



Bimonthly Report

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

- Sheikh Adam Gadahn, a senior leader of Al-Qaeda, called on jihadists and Muslims to attack American diplomats in the Middle East, especially those at the U.S. Embassy in Yemen, and to recreate the success of Benghazi, Libya, where a U.S. ambassador was killed last year in a terrorist attack.
- Sheikh al-Julani, leader of the Al-Nusra Front (Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria) promised to avenge the chemical attack carried out by Bashar al-Assad's regime against a Sunni village in Syria. In response, the mujahideen promised to unleash their rage on Alawite villages.
- The Abdullah Azzam Brigade, a Salafi-jihadist organization affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Lebanon-Syria area, took responsibility for launching rockets at Israel.
- "Brigade of the Veiled Ones" and "The Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa" (MOJAO) Group, which operate in the Maghreb [North Africa], announced the merger of the two groups under a new name: Al-Mourabitoun. The leaders of the two groups relinquished their role and transferred it to a new leader, whose identity has not been revealed.
- The establishment of Ajnad, the new jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, was announced.

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New Publications

Ideology

- Al-Qaeda's official jihadist media institution, Al-Sahab, published a video clip titled, "The Exploits of Muslims and Infamies of the Criminals" by Adam Yahiyeh Gadhafi-Azzam al-Amriki, a senior leader of Al-Qaeda.¹ In the video, Gadhafi first praised the killing of Christopher Stevens, the U.S. ambassador to Libya, who was killed in a terrorist attack on the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. According to Gadhafi, Ambassador Stevens represented the evil empire and worked to protect U.S. interests and, therefore, was not a friend to Muslims. He had been sent to Libya in order to devise a scheme to impede the revolution of the Libyan people and to establish a Libyan regime that would be obedient to the whims of the United States and the West. Gadhafi ridiculed America's principles in allowing all types of sexual deviation, such as homosexual and lesbian relationships. He added that different Western forces were trying to infect Muslim countries with diseases of Western culture, such as homosexuality, in order to weaken Islam and Islamic civilization's immunity [to such phenomena]. He also called Western Crusaders' involvement in Muslim countries an attempt to force a failing democratic system on the Muslim Nation; an attempt that could only be carried out by embassies and diplomats like the U.S. ambassador in Benghazi who was killed. Therefore, the presence of Western diplomats on Muslim soil should not be tolerated.

Gadhafi then praised Al-Qaeda's initiative in the Arabian Peninsula to offer a monetary reward to whoever kills the U.S. ambassador to Yemen, Gerald Feirstein. He called on Muslims in Libya to cooperate with the mujahideen in an effort to kill Western diplomats on Muslim soil and to offer monetary rewards to any Muslim who kills a Western diplomat. According to him, the promise of a financial reward will encourage individuals who are otherwise hesitant to take part in such a mission and will plant fear in the heart of the enemy.

Gadhafi then referred to the election of the new Libyan Prime Minister, Ali Zaidan, which he believed was made possible thanks to Western diplomatic efforts and foreign intelligence measures. He emphasized that Zaidan was secular, had received a Western education and had lived in the West for many years, casting his loyalty to the Libyan nation in doubt. He called on the Libyan people to continue their revolution until the establishment of an independent Islamic State in Libya, which would work to develop

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

relationships with other Muslim nations, sever ties with non-believers, and free occupied Muslim lands – especially Palestine.

Gadahn also called on the Libyan people to assist the mujahideen in the new arena of jihad in northern Mali against American and French forces and their allies, which invaded the country. He emphasized that the Libyan nation was obligated to prevent Western Crusaders from using Libyan soil as a rear base against northern Mali. Finally, he called for continued jihad against tyrannical Arab regimes and for the removal of a Western presence from Muslim soil.



A clip from Gagahn's video

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Al-Andalus, published a video clip in which Sheikh Abu Yahya al-Shinqiti, a member of AQIM's Shari'a Council, gave a sermon titled, "Allah's Expression of Unity in Islam, There is No Other God than Allah". The sermon was part of a new series of publications titled, "Say, 'I believe in Allah' and Then Be Steadfast".²
- The jihadist media institution of the Al-Qimma Somali jihadist Web forum, Labaika, published an article by Sheikh Abu Salman al-Sawmali titled, "The Victory of the Righteous Imams: Defending the Three Imams, Sheikh al-Islam [refers to Sheikh Ibn Taymiyya], Ibn al-Qayyim and Ibn Abd al-Wahhab".³

² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- The military department administrator of the jihadist Web forum Al-Jihad Al-Alami posted a video on how to produce nitrocellulose, an explosive material with a variety of military uses, including the creation of gunpowder.⁴
- The military department administrator of the jihadist Web forum Al-Jihad Al-Alami posted a guidebook on how jihadists survive extremely difficult physical conditions.⁵
- A visitor to the jihadist Web forum Snam Al-Islam posted a large military workshop on various topics related to fighting and the military industry, including rockets, mortars, bombs, ammonium nitrate, and the production and usage of a wide range of weapons. The post elicited positive responses from the forum administrator as well as the military department administrator.⁶

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The media department of the Abdullah Azzam Brigade, a Salafi-jihadist organization affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Lebanon-Syria area, published an audio clip by one of its leaders, Sheikh Siraj al-Din. In the clip, he delivered a eulogy in memory of Sheikh Said al-Shihri, deputy leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, who was killed by an American unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or "drone", seemingly at the end of 2012 or at the beginning of 2013, but whose death was only confirmed by the organization during the second half of July 2013.⁷
- Administrators of the Palestinian jihadist Web forum Bait Al-Maqdis paid their respects to Fahd Nizar al-Habbash, an activist on the Salafi-jihadist Shura Council of the Mujahideen in the Environs of Jerusalem, and a native and resident of the Gaza Strip, who was killed on July 19, 2013, after joining the Al-Nusra Front. In his will, al-Habbash (referred to as Abu Mus`ab) emphasized that jihad is the duty of all Muslims, and even instructed his family to be happy upon hearing the news of his death.⁸

⁴ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁷ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (both in Arabic).



The banner in memory of Abu Mus'ab

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published Issue No. 18 for September 2013 of its jihadist magazine *Shariyat*, in Urdu (52 pp.).⁹
- The Taliban in Pakistan published Issue No. 3 of its jihadist magazine *AZAN*, in English (44 pp.).¹⁰

The magazine's opening editorial stated that the growing jihadist war in Syria, the potential uprising in Egypt, and America's anticipated withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2014 is significant milestones for the Muslim Nation on its path towards establishing global Muslim rule. It also stated that the Muslim Nation needs to understand that, at this stage, it must promote shari'a and fight for Allah's sake while rejecting democracy, which is inconsistent with Islam. All Muslims must re-embrace the spirit of rebellion and jihad in order to free all occupied Muslim lands from Spain to Al-Aqsa to the Far East.

The magazine discussed the following topics:

- An article by Mullah Mohammad Omar, leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan, justifying terrorist attacks against the United States and Europe in response to their actions against Muslims in the Middle East.
- The virtues of the month of Ramadan.
- An article by Maulana Asim Umar, a member of Al-Qaeda, calling on Muslims in India to wage jihad against enemies of Islam and to help re-establish the Islamic caliphate.
- An interview with Abu Adam, a German mujahid of Moroccan origin located in Waziristan, in which he talks about the circumstances surrounding his decision to join the jihadist battlefield and his acquaintance with various jihadist leaders.

⁹ <http://www.jhuf.net/showthread.php?18954-Shariat-Magazine-All-issues-on-one-page> (Urdu).

¹⁰ <http://www.jhuf.net/showthread.php?18969-Released-Now-Issue-3-of-Magazine-quot-AZAN-quot-from-Khurasan> (English).

- A code for establishing contact with the Taliban in Pakistan via an encrypted communications software called, "Asrar Al-Mujahideen" ("Secrets of Mujahideen").
- The Turkestan Islamic Party published Issue No. 13 of its jihadist magazine *Turkistan Al-Islamiyya* (58 pp.).¹¹



The covers of, from left to right, *Shariyat*, *AZAN*, and *Turkistan Al-Islamiyya*

Reports from the Field Afghanistan-Pakistan

Afghanistan has suffered several terrorist attacks recently. On August 27, 2013, at least six aid workers on Afghani national projects were killed by the Taliban.¹² On August 28, 2013, at least 26 people were killed in a series of terrorist attacks against civilian and military targets; the Taliban took responsibility for the attacks and claimed that they were carried out by suicide bombers.¹³ The next day, at least 15 Afghani police officers were killed when their patrol was ambushed by the Taliban.¹⁴ On August 30, 2013, a suicide attack was carried out at a mosque in the Kunduz Province in northern Afghanistan; several people were killed in the attack, including the governor of the province.¹⁵ In addition, the President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, dismissed the government's Prosecutor General after he met with Taliban representatives without permission in the framework of negotiations between the country and the organization.¹⁶

¹¹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹² <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/08/201382785759344756.html> (English).

¹³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/201382810236174723.html> (English).

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2674534> (Hebrew).

¹⁶ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2671131> (Hebrew).

Meanwhile, the Pakistan-India border is heating up and tensions are flaring. On August 22, 2013, two Pakistani soldiers were killed and three more were injured in an exchange of fire with the Indian Army in Kashmir Province.¹⁷

The Arabian Peninsula

The President of Yemen, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, revealed the details of a conversation held on July 29, 2013, between Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, and Sheikh al-Wahishi, leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), based on which 20 American embassies were temporarily closed during the beginning of August 2013. According to Hadi, the Americans feared al-Wahishi's promise to carry out a terrorist attack "that would change the course of history".

In the meantime, AQAP forces continued to suffer heavy losses during the second half of August 2013. An American drone shot and killed six members of the organization, including two senior members. Among those killed was Kaid al-Thahab, a senior leader of AQAP in Baydah Province and spokesman for Ansar Al-Shari'a, AQAP's political branch in Yemen. It should be noted that AQAP did not officially confirm his death.¹⁸

- During the second half of August 2013, the jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, published the following:
 - A video clip by Sheikh Sulayman al-Rubaish, mufti [Islamic scholar] of AQAP. In the clip, al-Rubaish sharply criticized the Saudi King for his support of the military revolution in Egypt.¹⁹



A scene from the video clip

- A video clip titled, "Message to the Muslim Nation" by Sheikh Harith al-Nidhari, member of AQAP,²⁰ in which he praised Muslims' continued devotion to jihad from the Maghreb to Afghanistan. According to him, the United States and NATO are no match for the mujahideen's steadfastness and have been showing weakness

¹⁷ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/08/2013822121691404.html> (English).

¹⁸ http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2013/08/us_kills_local_aqap.php (English);

¹⁹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

²⁰ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

and defeatism for some time already. He added that Israel and the United States are the main enemies of the Muslim Nation today.



A scene from al-Nidhari's sermon

- o An audio clip titled, "Solidarity with Our Brothers in Egypt" by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi an-Nadhary, a senior member of AQAP,²¹ in which he criticized the military revolution in Egypt and blamed the protesters for wanting to send Egypt back to pre-revolution times. He added that the Egyptian military regime was continuing the policies of ousted President Hosni Mubarak in protecting the Jews, continuing the siege on the Gaza Strip and harming the mujahideen in the Sinai Peninsula. In light of this, he relayed a message to the Egyptian Nation to be patient as the current military regime is temporary and will eventually fall.



The audio clip banner

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

Iraq

During the second half of August 2013, the bloody conflict between the Sunni minority and the Shi'ite majority claimed hundreds of lives in several terrorist attacks. In one of the worst attacks, which took place in the heart of Baghdad, 80 people were killed and over 250 were injured.²²

This is not the only challenge facing the war-torn country. The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported that over 15,000 Syrian refugees have flowed into Kurdish territory in northern Iraq. Even though 20 million dollars in aid have been earmarked for Kurdish areas, there seems to be a need for even more assistance from the UN and from the Iraqi government.²³

- During the second half of August 2013, the media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (Al-Qaeda's branch in Iraq), Al-Furqan, published a video clip documenting "PKK Party Activists' Repentance" (PKK is the Kurdistan Workers' Party, founded and led by Abdullah Öcalan). The video examined the enlistment of Kurdish PKK members in the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, and documented different terrorist attacks that were carried out against security forces in Iraq.²⁴



The video banner

²² <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/201382122257867518.html>
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/201382215415636906.html>
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/2013823195857473416.html>
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/2013825123756456247.html>
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/201382863027871209.html>
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/2013829174651886472.html> (all in English).

²³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/2013818164416876216.html>
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/201382782554564886.html> (both in English).

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

- The jihadist media institution Al-'Itisam, which distributes propaganda for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, announced the establishment of Ajnad, a new jihadist media institution that will focus on the production of audio files with the goal of helping the Muslim Nation to free itself from the heretics.²⁵
- The new media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, Ajnad, published a psalm titled, "My Right Hand Rests on the Button".²⁶



Audio file banner

- A visitor to the Ushaq Al-Hur Al-Islamiya jihadist Web forum posted a list of the car bombs belonging to the [Iraqi] military and police force that exploded in Iraq on August 28, 2013. The list detailed the number of victims, distinguishing between those injured and killed, as well as the neighborhoods and streets on which the cars had exploded, including in the Al-Sha'lah, Al-Riyad, Al-'Ur, and Baghdad Al-Gadidah neighborhoods.²⁷

رقم	تاريخ التفجير	المنطقة	الشارع	الضحايا	الجاني
1	28/8/2013	بغداد	شارع الرشيد	10	القوات المسلحة العراقية
2	28/8/2013	بغداد	شارع الرشيد	5	القوات المسلحة العراقية
3	28/8/2013	بغداد	شارع الرشيد	3	القوات المسلحة العراقية
4	28/8/2013	بغداد	شارع الرشيد	2	القوات المسلحة العراقية
5	28/8/2013	بغداد	شارع الرشيد	1	القوات المسلحة العراقية
6	28/8/2013	بغداد	شارع الرشيد	1	القوات المسلحة العراقية
7	28/8/2013	بغداد	شارع الرشيد	1	القوات المسلحة العراقية
8	28/8/2013	بغداد	شارع الرشيد	1	القوات المسلحة العراقية
9	28/8/2013	بغداد	شارع الرشيد	1	القوات المسلحة العراقية
10	28/8/2013	بغداد	شارع الرشيد	1	القوات المسلحة العراقية

The list of car bombs that exploded on August 28, 2013

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

- During the second half of August 2013, the media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, Al-Furqan, published the following:

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

²⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁷ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb> (Arabic).

- A video clip documenting the sabotage of a supply convoy en route from Anbar Province in Iraq to Syria.
- A video clip titled, "Letters from the Land of Wars (Part 2): Alawite Commander, Abu Muhammed al-Ansari, Who Repented (and Became Religious)".²⁸
- A video clip titled, "Letters from the Land of Wars (Part 3): Cutting Off Iraqi Aid to the Alawites", in which members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham can be seen stopping a transport truck that was on its way from Anbar Province in Iraq to Syria, taking out the passengers and later executing them.²⁹



Left: The video banner; Right: Members of the organization executing the passengers

- On August 17, 2013, the jihadist media institution Al-'Itisam, which distributes propaganda for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, published a clarification regarding its temporary suspension of new publications regarding the arena of jihad in Syria. According to the clarification, several Web sites and social media pages appeared during the time of the suspension and continuously reported about the organization's operations in Syria. Many of them were supporters of jihad and should be thanked for their actions. However, others exploited the opportunity to circulate exaggerated reports and opinions that were inconsistent with those of the mujahideen and their leadership, but were attributed to the organization's media institutions. In light of this, the organization clarified that its official announcements are published via the Al-'Itisam media institution on the Shumukh Al-Islam jihadist Web forum and on the organization's official Twitter account, and that any other publication attributed to the organization on other Web sites does not represent the organization.³⁰

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

²⁹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁰ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted photos of the bounty plundered by members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham during the course of operational activities in Homs.³¹



Photos of the bounty plundered in Homs

Al-Sham [The Levant]

After the United States announced that it would punish Bashar al-Assad for his "brutal and shocking" use of chemical weapons against civilians,³² Russian President Vladimir Putin demanded that America provide proof to substantiate its claims.³³ The longer the civil war continues, the more tensions flare between rebel forces and Free Syrian Army fighters, who are breaking off into smaller brigades. According to a media source, the split is due to a weapons shortage as well as increased criticism of the group's leadership.³⁴

Tensions also continue to flare in Lebanon as a result of Hezbollah's involvement in the Syrian civil war. During the second half of August 2013, the country suffered two terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of over 60 people. One of the attacks took place at a Hezbollah facility in Beirut and the other one occurred in the Sunni (majority) city of Tripoli.³⁵

- During the second half of August 2013, the media institution of the Al-Nusra Front (Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria), Al-Manarah Al-Bayda, published the following:
 - An audio clip titled, "An Eye for an Eye", by Abu Muhammad al-Julani, leader of the Al-Nusra Front. Al-Julani claimed that Syria's Alawite regime used chemical weapons to slaughter hundreds of men, women and children in the village of Al-Ghouta Al-Sharqiya after getting the green light from the international

³¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

³² <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/201382163812810810.html> (English).

³³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/2013831104413573927.html> (English).

³⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/20138177464396633.html> (English).

³⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/201381881017230988.html> (English).

community, which is clearly taking Assad’s side in the battle. Al-Julani promised that the mujahideen would avenge the blood of those who were murdered – for every rocket carrying chemical weapons that the regime launched, four Alawite villages would be attacked and the mujahideen would launch thousands of rockets in revenge for the crime – as the blood of Muslims is costly and not cheap.³⁶



Banner of al-Julani’s speech, “An Eye for an Eye”

- A video clip of a sermon by Dr. Sami al-ʿAridi, a senior member of the Al-Nusra Front, in honor of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan.³⁷ Al-ʿAridi praised jihad and the mujahideen, especially the Al-Nusra Front fighters. In addition, he quoted the Prophet Muhammad who said that one hour of jihad for Allah’s sake is better than 60 years of religious observance.



A scene from the video clip

- A video clip (No. 15) documenting a suicide attack that was carried out against a shabiha [armed militia operating for the Syrian regime] stronghold in Damascus. The video was published as part of a series titled, “Beginning of the End”.³⁸

³⁶ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁷ <http://jalnosra.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

- A video clip documenting the battles to liberate the Khan Al-'Asal village in Aleppo.³⁹
- Announcements (Nos. 368-381) in which the Al-Nusra Front took responsibility for various operations carried out against Syrian security forces. In Announcement No. 375, the Front declared a new wave of attacks against Alawite targets in Syria in response to Assad's chemical attacks on Syrian civilians. The Front also took responsibility for the execution of Sheikh Badr Ghazal, considered to be the mufti [Islamic scholar] of the Alawite Council in Latakia.⁴⁰ The sheikh himself, a senior member of the Alawite Council in Syria, was kidnapped from his home on August 5, 2013, tortured and later executed.

Abdullah ibn Muhammed, a prominent jihadist writer who serves as administrator of a Twitter account on strategic affairs and is often quoted on jihadist Web forums, justified Ghazal's execution claiming that Ghazal had issued a religious ruling permitting the killing of Sunni women and children. According to Ibn Muhammed, the execution served as implementation of the "eye for an eye" principle.⁴¹



A video clip excerpt in which Sheikh Badr Ghazal is seen in the hands of his captors

- During the second half of August 2013, the Al-Himam jihadist news agency, which tracks events in Syria, published the following:
 - A video clip (No. 15) documenting the aftermath of a mosque bombing in Adnan, Aleppo Province, by the Syrian Army.⁴²

³⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁰ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴¹ <https://twitter.com/SyriaaToday/status/371868153191866368/photo/1> (Arabic).

⁴² <http://jalnosra.com/vb> (Arabic).

- A video clip (No. 16) documenting the mujahideen distributing flour to the residents of eastern Daraa.⁴³
- A video clip (No. 17) documenting prayers at the Osama bin Zayd Mosque in Al-Bab, Aleppo Province.⁴⁴
- A video clip (No. 18) documenting a visit to one of the Al-Nusra Front's jihadist training camps, Al-Safira, in the Aleppo Province during the Eid Al-Fitr holiday.⁴⁵
- Jundallah, a Balochi-Sunni terrorist organization operating in Iran and in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, took responsibility for a joint operation that its members carried out along with the Fajr Al-Islam and Zayd Bin Thabat battalions in Syria, in which they fired rockets at supporters of the Assad regime. The organization promised to strike Assad with much greater force and liberate all areas under Alawite control.⁴⁶
- A visitor to the Al-Jihad Al-Alami jihadist Web forum posted an announcement in which he claimed that the crime committed in Al-Ghota Al-Sharqia, a suburb of Damascus where Assad reportedly used chemical weapons against rebels in the town, is prohibited both by shari'a [Islamic law] and by international law. The announcement stated that shari'a prohibits mass and indiscriminate killing that includes women and children, and that international law prohibits the use of chemical weapons as they belong to the category of unconventional weapons. It also stated that shari'a has clear rules regarding the use of force that Assad transgressed.⁴⁷
- A visitor to the Snam Al-Islam jihadist Web forum posted an announcement explaining that shari'a absolutely prohibits the use of weapons of mass destruction, such as the chemical weapons that Assad used. It is prohibited by shari'a because such weapons have an environmental impact for many years, which completely destroys the area that was attacked. Even for the sake of jihad, weapons of mass destruction may not be used.⁴⁸
- Ziad Al-Jarah battalions (named after one of the 9/11 hijackers) operating in the Abdullah Azzam Brigade, a Salafi-jihadist organization affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Lebanon-Syria area, published an announcement taking responsibility for shooting four rockets into Israel. The announcement stated that the organization had launched four 122 mm. Grad rockets a distance of 40 kilometers over the cities of Nahariya and Acre in occupied Palestine. The operation was partly an act of jihad against the Jews and

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

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

⁴⁵ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁶ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁷ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁸ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

partly an act in support of the blessed revolution in Syria, as well as a response to the clear and harsh military involvement by Hezbollah and Iran in the war in Syria. The announcement also claimed that a strategic alliance exists between Israel, Iran and Hezbollah in order to achieve shared interests in the region, and that Israel and Western countries came together to support Assad's regime and enable him to continue to carry out his crimes. The rockets were launched in order to make it clear to Israel and its allies that they must not get involved in events in Syria, as well as to show Israel that the mujahideen have long-distance rockets capable of reaching Haifa and other strategic targets. Photos of the rockets that were launched were also posted.⁴⁹



A photo of a rocket that was launched into Israel

The day after the rockets were launched into Israel there were two explosions at Sunni mosques frequented by Assad's opponents in Tripoli, Lebanon, where tensions are high between the Sunnis and the Alawites. Approximately 500 people were injured. In response, Sheikh Siraj al-Din Zariqat, a leader in the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, posted an angry letter on his Twitter account that was then posted on jihadist Web forums, blaming Hezbollah for the explosions and calling on Sunnis throughout Lebanon to arm themselves in order to defend themselves and their land from Hezbollah's aggression.⁵⁰

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

The clashes between the Egyptian Army and the Islamists in the Sinai Peninsula are getting worse. On August 17, 2013, six people were killed in clashes between army forces and supporters of deposed leader Muhammad Morsi in Al-Arish, and the identities of those killed is unclear.⁵¹ Clashes reached a new height on August 19, 2013, when gunmen ambushed two minibuses carrying Egyptian police officers in the Sinai Peninsula. They

⁴⁹ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁰ <https://twitter.com/SirajeddineZ>; <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (both in Arabic).

⁵¹ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=//2670627> (Hebrew).

stopped the buses, ordered the passengers to lie down on the ground and shot them to death. Twenty-five police officers, dressed in civilian clothes, were killed in the murderous attack.⁵² In response to the killing, Egyptian police closed the Rafah crossing.⁵³

Meanwhile, despite the fact that a significant number of the violent clashes between mujahideen and army forces took place along the border with the Gaza Strip, sometimes with the aid of people there, the Hamas government seems to be turning a blind eye to the events taking place and sometimes even provides shelter and hiding places to mujahideen who are wanted by the Egyptian government.⁵⁴

- "The Salafi-jihadists in the Sinai Peninsula" published an announcement titled, "Fight Them until Persecution is no more",⁵⁵ in which it bitterly criticized Egyptian security forces. It refers to the Egyptian police and military as mechanisms of occupation set up by French and British Crusaders, who sent out [French and British] spies throughout Egypt and appointed officials in positions of influence, then sold out Egypt to treacherous leaders. It also said that Egyptian security forces are guarantors for Western interests by maintaining a secular regime that is hostile to the religion of Allah, safeguarding the borders with the [State of the] Jews, continuing the blockade on the Muslims of the Gaza Strip and, most of all, sabotaging the establishment of an Islamic regime in Egypt based on shari'a.

In the framework of an official announcement, the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Sinai Peninsula addressed Egyptian soldiers and police officers, and asked them how they can claim to love Islam while [standing] in service to those who fight Islam day and night. The movement emphasized that Egyptian soldiers and police officers must desert those whom they are serving, and that Egyptian citizens must unite under one flag: the flag of Islam.⁵⁶

- During the second half of August 2013, the Al-Raya jihadist media institution of the Army of the Nation, a Salafi-jihadist organization in the Gaza Strip, published the following:
 - An opinion piece about the chemical attack that the Syrian regime carried out against the residents of Al-Ghota, near Damascus.⁵⁷ According to the organization, this criminal attack using "forbidden weapons" joined the long list of attacks against the Muslim Nation in Egypt, in Palestine, and elsewhere. In light

⁵² <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=/13/2671153> (Hebrew).

⁵³ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=/2671209> (Hebrew).

⁵⁴ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=/2672268> (Hebrew).

⁵⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁷ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- of this, the mujahideen must cling even more tightly to jihad and maintain unity among its ranks.
- A video clip titled, "Good Has Arrived", which documents the distribution of consumer goods and gifts from members of the organization to families of martyrs in honor of the Eid Al-Fitr holiday.⁵⁸
 - A visitor to the Palestinian jihadist Web forum Bait Al-Maqdis noted that the Salafi-jihadist organization operating in Rafah had established an aid organization to help needy people in Syria and Egypt. No further details were provided.⁵⁹
 - In a discussion that started between visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum, one user asked why Hamas and Islamic Jihad, terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip, did not acknowledge the murderous chemical attack on Sunnis in Syria; he wondered whether they were Sunni organizations or not. The writer went on to criticize these terrorist groups for being as "silent as graves" regarding the slaughter of Sunnis in Syria. In response, one visitor to the Web forum said angrily that it would be better for him to go and ask his leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, why he had not yet acknowledged the massacre, going so far as to call al-Zawahiri an "ally of the Shi'ites". A third visitor started to debate the second one and told him that the Al-Nusra Front takes part in every type of operation in their arenas of jihad, mainly suicide attacks, and emphasized that "al-Zawahiri does not [only] speak, he [also] acts!". Another visitor said that he did not doubt the right of the Sunni people to defend themselves but he asked if it was justifiable to kill people as they sit in their homes, even if they were Shi'ites. He then asked, "Is it permissible in our religion to blow up booby-trapped cars around women and children...just because they are loyal to Shi'ite parties and regimes?"
- The debate demonstrated that there is disagreement within the jihadist discourse between those who identify with global jihad and those loyal to local jihad movements (such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad) regarding their level of involvement in the war in Syria. In addition, it is clear that there is no unanimity concerning [the acceptability of] harming Shi'ite women and children.⁶⁰

⁵⁸ <http://vb.beit-almaqdes.net/showthread.php?p=2697> (Arabic).

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

⁶⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

The Maghreb [North Africa]

As a result of the deteriorating security situation in the Maghreb due to terrorist attacks, Tunisia plans to establish a military buffer zone along its border with Algeria and Libya.⁶¹ An expert who was interviewed on the subject expressed concern over the security situation in Jebel Chaambi, Tunisia, and in southern Libya in particular – a gathering place for jihadist groups that fled northern Mali. According to media reports, one such jihadist group is MUJAO, a Salafi-jihadist group affiliated with Al-Qaeda, members of which can even be found in Niger, Chad and Darfur.⁶²

During the second half of August 2013, Tunisia designated the Salafi-jihadist movement Ansar Al-Shari'a a terrorist organization with ties to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Experts revealed that the movement's sources of funding come from Arab states, including Yemen, Libya and Mali.⁶³

Even in Algeria and Morocco, security forces are investing a great deal of effort in defeating terrorism. In Morocco, for instance, a terrorist cell responsible for recruitment, with ties to Al-Qaeda in Syria,⁶⁴ was destroyed. In Bulgaria, security forces managed to thwart a number of terrorist attacks against government targets.⁶⁵ An expert discussing the security situation in Africa said that "after Afghanistan, the Sahel [region] still serves as an alternative support base for AQIM – which can strike at any moment."⁶⁶

Nevertheless, in light of the announced merger between the Salafi-jihadist groups, MUJAO and Brigade of the Veiled Ones, there are those who believe that the arena of terrorism in the Maghreb and the Sahel is losing ground. Experts consider the merger announcement to be the only course of organizational survival that remains for the mujahideen since they were banished from AQIM's leadership, including Mokhtar Belmokhtar. The situation is said to demonstrate just how deep the rift is among AQIM's leadership and its affiliates, and that "money and leadership are currently taking the place of ideological claims".⁶⁷

During the second half of August 2013, the security situation in Libya, which is barely coping with threats to its domestic stability,⁶⁸ became even more complex in light of

⁶¹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/30/feature-01 (English).

⁶² http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/08/16/reportage-01 (English).

⁶³ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/28/feature-01;
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/29/feature-02 (both in English).

⁶⁴ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/20/feature-01 (English).

⁶⁵ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/23/feature-02 (English).

⁶⁶ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/20/feature-01 (English).

⁶⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/08/30/reportage-01 (English).

⁶⁸ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/16/feature-02;
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/22/feature-03;

media reports about the growing presence of Al-Qaeda fighters with foreign citizenship on Libyan soil. A resident of the city of Derna expressed concern that one of the Islamist groups operating in his city is being led by Sufian al-Quma, who used to serve as Osama bin Laden's driver. Ever since a hit list was disseminated on extremist jihadist Web sites during the month of Ramadan, containing the names of different media figures and intellectuals in Libya, many well-known personalities have begun to fear for their lives.⁶⁹ A resident of Derna said that, in his opinion, the city had "fallen hostage to Al-Qaeda fighters".⁷⁰

Despite the serious security concerns, the country decided to open a third border crossing into Tunisia. The initiative was reinforced in light of the demand by citizens of both countries for support of trade and economic relations between them. Even though there are those who view the border crossing opening as an opportunity for economic improvement and better security (prevention of illegal migration and smuggling, etc.), others express their fear of "unresolvable security issues" in the area.⁷¹

The media has reported that African and European countries are operating with increasing cooperation against AQIM and other terrorist groups that threaten the stability of the Maghreb and the Sahel. A Senegalese journalist who was interviewed about the issue criticized the poor manner in which "several African countries" coped with Al-Qaeda's threat towards them in the past. He said that today the situation has changed and that "everyone is determined to confront them".⁷²

Meanwhile, Mauritania also signed a military cooperation agreement with Niger. The Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Bazoum, said that "Niger and Mauritania are two countries coping with the aftermath of the war in northern Mali – within their borders". A terrorism expert praised the joint efforts made by Niger and Mauritania to improve their security situations and said that they are fighting different types of organized crime, especially terrorism.⁷³

- The Muslim Africa blog, managed by AQIM, published a letter by Sheikh Abu Abdallah Othman, addressed to the people of Algeria, in which he said that they [the people of Algeria] have an important role in global jihad and that the spirit of jihad still exists

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/27/feature-01;

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/28/feature-02;

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/29/feature-03 (all in English).

⁶⁹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/26/feature-02 (English).

⁷⁰ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/16/feature-01;

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/22/feature-02 (both in English).

⁷¹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/23/feature-03 (English).

⁷² http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/30/feature-02 (English).

⁷³ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/21/feature-02;

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/20/feature-04 (both in English).

there; the Algerians helped in the wars in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Chechnya. The Algerian Nation endured great hardships and now the mujahideen there are trying to establish a government based on shari'a and to expel the dictators. The letter also said that when jihad was waged in Algeria, the heretical regime established the Salvation of Algeria to fight the Islamists and oppose religious law. The regime is interested in fighting jihad and behaves the same way the French and British imperialist occupiers behaved. The way to get out of the current terrible situation is by teaching Islamic values and jihad. In addition, all jihad supporters must unite and fight together as one entity.⁷⁴

- The religious council of the Libyan Salafi-jihadist movement, Ansar Al-Shari'a, published a position paper, which stated that the events happening today in several countries, including Libya, Egypt and Tunisia, constitute a struggle between the secular movement and Islam. In addition, it criticized the regimes in these countries, especially Egypt, for not only tarnishing the image of Islam and Muslims, but also for crossing the line by allowing bloodshed while ignoring [the values of] religion and law. It also criticized the religious sages, most of whom did not admonish the regimes' crimes against Islam at a time "when we hear condemnation of those fighting the Zionist enemy in the Sinai Peninsula".

Another important issue raised in the position paper concerned Ansar Al-Shari'a's negative attitude towards the democracy that it explicitly sought to abandon. It explained that the [group's] entry into "the democratic game" under the pretext of applying shari'a was a lie because even though the Arab countries agreed to make concessions to the West and the United States in order to gain power – "you achieved power but did not implement shari'a as you said you would".

The position paper signed off with a call to the Muslim nation, and to the people of Al-Sham in particular, not to follow the "ugly" calls for reform that capitulate to the international community and the West, and that cling to democracy as the path towards reform. Instead, it called on the nation to renounce and abandon democracy, claiming "that you have already seen the humiliation and disgrace that democracy has brought to you in Egypt and other countries..."⁷⁵

- Visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum expressed delight at the merger of two Salafi-jihadist groups operating in the Maghreb - The Signed-in-Blood Battalion and the Tawhid wal Jihad Group. The groups announced their merger under a new name, Al-Murabitun,

⁷⁴ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

and explained that their former leaders?, Mukhtar Belmukhtar and Ahmd Ould 'A'mer, respectively, had given up their positions and transferred leadership of the new organization to a person whose identity had not yet been revealed.

The organization emphasized that it shared a common ideology with Al-Qaeda, led by Ayman al-Zawahiri, and with the Taliban, led by Mullah Omar. It called on all jihadist movements to join forces on several issues, including blaming the "secular forces" for opposing anything "Islamic", as happened in Egypt; liberating holy sites – especially Jerusalem; uniting around shari'a; and ending disputes.

Al-Murabitun explicitly threatened anyone who shows hostility towards Muslims on their land in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan and northern Mali. In addition, the organization threatened to harm the interests and goals of the French everywhere as recompense for its involvement in the war in Mali.⁷⁶

Mali

On August 25, 2013, hundreds of young people took to the streets to protest the authorities' lack of response to the Malian mujahideen's return to the city of Gao in northern Mali. A teacher living in the city said that the residents' concerns are understandable especially in light of the merger between the two Salafi-jihadists groups, Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MOJWA) MUJAO and the Brigade of the Veiled One.⁷⁷ Other residents of Gao said that the mujahideen were returning to Mali now, dressed in civilian clothes and behaving freely "as if nothing had happened". The protesters threatened that "if the authorities do not act to stop the mujahideen within three days, we will physically attack them on our own". Another resident said with compassion that even though it is difficult to welcome the mujahideen with open arms, the country does not necessarily need to reject them, but rather should try to integrate them [into society].⁷⁸

In addition, the Touareg rebel tribe in the north continues to concern the government despite having reached an agreement in June in which both sides promised to fight terrorism together. During the second half of August 2013, a newspaper article was published that accused Al-Qaeda of previously exploiting the distress of young, unemployed Touareg people and recruiting them to the organization. An expert who was interviewed about the issue said that young people can be prevented from enlisting in the terrorist network by creating sources of income for them and he even suggested integrating them

⁷⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/25/feature-01 (English).

⁷⁸ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/28/feature-03 (English).

into Mali's security system (police force, army, etc.) so that they can contribute both to their livelihoods and to national security.⁷⁹ In another interview conducted with an expert on jihadist movements, it was said that even though the regional threat has shifted away from Mali, it is likely to return again in the future.⁸⁰

Egypt

Bloody clashes between the Egyptian Army and the Muslim Brotherhood continue to worsen. On August 16, 2013, thousands of Muslim Brotherhood supporters took to the streets, especially in Cairo, with calls "to take down the military regime". The protests quickly spiraled into violent clashes in which 50 Muslim Brotherhood supporters were killed after being shot by army helicopters.

As a result of the renewed violence, Muslim Brotherhood activists called for a week of protest throughout the country: "We call on the Egyptian Nation and on national [military] forces to hold demonstrations on a daily basis until the revolution [against the Morsi regime] ends."⁸¹ In light of the escalation, a new wave of arrests of Muslim Brotherhood supporters took place and over 1,000 people were arrested on suspicion of murder, attempted murder and terrorist attacks. The arrests peaked on August 22, 2013, with the arrest of Badi, the Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood. In addition, the Egyptian government began considering whether to outlaw the Muslim Brotherhood. It also suggested the promotion of a new law in Egypt that would prohibit the establishment of [political] parties on the basis of religion in an effort to curb the power of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Regarding the Salafi-jihadist movement in Egypt, Egyptian security forces arrested Sheikh Muhammad al-Zawahiri, leader of the group and brother of Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, at a checkpoint in Cairo for allegedly supporting the Muslim Brotherhood. In response, members of the movement announced that this move brought Egypt back to the pre-revolution Mubarak period, indicating that violence in Egypt will re-erupt. The day after Sheikh Muhammad al-Zawahiri's arrest, there was a terrorist attack at the Egyptian Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, in protest over the oppressive policies against Islamists in Egypt.⁸²

⁷⁹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/28/feature-04 (English).

⁸⁰ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/08/16/reportage-01 (English).

⁸¹ <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=/13/2670600> (Hebrew).

⁸² <http://www.alwafd.org/%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%88%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1/17-%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1/527909-%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B8%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%B1%D9%8A->

- A visitor to the Al-Jihad Al-Alami jihadist Web forum posted an article in which he criticized Sheikh Tal'at Zahran, a prominent Egyptian sheikh and lecturer at Alexandria University, who called on his followers to support [General] al-Sisi and fight the Muslim Brotherhood. In the article, the forum visitor claimed that Zahran's call was not legitimate since the Muslim Brotherhood, despite its mistakes, is part of the Muslim Nation and a supporter of shari'a as opposed to al-Sisi's secular regime. The call for persecution of the Muslim Brotherhood, as if it were a dangerous entity, was unacceptable since it was the heretical regime, and not the Brotherhood, that was trying to prevent Muslims from carrying out their religious duty.⁸³
- The jihadist Islamist news agency – Haqq - criticized the Egyptian daily newspapers *Al-Masri Al-Yawm* and *Al-Watan* for their biased reports against the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. The agency claimed that the newspapers were consciously trying to poison the Egyptians [against the Brotherhood].⁸⁴

A visitor to the Ushaq Al-Hur jihadist Web forum claimed that the Egyptian media was lying. As proof, he posted a number of fragmented photos, seemingly of Egyptian protesters portrayed in a negative light. The visitor added that he does "not think that there is a more fraudulent media than the media in Egypt".⁸⁵



"Beware! Remember that there are many....kinds of drugs..."

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum shared a news article that said that Egyptian and Iranian Shi'ites in the Al-Moqattam neighborhood, in the suburbs of Cairo, were celebrating muta'h [temporary weddings customary in the Shi'ite community] in

[%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B1%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%8A-%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%85%D8%A9](#) (Arabic).

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

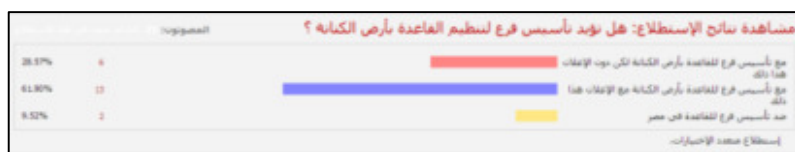
⁸⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁵ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb> (Arabic).

memory of Hassan Shehata, an Egyptian Shi'ite cleric, and his followers who were killed on religious grounds at the end of June 2013.

In response, the visitor called on the Egyptian people to strap on explosive belts and blow themselves up [in Al-Moqattam], in order to kill them "because they are a cancer that could spread". An Islamist group or an individual Muslim could take responsibility for the operation.⁸⁶

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted a questionnaire in which visitors were asked if Al-Qaeda should set up a branch in Egypt and, if so, if it should be done with a public announcement or not. As indicated in the following table:
 - Approximately 61.90% supported the establishment of a new branch with a public announcement.
 - Approximately 28.57% supported the establishment of a new branch without a public announcement.
 - 9.52% opposed the establishment of a new branch.⁸⁷



The survey results posted on the Hanein jihadist Web forum

- In a letter posted on the Hanein jihadist Web forum titled, "From the Egyptian People to Our Leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi" (leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham), the writers asked al-Baghdadi to provide them with military aid without explicitly saying how. They explained that Egypt was in the midst of a new battle over identity and belonging [to Islam], which completely contradicts the humanity of this world. In addition, they claimed that the Christians in Egypt were the ones who had declared war in order to eliminate Islam in Egypt and establish a Coptic Christian State. The letter signed off with another call for assistance from al-Baghdadi and the mujahideen in light of "this grave situation". In response, a visitor to the forum said that he did not think that al-Baghdadi would desert "our brothers in Egypt".⁸⁸

⁸⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <http://www.elwatannews.com/news/details/208595> (both in Arabic).

⁸⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

The Caucasus

- The Kavkaz Center Web site emphasized the effectiveness of the threats issued by Emir Doku Umarov [spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus] of future acts of jihad during the Winter Olympics in Sochi. The post discussed Umarov's call for jihad against those taking part in the Olympics, which scared the Russian government into appointing a new security system around the Olympics site in the form of a protective "ring" of land that no one will be able to enter without a special permit. Finally, the Web site already detailed all of the information in its possession regarding the security procedures at the Olympics site.⁸⁹

The Indian Subcontinent

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted a video that he claimed showed mujahideen in Burma. He noted that after hundreds of Muslims in Burma had been slaughtered, burned and killed, the time had come to renew mujahideen operations there.⁹⁰



Photo of mujahideen in Burma

Iran

- The jihadist media institution of the Ansar Iran movement, Al-Farooq, published an audio file titled, "Support Al-Sham" by Abu Hafs al-Balushi, leader of the movement.⁹¹ In the clip, al-Balushi discusses the terrorist attack that a member of the movement carried out against Iranian Revolutionary Guard forces on July 9, 2013, in the city of Chabahar. He explained that the movement chose this city as a terrorist target due to its economic-

⁸⁹ <http://www.kavkazcenter.com/russ/content/2013/08/22/100045.shtml> (Russian).

⁹⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb/>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNbGubuOU-o&feature=youtu.be> (both in Arabic).

⁹¹ <http://www.jhuf.net/showthread.php?18973-al-F%26%23257%3Br%26%23363%3Bq-%26%237716%3Barakat-An%26%237779%3B%26%23257%3Br-Iran%92s-Ab%26%23363%3B-%26%237716%3Baf%26%237779%3B-al-Bal%26%23363%3Bsh%26%23299%3B-%93Support-of-al-Sh%26%23257%3Bm%94-%26%231581%3B%26%231585%3B%26%231603%3B%26%231577%3B-%26%231571%3B%26%231606%3B%26%231589%3B%26%231575%3B%26%231585%3B-%26%231573%3B%26%231610%3B%26%231585%3B%26%231575%3B%26%231606%3B-%26%231606%3B-1589> (Arabic).

strategic importance to Iran and due to the presence of major military bases there. In addition, he criticized all of the Sunni religious clerics in Iran who condemned this attack and accused them of joining the Iranian regime.

Al-Balushi also expressed his support for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham and praised it for the release of Sunni prisoners from the Al-Taji and Abu Gharib Prisons in Iraq during July 2013. He further emphasized, in a deriding tone, that Israel and the United States were overcome with fear at the possibility of an attack on Iran and since that option will not be carried out, Ansar Iran must carry out its mission to fight the Iranian regime.



The audio file banner

The West

- A visitor to the 'Ushaq Al-Hur Al-Islamiya jihadist Web forum posted a news article that reported that the New York Police Department had installed cameras inside many mosques throughout the city due to its concern that mosques would be used as gathering centers for terrorist purposes, especially following the September 11 terrorist attacks. The hidden cameras were being used to track and catch those involved in terrorist activities. Police were also planting secret agents in the mosques themselves in order to catch terrorists by spying on the imams and recording their sermons "even without evidence pointing to terrorist or criminal activity" in the mosques.⁹²

Miscellaneous

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum shared a blatantly anti-Semitic post that claimed that even the late U.S. President, Benjamin Franklin, warned his nation about the Jews in 1789. The visitor quoted a forged document attributed to Franklin, in which he supposedly claimed that America was still under threat by the increasing number of

⁹² <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

Jews living in the country, who were described as – among other things – “the devils of hell, bats of the night and bloodsuckers of the nation”.⁹³



The forged, anti-Semitic document attributed to Benjamin Franklin

Facebook and Twitter

- The Al-Nusra Front in Syria announced the creation of its official Twitter account at <https://twitter.com/JbhtAnNusrah>, emphasized that it does not have an official Facebook page, and clarified that its official publications would be posted on three jihadist Web forums: Al-Fida, Shumukh Al-Islam, and Ansar Al-Mujahideen.⁹⁴



The official Twitter account of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria

- In an article posted on the Hanein jihadist Web forum by Wikalat Al-Anba' Al-Islamiya-Haq, a news agency with an Islamist agenda, it announced the creation of a new Facebook account since its previous one had been locked.⁹⁵
- A visitor to the 'Ushaq Al-Hur Al-Islamiya jihadist Web forum posted a video in which a masked group announced the establishment of the Egyptian secular movement, Harakat

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

⁹⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

Tamarud 'Ala' Al-Zulm Fi Gaza, which opposes the Hamas government. The movement also manages a popular Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/tamradgaza1>) with over 60,000 "likes". As a result of the success enjoyed by the movement following the fall of the Muslim Brotherhood, it now strives to topple the Hamas government and calls for a revolution against Hamas to begin on 11.11.13.⁹⁶



**Left: Masked members of Harakat Tamarud 'Ala' Al-Zulm Fi Gaza;
Right: The movement's Facebook page banner**

⁹⁶ <http://www.i7ur.com/vb>; <https://www.facebook.com/tamradgaza1>;
<http://www.i24news.tv/ar/%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1/middle-east/130820-%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%AF-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%BA%D8%B2%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%86-%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%85-11-%D9%86%D9%88%D9%81%D9%85%D8%A8%D8%B1-%D9%86%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AD%D9%83%D9%85-%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B3> (all in Arabic).