation to preserve the gains of Arab Spring by refusing to place power in the hands of members of previous despotic regimes, who kowtow to the West and guard its interests. For example, al-Rauf states that the democratic model of government is antithetical to Islam and plays into the hands of the West.

Strategy

A Jihadist Strategist Expounds on the Advantages of an Afghanistan-Taliban "Embassy"

- The jihadist strategist Abdullah ibn Muhammed praised the Taliban for establishing an "embassy", or representative office, in Qatar, from which they will be able to work toward an agreement that will ensure the withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan. According to Ibn Muhammed, the US understands two things: (1) it has been unable to defeat the Taliban during the past two years; and (2) Afghani President Hamid Karzai cannot rule without the Taliban. According to Ibn Muhammed, the current scenario is preferable to the US, because it will enable it to withdraw from Afghanistan with minimal losses to its troops. Ibn Muhammed also claimed that the US ascribes all attacks against it to the Haqqani Network, an Afghani Islamist group with allied with the Taliban, so that it can hold talks with the Taliban without admitting to negotiating with "terrorists". Ibn

⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Muhammed triumphantly concluded that the resumption of Taliban activity in Qatar ensures that the West will not be able to eradicate the Taliban.⁵

A Jihadist Strategist Expounds on the Danger that Shi'ites Pose to Sunnis in Yemen

- In light of the increasing tension between Sunnis and Shi'ites in the Arab world, the jihadist strategist Abdullah ibn Muhammed published a position paper in which he warned the Sunni Muslims of Yemen against the expansion of what he called "the Houthi project". The Houthis are Zeidi-Shi'ite Islamists who oppose the Yemeni regime, and who attack Sunni and Western targets. According to Ibn Muhammed, the Yemeni regime is weak and its Army is ineffectual; this has enabled the Houthis to gain political and military strength, increasing the threat of a sectarian war in Yemen like the one now raging in Syria. According to Ibn Muhammed, the "Shi'ite Alliance" is passing information to its allies on all fronts, and the war between Sunnis and Shi'ites in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen requires that the region's peoples prepare for the "big bang". Ibn Muhammed recommended that Yemen's Sunnis learn the military tactics of the "Shi'ite Alliance" in Syria, which he believed would also be used in a sectarian war in Yemen.⁶

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- The jihadist media institution Sawt Al-Islam, which functions under the auspices of the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), published two instructional video clips on using the Tula Tokarev pistol and the Makarov pistol. The video clips are part of a series titled, "The Express Mail of the Mujahideen of Turkistan".⁷

⁵<https://twitter.com/Strategyaffairs>;
<http://twitmail.com/email/1073730258/108/%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B0%D8%A7-%D9%8A%D8%B9%D9%86%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%AA%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%AD-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%83%D8%AA%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D9%8A-%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%86-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%82%D8%B7%D8%B1-%D8%9F> (Arabic).

⁶<https://twitter.com/Strategyaffairs>;
<http://twitmail.com/email/1073730258/107/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A8%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%85%D9%86> (Arabic).

⁷ <https://shamikh1.info/vb>; <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (both in Arabic).



Instructional videos on using two Russian handguns

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen presented Syrian mujahideen with a creative solution to their lack of heavy weapons: using the guns of damaged tanks as artillery launchers.⁸



Don't discard that old tank! New life for damaged tank parts

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen posted a video clip on how to rescue a wounded comrade who is still under fire. The video was purportedly posted for the benefit of the mujahideen in the Levant.⁹



Rescuing a wounded comrade under fire

- The administrator of the "Military Academy" section of the jihadist Web forum Snam Al-Islam published the following:
 - A guidebook on bombs and explosives.¹⁰
 - A guidebook titled, "Training for the Sleeper Cell: Terrorist Vocations". The guidebook contained information about homemade explosives, fighting in an

⁸ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmhO7_W9EIg (both in Arabic).

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

- urban environment, preparing chemical gases, and secretly transmitting intelligence.¹¹
- A guidebook on using botulism as a weapon. The strongest bacterial poison in nature, one gram of botulism can kill millions of people.¹²

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida brought readers' attention to an item on the death of Maher Bakr, a 30-year-old Palestinian musician who had joined the Al-Nusra Front and been killed fighting Hezbollah and Iraqi Shi'ite forces in Qusayr.¹³



Maher Bakr, a martyr [shahid] who traded his oud for a gun

- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida eulogized the martyr Abu Dujannah al-Bangali, who had come from Bangladesh to fight with the Islamic State of Iraq.¹⁴
- A member of the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida eulogized the martyr Ibrahim Giuliano Delnevo, age 24, who had come from Italy to fight the Syrian regime. Delnevo converted to Islam five years ago, and crossed the Turkey-Syria border to join a Chechen brigade of foreign mujahideen. He was killed on June 18, 2013.¹⁵

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

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

¹³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb>; <http://www.ahrarpress.com> (Arabic).

¹⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



Italian Muslim martyr Ibrahim Giuliano Delnevo

- Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen praised two foreign mujahideen who were killed in clashes with the Syrian Army. One of the two, Lebanese citizen Samer Abd al-Rahim al-Rish, had led the Salafi-jihadist Jund Al-Islam [The Army of Islam] until he was killed during the fierce fighting in Qusayr on June 11, 2013. The other was Sa'ed Harb Shu'lan, aka Abu Osama al-Muhajir, a Salafist from the Gaza Strip who was reportedly killed in Idlib Province. These two martyrs are additional evidence that foreigners are fighting with the rebels in Syria.¹⁶



Sa'ed Harb Shu'lan (l.) and Samer Abd al-Rahim al-Rish (r.)

¹⁶<http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>; <http://documents.sy/image.php?id=2206&lang=ar>;
<http://www.lbcgroup.tv/news/95250/%D9%85%D8%AC%D9%84%D8%B3-%D8%B9%D8%B2%D8%A7-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D9%85%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84-%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B4-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%B5%D9%8A%D8%B1>; <http://slabnews.com/article/27290> (all in Arabic).

Magazines

- The fourth issue of the jihadist magazine *Al-Fursan* has been published by a public relations group active on the jihadist Web forum Fursan Al-Balagh.¹⁷ This issue contains articles by prominent contributors jihadists on several of arenas of jihad.



The cover of Issue No. 4 of *Al-Fursan*

Reports from the Field Afghanistan-Pakistan

As part of its effort to successfully withdraw from Afghanistan, the US announced on June 18, 2013 that it would begin negotiations with the Afghanistan-Taliban¹⁸ in Qatar, with the participation of representatives of the Afghani government. One of the first topics to be discussed will be a prisoner exchange; both parties expressed cautious optimism about the talks. Subsequently, however, the Afghani president announced that he was suspending the talks with the US because of what he called "inconsistent comments and actions regarding the peace process".¹⁹

On June 19, 2013, four American soldiers were killed in a rebel attack on a military base in Afghanistan.²⁰ Several days later, on June 25, 2013, Taliban fighters attacked the presidential palace in Kabul, and a hotel that is known to be a CIA headquarters.²¹

Pakistan also experienced a series of significant terrorist attacks. On June 18, 2013, 27 people were killed in a suicide attack at a funeral in northeastern Pakistan.²² On June 20,

¹⁷ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁸ <http://news.walla.co.il> (Hebrew).

¹⁹ <http://news.walla.co.il> (Hebrew).

²⁰ <http://news.walla.co.il> (Hebrew).

²¹ <http://news.walla.co.il> (Hebrew).

2013, six security guards were killed in an attack on a Pakistani Army base on the outskirts of Peshawar; one of the attackers was also killed in the subsequent firefight.²³ On June 23, 2013, terrorists killed nine tourists at a hotel in northern Pakistan; Jundallah, a Sunni-Baluchistani group that has committed a series of attacks in Iran and Pakistan during the past year, took responsibility for this attack.²⁴ On June 30, 2013, 28 people were killed in a suicide attack in Quetta in eastern Pakistan.²⁵

- On June 18, 2013, the Afghanistan-Taliban declared the opening of an official representative office or “embassy” in Qatar. In this context, the group declared the following goals: (1) to negotiate a mutual understanding and improved relations with other nations; (2) to support the political process and work toward a peaceful solution that will culminate in the conquest of Afghanistan and the establishment of an independent Islamic regime there, which will give Afghans true security; (3) to meet with Afghans as needed; (4) to pursue relations with the UN, regional and international organizations, and NGOs; and (5) to publicize accurate political statements in the media. The Afghanistan Islamic Emirate also declared its willingness to free an American soldier whom it has held captive since 2009, in exchange for the release of five senior Taliban members from the prison at Guantanamo.²⁶
- The jihadist media outlet of the Pakistan-Taliban, Umar, published a videotaped interview in Urdu titled, “Do Not Forsake Your Muslim Society” by Sheikh Abu Dher Azzam, the mufti of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), which has close ties with the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan.²⁷
- The Pakistan-Taliban announced that Russian installations in Pakistan might be targeted for attack because Russian forces were aiding Syrian President Assad.²⁸

The Arabian Peninsula

The clout of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) continues to diminish. During the latter half of June 2013, AQAP lost several members in armed clashes with Egyptian security forces. According to Yemeni authorities, several AQAP attacks were also thwarted.

On June 15, 2013, Yemeni security forces killed three AQAP members in Huta city in Lahji Governorate who were trying to storm an army checkpoint.²⁹ The advisor to the

²² <http://news.walla.co.il> (Hebrew).

²³ <http://news.walla.co.il> (Hebrew).

²⁴ <http://news.walla.co.il> (Hebrew).

²⁵ <http://news.walla.co.il> (Hebrew).

²⁶ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁷ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁸ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

Yemeni president reported that Yemeni security forces had successfully foiled the establishment of an Islamic emirate in Hadramaut.³⁰

Iraq and the Levant

The crisis between Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq (Al-Qaeda's representative in Iraq), and Al-Qaeda Central leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, is intensifying. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has declared that it has no intention of retreating to Iraq, despite al-Zawahiri's instructions.³¹ Senior Iraqi security officials believe that this indicates a certain weakening of the group.³²

In addition, a new dimension of the crisis between the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and the Al-Nusra Front (Al-Qaeda's arm in Syria) has come to light. It apparently concerns issues of leadership and the control of profits, including from oil fields in northeastern Syria. Fears have arisen that this conflict may devolve into intra-Islamist clashes. Sectarian dissent has not prevented the mujahideen from committing atrocities in Syria, however. Recently, a Syrian boy was executed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in front of his mother, merely because he joked with a client at the café where he worked about the Prophet Muhammad.³³

Moreover, experts express concern about the increased involvement of mujahideen from North Africa in Syria's civil war. They fear hundreds of these mujahideen will spread the radical ideology and extreme violence to which they have become accustomed in their countries of origin.³⁴

- Given the conflict between the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant – Al-Qaeda's branches in Syria and Iraq, respectively – a visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein posted a video in which the spokesman of the Al-Nusra front presented the group's ideology. The Al-Nusra Front supports dividing historical (Arab) territories into three entities: Syria, Iraq and Yemen. This may reflect the Front's dissatisfaction with the extensive incursion of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant into Syria. The spokesman of the Al-Nusra Front added that "your brothers" would never impose tyranny, as they wish to clasp the Free Syrian Army with one hand and the

²⁹ <http://alhayat.com/Details/524281> (Arabic).

³⁰ <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=733051&issueno=12622> (Arabic).

³¹ http://al-shorfa.com/en_GB/articles/meii/newsbriefs/2013/06/20/newsbrief-02 (English).

³² http://al-shorfa.com/en_GB/articles/meii/features/2013/06/27/feature-02 (English).

³³ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/10135823/Syria-I-saw-rebels-execute-my-boy-for-no-more-than-a-joke.html> (English).

³⁴ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/06/20/feature-01 (English).

Islamist brigades with the other hand, and establish a country for all, based on Islamic law [shari'a].

In response to this video, one visitor to the Web forum commented that he understood the Front's objection to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, whose leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, tried to strongarm it into unification. However, he added, the Al-Nusra front's ideology was impractical, as it was just as inconceivable that the Free Syrian Army would relinquish its positions as it was that the Islamic brigades would relinquish shari'a. The writer expressed puzzlement at what had become of the Al-Nusra Front and what the fuss was about, but stated that he would wait for the leader of the mujahideen to clarify the situation. Another visitor to Hanein lambasted the Al-Nusra Front, which he portrayed as not wanting to share the "fruits of jihad" with other brigades; this was tantamount to a declaration of war against Islamist and non-Islamist brigades, he wrote. He then discussed the role of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in the arena of global jihad, and added that the it was clear from the outset that the group would never lay down its arms or relinquish the establishment of an Islamic state until the Alawite regime had fallen.³⁵



The spokesman of the Al-Nusra Front, as he appeared in the video

In this context, the administrators of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam recommended that its members remain neutral regarding the conflict between the two Islamist groups and leave the matter to experts – apparently, the leadership of Al-Qaeda – while expressing support for all of the mujahideen.³⁶

Iraq

- The administration of the jihadist Web forum Hanein published the results of an open session with the leader of the Salafi-jihadist group Jaish Al-Rashidin, grouped according to topic; the question and answer session covered the ideology and policy of Jaish Al-

³⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

Rashidin, recent events in Iraq, and inter-ethnic relations in the Arab world in times of war and peace.

In response, one visitor to the forum regretted that while few people were joining jihad, millions were giving up their time to watch "Arab Idol" and other musical television programs. He added that despite the promulgation of jihad night and day by its supporters, people hear but turn away.³⁷



The banner for the open question-and-answer session with the Emir of Jaish Al-Rashidin

- A prominent contributor to the jihadist Web forum Snam Al-Islam posted a "A Complaint from the People of Mosul", which was sent on June 3, 2013 to the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Shari'a Council of Ansar Al-Islam. In it, sheikhs, physicians and merchants from Mosul claim that money meant to aid the families of martyrs is daily being stolen by people who claim to be affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and Ansar Al-Islam. The people of Mosul ask that this theft cease and order be restored. A letter of response posted by Ansar Al-Islam on June 10, 2013 states that since most of the residents of Mosul are Muslims, monies may only be used according to Islamic law. Ansar Al-Islam denied having a hand in the theft or receiving funds from such sources. However, it admitted that money had been taken from merchants who "obtained it in unfair ways". Ansar Al-Islam asked wealthy merchants to aid jihad, promising that the mujahideen would help the people of Mosul in any way possible.³⁸
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Snam Al-Islam published an article by Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, the leader of the Salafi-jihadists in Jordan, who is known to have been the spiritual guide of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the first leader of the Islamic State of Iraq. In it, al-Maqdisi urges the Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Nusra Front to change its tactics. According to al-Maqdisi, the UN Security Council declared the Al-Nusra Front to be a terrorist organization to serve the interests of countries that oppose Islam, like the US, which blocks efforts to denounce Israel. The writer asks Syria's mujahideen to make things less easy for the Security Council, and to that end to avoid using names like "Al-Nusra" and "Al-Qaeda", which the enemy uses to incite the world against the mujahideen. Names like "Ansar Al-Din" [literally, "supporters of the faith"], Ansar Allah

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

³⁸ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

[literally, “supporters of Allah”], “Ansar Al-Sham” [“supporters of the Levant”] are preferable, according to al-Maqdisi, especially now that the Al-Nusra Front has sworn allegiance to Al-Qaeda Central. Al-Maqdisi also recommends not photographing executions or desecration of corpses, as such photographs lend jihad a negative image.³⁹

Al-Sham [The Levant]

In part due to Hezbollah’s increasing involvement in the Syrian conflict, that conflict has begun to “bleed” over the border into Lebanon. In Lebanon as in Syria, the conflict is distinctly inter-ethnic. While northern Lebanon serves as a base of preparations for Sunni rebels, southern Lebanon is “Hezbollahland”, and a base of support for the Syrian Army.⁴⁰

The “episode” of Salafist Sheikh Ahmad al-Assir in Sidon is worth noting: Al-Assir and his supporters fought Lebanese Army forces, which he dubbed “the Iranian Army”.⁴¹ Al-Assir’s fate is unknown. However, since many Sunnis see him as the standard-bearer of the Sunni struggle in Lebanon, it can only be imagined what would happen if it is learned that something has happened to him.⁴²

- During the latter half of June 2013, the Al-Nusra Front published the following:
 - Announcements Nos. 302-317 taking responsibility for various actions against Syrian security forces.⁴³
 - A video clip titled, “The Beginning of the End (Part 12) – The Conquest of Al-Shadadi”, in northeastern Hasakah Province.⁴⁴



The banner for the video clip, “The Beginning of the End (Part 12)”

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

⁴⁰ <http://blogs.wsj.com/middleeast/2013/06/30/syrian-rebels-spilling-into-lebanon/> (English).

⁴¹ <http://www.thenational.ae/thenationalconversation/comment/lebanons-army-is-balanced-between-state-and-hizbollah> (English).

⁴² <http://www.islamicinvitationturkey.com/2013/06/25/at-least-18-la-martyrs-in-the-battle-for-sidon-al-assir-disappeared/> (English).

⁴³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- On June 30, 2013 a new jihadist media center was launched: 'Aysha – Minbar Ahl Al-Sunna wal Jamaa fi Lubnan. The new center's spokesmen reported that the Sunnis of Syria and Lebanon were being severely oppressed by Hezbollah, but that Lebanon's media obscured this fact, and "blamed the victims". According to the new media center, Hezbollah and the Lebanese Army had bombed supporters of Salafist Sheikh Ahmad al-Assir, for example. The media center had therefore been established to reliably present the reality facing the Sunni community.⁴⁵

- As fighting between Sunnis and Shi'ites intensified in Syria, the Salafi-jihadist Abdullah 'Azzam Brigades published an opinion piece denouncing Hezbollah and claiming that events in Al-Sham were the first sign of an imminent, comprehensive war in which the Iranians, Americans and Jews were plotting to decimate the Sunnis.

The article sorely criticized Hezbollah, which it portrayed as sacrificing Arab Shi'ites on the altar of Iranian interests in Al-Sham, despite gaining "neither a she-camel nor a camel" for doing so. It also accused Hezbollah of interfering with Shi'ite interests beyond Al-Sham, allowing Iran to trample the lives, survival and future of Shi'ites in Iraq and Lebanon. Although jihadist groups and Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah denounced Israel, they were fighting one another instead of fighting to liberate Palestine.

According to the Abdullah 'Azzam Brigades, the only ones benefiting from the current struggle were Iranian politicians and Hezbollah representatives, who were exploiting the support of Lebanon's Shi'ites. The Abdullah 'Azzam Brigades urged Hezbollah to abandon the war in Syria: To ensure the security of Lebanon's Shi'ites, it must cease killing Sunnis. The Brigades urged on politicians and representatives of Lebanon's ethnic groups to prevent Hezbollah from "toying with" their security.

Lastly, the Brigades asked Sunnis serving in the Lebanese Army to support the Sunni struggle in Syria, rather than "standing by idly" while Lebanese intelligence consorted with Hezbollah, controlled the Army, "marched Syrian Sunnis into exile", and attacked them on false pretense.

One visitor to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen praised this important opinion piece, and urged that it be published in the Lebanese press and on news Web sites.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁶ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).



A demonized portrait of Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah

- As the Syrian civil war continued to breach the Lebanese border, multiple threads on the jihadist Web forum Hanein were devoted to criticism of the Lebanese Army for collaborating with Hezbollah. One forum visitor asked, "Is this what [the Lebanese Army] wants?...Syria, its citizens and the representatives of armies are being killed, while [Lebanese Army soldiers] watch!... Why don't the Lebanese [Sunnis] wake up as this fight goes on?!...".

Visitors to the Web forum also discussed the status of Lebanese Salafist Sheikh Muhammad al-Assir, imam of a popular Sunni mosque in Sidon who also established a Sunni militia that is fighting the Lebanese Army, which he has called "Iranian and Shi'ite". According to media reports, this militia engaged in a bloody battle against the Lebanese Army, which surrounded al-Assir's mosque. Since that event, questions have arisen as to the fate of al-Assir.⁴⁷



"This is Sidon...until the ships of the incursion drop anchor..."

⁴⁷<http://www.hanein.info/vb;http://www.france24.com/ar/20130624-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%B4-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A-%D8%A5%D8%AD%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%85-%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%B7%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%AA%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%83%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%B6%D8%AF-%D8%A3%D9%86%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D9%8A%D8%AE-%D8%A3%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AC%D9%86%D9%88%D8%AF-%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B5%D9%8A%D8%AF%D8%A7-%D9%85%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%B9> (both in Arabic).

- On June 11, 2013, a conference of Sunni clerics was held in Cairo. Many of those in attendance are affiliated with renowned Al-Azhar University. The clerics discussed the imperative of involvement in the jihad in Syria, and called on the Muslims to fulfill this obligation. In response, the jihadist Web forum Hanein published a vehement opinion paper excoriating Sunni clerics throughout the Arab world.

One claim against them concerned the poor timing of their call to jihad in Syria. The opinion paper asked angrily: "Why [are you calling for jihad] now, 'ulama [scholars] of the Muslim Nation?!...Why has the struggle in Syria become an obligation for the Muslim Nation now, when it was not so one year ago?!"

The paper also claimed that many of the scholars who signed the call to jihad had opposed it in the past, on the pretext that Syria did not need more mujahideen. The paper noted that some of these scholars had even called the mujahideen "terrorists" and "extremists", had opposed jihad as a rule, and had negotiated with Iran and Hezbollah at the expense of the Muslim Nation.

The opinion paper tried to prove that these scholars were more loyal to American than to Muslim interests. In this context, it claimed that the mujahideen who had fought Russia and were fighting the US in Afghanistan were the same Muslims, the only difference between them being their opponent, whose identity seemed to determine whether they were legitimate soldiers or terrorists. According to the paper, the real source of the Islamic-legal ruling emanating from the Cairo conference was the US, which was protecting its interests in Syria.

The paper then appealed to the scholars: "You have ruled [in favor of] aiding and joining the fight in Al-Sham, but I tell you now honestly, praise Allah...who guided young Muslims to enlist in jihad...more than two years ago without waiting for your Islamic-legal ruling!" The paper asked what would have happened had these young people not gone to fight in Syria, but had waited for the scholars' pronouncements, and sorely upbraided the scholars for not actively participating in spiritual jihad.⁴⁸

- According to a visitor to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen, tens of young people in the Gaza Strip would like to join the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda's arm in Syria.

⁴⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb;http://aljadidah.com/2013/06/%D9%85%D8%A4%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%B1-%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D9%85%D8%B3%D9%84%D9%85%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9-%D9%8A%D8%AF%D8%B9%D9%88-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%89/> (both in Arabic).

He expressed his hope people would one day heed the call to arms for Gaza's sake, too. Another visitor to the site responded, "Syria comes first".⁴⁹

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

The cease-fire between Israel and terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip, which had prevailed since the end of the IDF's Operation Pillar of Cloud in November 2012, was broken when Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) fired some six rockets at the Negev. The rocket fire was apparently an outgrowth of disagreement between the PIJ and Hamas,⁵⁰ which reportedly continued to block attempts at rocket fire at the expense of conflict with local Salafi-jihadist groups.⁵¹

No significant incidents have been recorded in the Sinai Peninsula since the release of the Egyptian security forces who were captured by Salafi-jihadists there.⁵² However, the IDF fears that terrorist attacks may accompany demonstrations by Morsi's supporters.⁵³

- During the latter half of June 2013, the Ibn Taymiyya Media Center published a number of items concerned with Salafi-jihadists in the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip:
 - An announcement titled "An Urgent Call to Those with Ethics – Sheikh Abu-Moaz al-Ja'ithni Is Suffering Torture in a Hamas Prison". According to the announcement, the prominent Salafi-jihadist sheikh was arrested by Hamas on June 11, 2013 and was being held for no reason and without trial; he had not been heard from since. According to the Ibn Taymiyya Media Center, al-Ja'ithni was being tortured day and night in an attempt to extract information from him about the Salafi-jihadist groups active in the Gaza Strip. The announcement claimed that it was no longer possible to remain silent given this state of affairs; it urged readers to pressure Hamas to reign in its security forces. The announcement also cited the obligation of sheikhs and scholars to wield their influence to end the persecution of Salafi-jihadists. The Ibn Taymiyya Media Center demanded that human rights organizations visit the sheikh in prison and work to put an end to his torture; it also asked the media to cover the incident. The announcement concluded by placing responsibility for the sheikh's welfare on the shoulders of the Hamas government.⁵⁴

⁴⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁰ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=/2689/2653997> (Hebrew).

⁵¹ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=/2651824> (Hebrew).

⁵² <http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-4382776,00.html> (Hebrew).

⁵³ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=/2655536> (Hebrew).

⁵⁴ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

- A video clip titled, "The Oppression of the Salafists by the Hamas Government", by The Mujahideen in Al-Sham [the Levant]. In the video, Syrian mujahideen urged the Hamas government to cease oppressing their Salafist brothers, as this oppression was tantamount to fighting Allah and collaborating with the Shi'ites.⁵⁵
- The Monitoring Committee of the jihadist Ibn Taymiyya Media Center denounced the internal security services of the Hamas government for holding Sheikh Abd al-Shab Abd al-Raqib Khaled Banat since June 11, 2013. Banat is the son of Sheikh Abu Abdallah al-Suri, who was murdered by Hamas forces during the massacre at the Ibn Taymiyya Mosque in Gaza in 2009. According to the Ibn Taymiyya Media Center, this unforgivable crime is abhorrent to Islam and immoral.⁵⁶
- An organization of families of Salafists imprisoned in the Gaza Strip published a message to the Muslim Nation by the wife of the Salafist preacher Sheikh Abu-Moaz al-Ja'ithni, who is languishing in a Hamas prison. In a letter signed by the sheikh's supports, she asked the Hamas government and religious scholars to release her husband and other Muslim prisoners, and halt the torture rampant in Hamas prisons.⁵⁷
- A video clip appeared in which a Salafi-jihadist group calling itself The Fighters of Al-Sham castigated the Hamas government for persecuting Salafists in the Gaza Strip.⁵⁸



The banner for the video clip

- Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen discussed the "Arab Idol" television contest, which was won by 23-year-old Palestinian Muhammad 'Assaf. Many of them roundly denounced the London-based competition – and Palestine. One visitor asked provocatively, "Has the Al-Aqsa Mosque been freed, or am I dreaming?...What is this nonsense, Palestinians?!!". Another site visitor stated that "Neither 'Assaf nor 'Arab Idol' do us Palestinians honor. Would that Allah forgive us for this lewdness which is spreading throughout Muslim lands...".

⁵⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb>; <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (both in Arabic).

⁵⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miDBDGg3Bg8> (both in Arabic).

⁵⁸ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=davseuGzUk0> (both in Arabic).

The large number of contributors who censured 'Assaf's win reflect the deep Salafi-jihadist revulsion at any expression of Westernism. Moreover, they show Salafi-jihadist criticism of the Palestinians, who are perceived as not doing enough to liberate Palestine overall, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, in particular.⁵⁹

- A visitor to the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Web forum condemned the coverage by the Al-Anba' Islamiya – Haq Press Agency of the June 22, 2013 execution of two Gazans, who purportedly spied for Israel. The contributor expressed surprise that the press agency reported "news from Hamas' Ministry of the Interior". He castigated the Hamas government, writing, "Allah is calling to impose shari'a...and [Hamas] is fighting [shari'a] by imposing man-made laws".⁶⁰
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein posted multiple photographs of what he called "scout camps in the Gaza Strip". The photographs show military training like that practiced by Hamas. In response, one visitor to the forum expressed his hope that the Lord of All Worlds would unite the ranks of the mujahideen.⁶¹



Alleged "scout camps" in the Gaza Strip

The Maghreb [North Africa]

The government of Mali signed a cease-fire agreement with the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA). Despite the hopes hanging on potential negotiations with the Tuareg, tensions reportedly still run high. As Mali begins to recover from the recent crisis, Islamists affiliated with Al-Qaeda are moving their base of activities to southern Libya and Niger, which are seeing a concomitant increase in terrorist activity.⁶² Islamists, apparently Al-Qaeda activists, are also massing on the Tunisia-Algeria border, from which they are launching terrorist attacks against Tunisian Army targets.⁶³

⁵⁹ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁰ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶² <http://leadership.ng/news/240613/ecowas-ministers-welcome-preliminary-agreement-between-mali-and-touareg-fighters>; <http://www.lobelog.com/mali-recovering-as-jihadists-focus-on-southern-libya-niger/>

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/06/21/feature-02 (all in English).

⁶³ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/06/28/reportage-01

More than 100 counter-terrorism experts from a variety of countries gathered in Algeria to discuss operative means of battling the rising threat from terrorists in the Maghreb and Sahel [North Africa]. A senior official from Burkina Fasso discussed this forum with mixed feelings, stating, "This is all well and good, and these plans do indeed make some difference on the ground, but they are insufficient. The terrorists still have the upper hand".⁶⁴

Ansar Al-Sharia, an offshoot of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), has begun to lift its head in Nouakchott, the Mauritanian capital. Ansar Al-Sharia has already gained a foothold in Arab Spring countries Tunisia and Libya; consequently, the group's appearance in Mauritania has been met with some apprehension, lest it be influenced by its colleagues elsewhere in North Africa, especially those in Tunisia.⁶⁵ The Mauritanian government ratified taking stronger steps against anyone caught financing or lending money for terrorist activities.⁶⁶

- During the latter half of June 2013, the jihadist media center Al-Andalus, which functions under the auspices of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published the following:
 - An announcement that it was holding eight Europeans hostage. AQIM reassured the families of the hostages that they were well, although it had earlier stated that France's invasion of Mali was as good as a warrant for their execution. The group called French President Francois Hollande an arch-murderer who would to bring about the death of the hostages with his very own hands and end the hostage affair. AQIM promised to issue a video clip of the eight hostages in exchange for confirmation of its demands, of which it claimed the French government was aware. AQIM concluded by placing absolute responsibility for the lives of the hostages with the French government and its "criminal" allies.⁶⁷
 - An article by Sheikh Abu Abd Ilah Ahmad al-Jijeli, the director of the Al-Andalus Media Center, on June 23, 2013, titled, "The Crimes of the Despot and the Return of the Death Squads".⁶⁸ Al-Jijeli condemned the brutality of the Algerian government toward Algeria's citizens and decried the renewed activity of the armed groups affiliated with the regime, which was meant to deter citizens from

<http://moroccoonthemove.wordpress.com/2013/06/17/terrorism-knows-no-border-maghreb-threat-rising-after-mali-intervention-magharebia/>; <http://www.worldcrunch.com/world-affairs/how-a-tunisian-mountain-became-a-new-home-base-for-al-qaeda/aqim-jihadist-tunisia-army-combatant/c1s12390/> (all in English).

⁶⁴ http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/27/world/africa/nations-focus-antiterrorism-efforts-on-west-and-north-africa.html?_r=0 (English).

⁶⁵ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/06/26/feature-01 (English).

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>; <http://www.vetogate.com/412534#.Udl-ujtkMXE> (both in Arabic).

⁶⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

protesting against the government. An example of this was the recent arrest and humiliation of residents of Skikda, in northeastern Algeria, by security forces for demanding the right to live with dignity. Al-Jijeli asked the media to highlight such incidents, and not gloss over them. According to al-Jijeli, government brutality toward the citizenry indicated the following:

- The return to the use of barbaric persecution and force against citizens signals the end of Algerian President Boutaflika and his hypocritical policy.
 - The Algerian regime does not understand the hopes and aspirations of the younger generation.
 - The Algerian "regime of generals" had failed to stem the growth of jihadism and rebellion in North and West Africa.
- Al-Jijeli therefore urged the following:
 - Unity and organized opposition to government "death squads".
 - Media and Internet coverage of the squads' attacks and kidnappings.
 - Protests of each and every attack and kidnapping, to humiliate the government before local and world public opinion.
 - Refusal to collaborate with the criminal death squads.
 - An article by Sheikh Abu Abd Ilah Ahmad al-Jijeli on June 28, 2013, in Spanish, titled, "Courts of the Inquisition Were Established against the Muslims".⁶⁹
 - An article by Sheikh Abu Abd Ilah Ahmad al-Jijeli, on June 30, 2013, titled, "Obama, the Victim and the Hangman". In it, al-Jijeli discusses the American effort to expand its influence in Africa, as evidenced by Obama's visit to the continent.⁷⁰
- The Mauritanian press agency ANI reported receiving a copy of an announcement issued by AQIM, confirming the death of AQIM member Sheikh Muhammad al-Amin Walid al-Hassan Walid al-Hadramawti, aka Abdullah al-Shinqiti, who had led the Al-Furqan Brigade in the Sahara. Prior to being appointed to that position, in November 2012, al-Shanqiti was responsible for public relations in the Sahara emirate. According to the announcement, al-Shanqiti was killed several months ago while fighting French and Chadian forces in northern Mali.⁷¹

⁶⁹ https://twitter.com/Andalus_Media/status/350676272134889472 (Spanish).

⁷⁰ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷¹ <http://www.ani.mr/?menuLink=9bf31c7ff062936a96d3c8bd1f8f2ff3&idNews=21991> (both in Arabic); <http://al-fidaa.com/vb>;



Abdullah al-Shanqiti

Egypt

- The Al-Bayyan media institution, which functions under the auspices of Fighting Salafi Pioneers The Salafi Fighting Pioneers – Ansar Al-Sharia, published a letter by Tariq Abu al-Azm, who was sentenced for belonging to of Jund Allah, a terrorist cell linked to Al-Qaeda. The cell had been active in Nasr City and was infiltrated by Egyptian security forces in October 2010; al-Azm had been in prison since. In his letter, al-Azm discusses the incidents in Nasr, and does not deny that Jund Allah had planned to attack American targets in retaliation for the US invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq. Al-Azm also denounced democracy, and called for the implementation of Islamic law, excoriating the Muslim Brotherhood for not accomplishing this.⁷²



The cover of the letter by Tariq Abu al-Azm

⁷²

<http://www.as-ansar.com/vb;> <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/?p=4570;>
<http://www.assakina.com/center/parties/24669.html> (all in Arabic).

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Al-Fida cited an interview with Sheikh Muhammad al-Zawahiri in an Egyptian newspaper concerning the intention of Egyptian Salafi-jihadists to participate in a demonstration against President Morsi in June 30, 2013.⁷³
- Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen called on their comrades to participate in the “Day of Rage” demonstration against the regime of President Mohammad Morsi, slated for June 30, 2013. They would not simply “take to the streets”, they said, but would be demonstrating in support of Islamic law. The revolution was falling into the hands of the Muslims like a ripe fruit, a gift from Allah. All Muslims were obligated to oppose the millions of secular people in Egypt.⁷⁴



The Facebook page devoted to the June 30 rally in support of the Morsi regime

- The Ansar Al-Mujahideen Web forum featured a video clip of Dr. Eyad Qunaibi explaining how to behave “in accordance with the Qur’an and Sunnah” on the “Day of Rage” – a day of popular protest against the Muslim Brotherhood regime of President Morsi – slated for June 30, 2013. Qunaibi explained that the struggle to “raise the banner of Allah” was valid according to the Qur’an and Sunnah; it is therefore “not our place” to demonstrate against Morsi, because demonstrations are part of a democratic struggle. According to Qunaibi, anyone who participated in the demonstrations, or who was killed during them, would not be considered a martyr, because a martyr is someone who dies “for Allah”.⁷⁵



Dr. Eyad Qunaibi

⁷³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb/>; <http://www.masrawy.com/news/Egypt/Politics/2013/June/16/5647481.aspx> (both in Arabic).

⁷⁴ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/>; <https://www.facebook.com/RCCMISR> (both in Arabic).

⁷⁵ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dIjSzOA6hg> (both in Arabic).

Somalia

Instability is on the rise in Somalia. Although Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen appears to be splintering between supporters and opponents of Ahmed Abdi Godane, also known as Mukhtar Abu Zubair, the group's leader, terrorist activity persists against local civilian, military and foreign targets. It thus appears that group infighting has not affected its capacity to attack. In fact, it is possible local citizens are paying the price for the widening internal rift, as the two factions of Al-Shabab compete to outdo each other in sowing terror.

Nevertheless, a question arises as to whether protracted infighting mightn't eventually weaken Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. The very fact of a mutiny by senior group leaders – among them Ibrahim al-Afhgani (who was ultimately arrested and executed); Hassan Dahir Aweys (who fled until he was captured by the Somali authorities and incarcerated in Mogadishu); Fuad Mohamed Khalaf (a member of Al-Shabab's Shura Council); and Sheikh Mukhtar Ali Robow Abu Mansur (formerly Godane's deputy) – indicates that Godane's hold on the group instability has been challenged. Godane is trying to hold on to power, in part by using Twitter to bolster his supporters. For example, in June he tweeted, "We are committed to standing strong and defending what we have achieved through jihad, the legacy of our martyrs, of the Prophet, and of our covenant with Allah". Godane is attempting to give Al-Shabab members the impression that he is a staunch Muslim, to preempt mutiny or rebellion.⁷⁶

It is in this context that Godane and his cronies may launch additional terrorist attacks, to transmit a message of "business as usual" and to foster unity among the ranks. In fact, Al-Shaba Al-Mujahideen has increased its terrorist activity during the past two years, since African Union forces (AMISOM) began aiding the Somali government in imposing order. For example, on June 19, 2013, Al-Shabab attacked a UN installation in Mogadishu, killing 15 people, some of them foreigners. Such attacks may also be part of Godane's attempt to distract his men from the internal rift and the crisis of leadership, and keep them focused on an escalating conflict with the Somali government. This represents a new equation: Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen increases its terrorist activity to escalate the conflict and reduce internal tensions.⁷⁷

- During the latter half of June 2013, the jihadist media outlet Al-Kitaab, which functions under the auspices of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published the following:

⁷⁶ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201307040082.html> (English).

⁷⁷ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23146744> (English).

- A warning that Islam’s enemies were sowing dissent among the mujahideen of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, and the mujahideen should ignore the statements of the enemy and focus on jihad and unity among the ranks.⁷⁸
- A video clip documenting an Al-Shabab attack on Kenyan forces.⁷⁹
- An announcement of a libelous propaganda campaign by the media against Al-Shabab. In this context Al-Shabab refuted any rumors of deep internal disagreement.⁸⁰
- Photographs of Kenyan soldiers captured by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen during an attack on a Kenyan Police camp in May 2013. Al-Shabab claimed to have executed one Kenyan and to be holding seven more hostage.⁸¹
- The Labeik Media Foundation, which functions under the auspices of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published a compendium of advice titled, “Tips and Congratulations to Our Brothers Mujahideen in Somalia” (41 pp.), by group member Sheikh Abu Salman al-Somaliy.⁸²
- A prominent contributor to the Web forum Snam Al-Islam published an article denouncing the assassination of Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Zil’i Ibrahim al-Afghan and Sheikh Mualem Burhan Hashi by Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. The writer claimed that the unjustified assassination was a desecration of the two sheikhs, despite the justification that (unofficially) the two had been trying to sow divisiveness within the group. In the lengthy discussion that followed on the forum, some contributors demanded proof that the two sheikhs had indeed been assassinated by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. The author insisted repeatedly that his sources in Somalia were trustworthy. The forum’s administrators expressed support for the author, but indicated that the forum had no organizational affiliation.⁸³
- A prominent contributor to the Web forum Snam Al-Islam published an article denigrating the decision by Sheikh Abu Sa’ad al-’Amili, himself a prominent contributor to jihadist Web forums, permitting the killing of two sheikhs by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen against the background of an internal dispute. The writer cited a fatwa [Islamic-legal ruling] stating that someone with a different opinion may be mistaken, but not necessarily an enemy. Similarly, not everyone who holds the same opinion should be

⁷⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁰ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁸³ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

treated as righteous. The forum administrator and a prominent contributor to the forum expressed their support of this contributor.⁸⁴

- The administrator of the jihadist Web forum Snam Al-Islam reported that Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, the spiritual leader of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen and a long-time collaborator with Al-Qaeda, had been kidnapped by the Somali government and was being held at the airport in Mogadishu. The sheikh was wanted by the US government and was on an international list of wanted terrorists.⁸⁵
- The administration of the jihadist Web forum Shumukh Al-Islam published an announcement supporting Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in its ongoing struggle against its enemies.⁸⁶

The Indian Subcontinent

- On June 3, 2013, a terrorist attack was perpetrated at the police station in Pusu. The jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen subsequently carried an announcement in Arabic by the Salafi-jihadist group responsible for the attack, the Mujahideen Indonesia Timur. The announcement stated that the attack was retaliation for the institutionalized persecution of Muslims, and especially mujahideen, in Indonesia. The announcement stated that the group would desist from its activities if Indonesia freed its “terrorist” brothers from prison and sever diplomatic ties with the US, Australia and other countries that were party to the “massacre” of Muslims in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Burma and elsewhere. The group urged Indonesia’s leaders to adopt the law of Allah [shari’a], and urged young Muslims “to hasten their path to Paradise” by fulfilling the commandment of jihad.⁸⁷



The logo of a Salafi-jihadist group active in Indonesia

- The Ansar Al-Mujahideen Web forum published a photograph that purported to show mujahideen in Burma [Myanmar]. In response, one visitor to the forum wrote that the problem [with the arena of jihad in Burma] was that it was almost impossible to send weapons to the mujahideen in Burma because of Indian and Chinese efforts to prevent

⁸⁴ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁵ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁷ <http://ansar1.info> (English).

this. Another visitor to the forum wrote that “your mujahideen brothers” were in many Asian countries besides Burma. He added that the photograph showed that the mujahideen [in Burma] “would never forsake their brothers as we have forsaken them”. Yet another visitor to the forum encouraged readers not to fear the lack of weapons, training or mujahideen, since the Philippines and Indonesia were near Burma, and “with Allah’s help”, the mujahideen in Burma would receive sufficient weapons. He added that a small number of mujahideen was sufficient to threaten “the Buddhist pigs” and cause them to think twice before attacking Muslims.⁸⁸



Muslim mujahideen in Burma [Myanmar]

China

- The Sawt Al-Islam Media Center, which functions under the auspices of the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), published a video clip in Uighur, with a translation into Arabic, documenting military actions in Kashgar Province against Chinese security forces.⁸⁹

The West

- Visitors to the jihadist Web forum Ansar Al-Mujahideen discussed the arrest of eight terrorists affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Spanish city of Ceuta. The terrorists were arrested during an apparent attempt to fly eight military helicopters to Syria. Visitors to the forum called the suspects “heroes” and Ceuta – one of the few remaining territories of historic Morocco – “occupied”.⁹⁰

⁸⁸ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2013/06/130603_indonesia_poso_attack.shtml;
<http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (both in Arabic).

⁸⁹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁰ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>;
<http://www.skynewsarabia.com/web/article/300465/%D8%A7%D9%95%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D9%81%D9%83%D9%83->



Eight suspected terrorists arrested in Ceuta, Spain

Miscellaneous

- The Al-Masada Media Institution published a compendium of quotations from prominent jihadists such as Sheikh Osama bin Laden, former leader of Al-Qaeda.⁹¹



Quotations from famous leaders of jihad

- Visitors to the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Web forum discussed the publication of Issue No. 11 of the jihadist English-language magazine *Inspire*. One contributor thanked the magazine's producers for the timely, current issue, and praised the magazine's graphics. He particularly noted the issue's content, such as "AQ Tweets", a feature highlighting the Twitter tweets of Al-Qaeda members. Another contributor wrote that one of the best things about *Inspire* was that it was winning the psychological war against the West. *Inspire* instilled fear in the hearts of the West, he wrote, especially the "infidel US". Yet

<https://shamikh1.info/vb> (both in Arabic).

⁹¹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

another contributor referred readers to his Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/jaaabir1>), on which he posts jihadist content daily.⁹²

- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Hanein posted “an initiative to aid the mujahideen everywhere”. In order to avoid publishing content that is damaging to jihad, even if only obliquely, readers should boycott any material appearing on jihadist Web forums that is liable to incite a “civil war”. Moreover, readers should report to forum administrators anyone fomenting disagreement, so that that contributor can be blocked. Other contributors praised this advice.⁹³
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Snam Al-Islam warned participants that intelligence agencies exploited writers and commentators on the site, and even recruited sheikhs who use the Internet to remain anonymous. He urged forum visitors to be wary of anyone on Internet forums and on Twitter, and remember that intelligence agencies were always trying to conceal themselves.⁹⁴
- The supervisor of the Military Academy section of Snam Al-Islam published an article titled, “The Bombings in Boston: The Grand Illusion – US Security Forces”. The bombings in Boston (which he called “the marathon of death”)⁹⁵ allegedly proved that US security services were worthless. If two young men playing with weapons could succeed in terrorizing America for three days and turning Boston into a ghost town, the spirit of Sheikh Osama bin Laden was still alive. American security services had learned nothing from September 11, 2001.⁹⁶
- The administrator of the Snam Al-Islam Web forum urged all those interested in aiding the mujahideen to contribute money to jihad without delay. Since the mujahideen were giving their blood for jihad, the least others could do is to send money. Also, anyone with knowledge or information relevant to jihad should make every effort to publish it; the gates of Snam Al-Islam were open to all those who wished to do so. The administrator recommended consulting him before publishing this material, to ensure that it was correct and precise. Lastly, he asked all visitors to the forum to disseminate its address on the Internet.⁹⁷

⁹² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹³ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁹⁵ The reference is to a double bombing at the Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013, which killed three people and wounded 170 others.

⁹⁶ <http://snamalislam.co/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁷ <http://snamalislam.co/vb> (Arabic).