

Global Jihad: Summary of Information from Arabic Media Sources

The First Half of December 2010

This report summarizes the most prominent articles published in the Arabic media on the subject of global Jihad during the first half of December 2010.

Following is a summary of the main issues raised in this report:

- The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), which has ties to Al-Qaeda, increased its activity in central Asia.
- Dozens of senior Al-Qaeda operatives in Iraq were arrested.
- Information was published on Al-Qaeda in Yemen's modus operandi and the role foreigners play in the organization.
- Ongoing reports were issued regarding the internal struggle in Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.

Afghanistan – Pakistan

The Al-Qaeda leadership

- On December 1st, 2010, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper published a report which claimed that the American Forces had come close on several occasions to apprehending Ayman Al-Zawahiri. According to the report, in 2003 Al-Zawahiri met with Khaled Sheikh Muhammad, a senior Al-Qaeda member who was at the time under the surveillance of American Intelligence agents, in Peshawar. However, the U.S. agents did not have information on the precise location of Sheikh Muhammad at the time of the meeting and the Sheikh was only apprehended a day later.

In March of 2004, the American Intelligence again had the opportunity to apprehend Al-Zawahiri, and they gave the Pakistani authorities information on his whereabouts in one of the mountainous regions in South Waziristan. The Pakistani forces bombed the location. However, Al-Zawahiri managed to escape.¹

Afghanistan

- On December 1st, 2010, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that the terrorist attack carried out two days earlier at a training center in Pachir Wa Agam was perpetrated by an Afghan policeman who trained with the Western Forces. The attack killed six American NATO soldiers.²

¹ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, December 1st 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

² Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, December 1st 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

Pakistan

- On December 1st, 2010, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that six people, including two children, were killed in the northwest of Pakistan when a suicide bomber, arriving on foot, detonated himself close to a police car, which was near to a police station.³
- On December 7th, 2010, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that the Taliban-Pakistan movement had carried out a double terrorist attack the previous day. The double attack targeted the tribes loyal to the government in the Mehmand region, which is in northwest Pakistan. The attacks took place at the headquarters of the Mehmand Governor during a meeting of the tribal leaders. The meeting was meant to persuade the tribe heads to organize militias, that would be armed and trained under the Pakistan Army's supervision, to take part in the battle against the Taliban-Pakistan.

According to eye witnesses, the two suicide bombers arrived at the headquarters on a motorcycle. One of them detonated his explosive charge near the guards, while the other entered the headquarters with the goal of detonating himself near the meeting's participants, which numbered around 100. Approximately 40 people were killed in the attack.

Omar Khalid, the leader of the Taliban-Pakistan, immediately claimed responsibility for the double attack on behalf of his movement and promised that future attacks would be carried out against anyone collaborating with the Pakistani government and the Americans.

The article mentions that the terrorist attack took place following the publication by "Wikileaks" of documents showing the collaboration between Pakistan and the U.S. government in the War on Terrorism and the extent to

³ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, December 1st 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

which the Pakistani leadership has supplied Washington with intelligence to aid the American bombing campaigns.

The article further reports that the Mehmand region is one of the strongholds of the Taliban-Pakistan. The region has suffered over 420 terrorist attacks, most of them suicide attacks, which have resulted in the death of approximately 4,000 people over the course of the past three years.⁴

- On December 11th, 2010, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that 14 people were killed when a tractor driven by a suicide bomber exploded in the Hangu region in Pakistan. The suicide bomber had driven the tractor into a Shiite place of worship. Currently, there is a lot of friction between the Shiite and the Sunni in the region.⁵

Central Asia

- On December 14th, 2010, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper published an article on the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU). The article claims that the movement has returned to central Asia. According to the article, the IMU is no longer the small group of fighters it was in the past, whose goal was to bring down the Uzbek government and turn the country into an Islamic state. Its goals today are wider and more ambitious. The group is directly linked to the violence erupting in the Rasht Valley in east Tajikistan, and its name has frequently surfaced during investigations of terrorist activities against Europe. The article explains that there are signs that the movement is gaining momentum in central Asia and that it has settled in northern Afghanistan. At the beginning of the 21st century, the organization's fighters predominantly went to Afghanistan to join the Taliban in their struggle against the "Northern

⁴ Al-Hayat, December 7th 2010: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

⁵ Al-Hayat, December 11th 2010: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

Alliance". Most of the organization's fighters were killed in confrontations with the American Forces in November 2001; those who survived fled to northwest Pakistan. The movement then disappeared until February 2008 when it made headlines following an assassination attempt on a secular Afghan politician, which killed 25 people.

The movement has close ties with Al-Qaeda and has succeeded in drawing into its ranks activists from central Asia. The article quotes the journalist Ahmad Rashid, who claims that the "Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan" (IMU) has broken into several violent organizations, including the "Islamic Jihad Union" (IJU) and the "Taliban-Central Asia".

The "Islamic Jihad Union" was accused of carrying out a terrorist attack in Uzbekistan in May 2009. The organization has also been linked to attempted terrorist attacks in Europe similar to the Mumbai terrorist attack. The article claims that the "Islamic Jihad Union" is an extremely violent faction of the "Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan", recruiting volunteers from Turkish-speaking exiled communities. The movement carried out a terrorist attack in Tajikistan, killing 23 Tajikistani soldiers. When it later claimed responsibility for the attack, the group vowed to carry out more attacks if the Tajikistani president continued with his "policy loyal to Washington and hostile to Islam". In the same month, the "Ansar Allah" organization, which Tajikistani authorities claim is another branch of the IMU, carried out a terrorist attack by detonating a car bomb near a police station. One policeman was killed and three others injured in the attack.

The article contends that many from central Asian countries have joined the movement to fight alongside the Taliban-Pakistan and the Haqqani Network. The arrival of fighters from central Asia on Pakistani soil has become a source

of tension between Pakistan and the central Asia countries. Farthatullah Babar, the Press Secretary and Spokesperson for the Pakistani President, claimed that drug trafficking "is the movement's financing source. We believe that the drug trafficking should be stopped and the Border Control Administration improved, so as to limit the infiltration of fighters". Barbar also stated that the weakness and poverty of the central Asian countries has contributed to the threat posed by the "the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan".⁶

Iraq

- On December 5th, 2010, the "Al-Sabah" Iraqi newspaper reported that the Iraqi Minister of Interior, Jawad Al-Bulani, had announced the arrest of 39 prominent Al-Qaeda leaders in what is known as the "Al-Anbar Province" of the "Islamic State of Iraq". In the announcement, Al-Bulani explained that the arrests took place over the course of five weeks and were carried out in coordination with the local government and security forces in Al-Anbar, as well as with the leaders of the "Awakening Councils", who aided in the arrests. Al-Bulani further stated that, according to confessions made by those arrested, the organization has failed in recruiting non-Iraqi activists due to the security forces' restriction on the organization's activities.

The "Al-Sabah" newspaper also reported comments made by General Diah Hussain Sahi, the director of the War on Terrorism and Organized Crime Department at the Iraqi Ministry of Interior. Sahi said that the "Islamic State of Iraq" in Al-Anbar is the organization that is providing the most support to those carrying out terrorist attacks in Baghdad. According to Sahi, the group's

⁶ Al-Hayat, December 14th 2010: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

goal is to bring back the shaky state of security that existed in 2006. To combat this, the security forces have, over the past three months, formed special units to raid the strongholds and hiding places of the "Islamic State of Iraq" operatives in the suburbs of Baghdad, Mosul, and Salah Al-Din. 22 senior figures have been arrested, including emirs and ministers of the organization. The special units have also apprehended documents revealing that the organization's former leader, Abu Ayyub Al-Masri, who was killed in April 2010, had called on the organization's members to support the governor of the "Islamic State of Iraq" in carrying out terrorist attacks in Baghdad.

Sahi added that amongst those arrested were the organization's Minister of War, Hazim Khalil Al-Zawi, his deputy, Ibrahim Shallal Al-Zawbi, who was in charge of the suicide bombers, and the organization's religious leader, Ahmad Husain Ali Al-Isawi. Ali Salih Abd Al-Razzaq, the Minister of Communications of the "Islamic State of Iraq", and the Fallujah Amir were also arrested.

Furthermore, ten days prior to the article's publication, the leader of the "Islamic State of Iraq", Ibrahim Awwad Ibrahim Al-Samerra'i – Abu Du'aa, also known as Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, was also arrested, along with the Minister of War, Uthman Salman Mansur, and the organization's religious leader in the Al-Anbar Province, Ahmad Husain Ali Ahmad Al-Isawi. Al-Isawi is renowned for killing many of his own relatives and for employing car bombs when attempting to kill tribal sheikhs, heads of the "Awakening Councils", and police.

The organization's administrative manager, Ali Salih Muhammad, was arrested, as was the propaganda manager, Abd Al-Razzaq Hamid Salih, who was previously in charge of photographing terrorist attacks and uploading them to the Internet. The list of arrested activists also included Ali Farih Hilal,

who was in charge of the detainees – responsible for retaining lawyers and paying to reduce the detainees' sentences or to get them released – and Sabah Jasim Jamih, in charge of the Fallujah region.⁷

- The Arab press continued to report on the civilian and security force casualties resulting from various terrorist attacks that occurred in the first half of December 2010. These attacks included shootings and the detonation of car bombs and explosive devices. There were also reports on the arrest of operatives in response to these attacks.⁸ One attack that received a lot of media attention was the detonation of a car bomb at a check point near the local government building in the Al-Anbar Province, killing 13 people. In an article dated December 13th, 2010, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper quoted witnesses who said that the detonation occurred where people wait in line to enter the regional government building.⁹ The "Al-Sabah" newspaper reported that amongst the casualties were seven policemen. The newspaper also reported that one of the members of the Al-Anbar Province Council has accused Al-Qaeda of perpetrating the attack in retaliation for the arrest of the organization's leaders in the province.¹⁰
- On December 2nd, 2010, the "Al-Sabah" Iraqi newspaper reported that the Iraqi security forces succeeded in preventing an attack on the Adnan Palace in Baghdad, which was being planned for the second day of Eid Al-Adha. The Baghdad Operations Command (BOC) is located in the Adnan Palace, as are the residences of the Ministers of Interior and Finance.

The would-be perpetrators were apprehended and found to be in possession of 13 explosives belts. The article further reported that several of the

⁷ Al-Sabah, December 5th 2010: <http://www.alsabaah.com>

⁸ Al-Sabah, December 13th 2010: <http://www.alsabaah.com>

⁹ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, December 13th 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

¹⁰ Al-Sabah, December 13th 2010: <http://www.alsabaah.com>; Al-Hayat, December 6th 2010: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

terrorists who participated in the attack at the Our Lady of Salvation Church at the end of October 2010 had been carrying fake identity cards and were not even of Iraqi origin.¹¹

- On December 5th and December 8th, 2010, the "Al-Sabah" newspaper published articles regarding several terrorist attacks, including an attack on Iranian officers. The articles also reported on a wave of arrests of dozens of wanted men, including seven emirs belonging to Al-Qaeda and to the "Islamic State of Iraq" organization.¹²
- On December 6th, 2010, the "Awsat Al-Iraq" website reported that three family members were killed and four wounded after an explosion at the home of one of the members of the "Awakening Councils" in Ba'aquba. According to the DPA Agency's reports, armed men from Al-Qaeda blew up the home with a number of explosives charges.¹³
- On December 9th, 2010, the "Al-Sabah" newspaper reported that the Iraqi Ministry of Defense spokesperson had issued a statement declaring that the Army Forces had succeeded in uncovering what he called Al-Qaeda's largest website – the "Al-Furqan" website – and had taken over its equipment. In his statement, the spokesperson explained that this website published Al-Qaeda manifestos and articles on the attacks carried out by the organization. The spokesperson further stated that the organization was using the website to garner support and legitimacy for the crimes it carries out under the guise of religion. He reported that operatives with non-Arab citizenship (non-Iraqi) ran

¹¹ Al-Sabah, December 2nd 2010: <http://www.alsabaah.com>

¹² Al-Sabah, December 5th 2010: <http://www.alsabaah.com>; December 8th 2010: <http://www.alsabaah.com>

¹³ The Awsat Al-Iraq website, December 6th 2010: <http://ar.aswataliraq.info>

the website, which served as the organization's "Ministry of Propaganda", not only in Iraq.¹⁴

The statement issued by the Ministry of Defense spokesperson further detailed that, during the raid, technical equipment, computers and documents were apprehended, some of them fake, in addition to coded signals and secret numbers being used by the organization. The spokesperson added that several of the apprehended documents confirmed the organization was responsible for the series of terrorist attacks known as "Ghazwat Al-Asir", which were carried out in retaliation for the arrest of an Al-Qaeda operative, Manaf Al-Rawi.

Furthermore, it was revealed that the man heading the Al-Furqan website was a Saudi Arabian named Abd Al-Aziz Atik Salih Al-Atik. Al-Atik was killed while trying to resist the forces during the raid, which took place on November 19th, 2010. According to the spokesperson, 12 people operated under Al-Atik. These operatives were responsible for various things ranging from military activities to manufacturing explosives charges and car bombs to contacting the "Al-Naqshabandia" organization and sheltering terrorists. The article lists these operatives' names.

- The Iraqi Ministry of Defense spokesperson issued a statement that the security forces had disbanded a terrorist headquarters in Mosul. Three terrorists were killed during the operation, while the other two were captured. It has been reported that the location was an advanced weapons manufacturing factory where explosives charges, explosives belts, hand grenades, car bombs, and guns with silencers could be made and then

¹⁴ Al-Sabah, December 9th 2010: <http://www.alsabaah.com>

transported between the organization's various cells. The spokesperson gave the names of those killed, which included a Saudi Arabian and a Jordanian.

It was further reported that most of the terrorist organization's operatives that were caught had been arrested on more than one occasion in the past by the American forces but had been released due to lack of evidence. At the press conference where this information was disclosed, it was also revealed that Abd Al-Salam Ahmad Abd Al-Salam, the cell's commander who is of Moroccan citizenship, confessed to coming to Iraq and participating in the organization's activities in Al-Tarmia. He had been apprehended by the American forces and released after seven years; he was later appointed as cell commander.

It was further revealed that Abd Al-Salam had assistants from Palestine, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. Moreover, he received help from the cell in charge of financing, which was comprised of Dhanun Mahmud Dhanun Ahmad, Ahmad Fathi Mahmud and Hamid Ali Abdullah, all Iraqis who worked at gas stations collecting money and protection charges, funds which in turn financed the terrorist organization.

The spokesperson added that the senior leaders of the organization congregate mainly in Mosul and less in Diyala, while the arena where most of the terrorist attacks occur is Baghdad. According to the spokesperson, the security forces have succeeded in dismantling this network, which was spread across several provinces. He further added that cooperation and synchronized activities exist between Baghdad, Diyala, Ninawa and Al-Anbar in an effort to reinforce the security system and to ensure proper exchange of information so as to eliminate what is left of the organization.¹⁵

¹⁵ Al-Sabah, December 11th 2010: <http://www.alsabaah.com>

- On December 14th, 2010, the "Al-Sabah" newspaper reported that, at a press conference held the previous day, the Iraqi Minister of Interior, Jawad Al-Bulani, gave a statement declaring that the security forces had succeeded in apprehending 34 Al-Qaeda operatives who were active in what is known as the "Northern Iraq Province" of the "Islamic State of Iraq" organization; this includes the provinces of Ninawa, Kirkik, and Salah Al-Din.

Investigations revealed that Mosul served as the network's stronghold, from which they financed the operations of the "Islamic State of Iraq", provided logistical support for the terrorist attacks, and supplied suicide bombers. The group perpetrated several terrorist attacks, including bombing of military bases with missiles and mortars, detonating car bombs and explosive charges, and carrying out assassinations, kidnappings, robberies and ethnic-based killings.

The Minister of Interior declared that the organization is now in crisis as a result of the security forces' activities. He stated that the Ministry of Interior will soon reveal another group of people accused of recruiting terrorist operatives in the North African states. He further stated that the operation was carried out thanks to the collaboration of the Intelligence, security services, Ministry of Interior and defense forces. The Minister of Interior detailed the stages of the group's apprehension and stated that the most important document the authorities obtained was instructions given by Abu Umar Al-Baghdadi to the "Islamic State of Iraq's" Al-Anbar Governor, Numan Salman, and to the Mosul Governor. In the document, Al-Baghdadi instructs the two governors to send suicide bombers, fighters and weapons to the organization's Baghdad Governor, Manaf Al-Rawi, in an effort to increase terrorist attacks there, as Baghdad is the primary fighting arena according to

Al-Qaeda's strategy, which directs 80% of its income to financing terrorist attacks in Baghdad.

According to the Minister of Interior, after analyzing the information in the letter, most of the organization's leaders were apprehended. Meetings between Abu Du'aa, one of the organization's leaders in Al-Anbar, and the Mosul Governor were photographed and the Security Forces were able to apprehend the governor upon his return from Baghdad.¹⁶

The Arabian Peninsula

Yemen

- On December 4th, 2010, the "26 September" Yemen newspaper reported that five Al-Qaeda operatives in the Abyan province had turned themselves in to the province's governor.¹⁷
- On December 5th, 2010, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that the Yemen Foreign Minister, Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, shirked responsibility, on behalf of his country, for Al-Qaeda's activity in Yemen. According to the Foreign Minister, Yemen has a small annual budget, which does not exceed seven billion dollars, similar in scale to that of an American university, and therefore has no responsibility in the War on Terrorism.¹⁸

On the other hand, in a declaration published in the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper on December 8th, 2010, Prince Naif bin Abd Al-Aziz, the second deputy to the Saudi Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, said that all of the GCC countries stand behind Yemen, which is facing increased Al-Qaeda activities, due to the danger these activities pose to Yemen's neighboring

¹⁶ Al-Sabah, December 14th 2010: <http://www.alsabaah.com>

¹⁷ 26 September, December 4th 2010: <http://www.26sep.net>

¹⁸ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, December 5th 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

countries. The prince further stated that Saudi Arabia will not hesitate to financially support Yemen.¹⁹

- The Arab media reported the death of Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi, the Houthi spiritual leader. Al-Houthi was killed in a terrorist attack carried out at the end of November 2010 during a Houthi religious ceremony.²⁰ Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attack, and, in a manifesto, denied the Houthis' claims that their leader had died of asthma.²¹
- On December 4th, 2010, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that, according to knowledgeable sources, Al-Qaeda's Yemen branch has built three guesthouses in three different provinces in Yemen, to receive operatives recruited from Saudi Arabia or from within Yemen. The sources said that the operatives from Saudi Arabia, after being recruited by sleeper cells, are received in apartments in the Marib, Al-Jawf and Shabwa provinces by the Al-Qaeda leaders in Yemen. According to the article, the Shabwa Province in Yemen has the largest Al-Qaeda presence, as it is very easy to move around there. The sources further revealed that one apartment was allocated to Saudis while the other two were for recruits from Yemen, due to the increase in their number in comparison to those from Saudi Arabia. Moreover, coordination for transporting Saudis across the border is done by 'mercenaries' who do not belong to Al-Qaeda, and who deal in drug trafficking and the smuggling of weapons and food. According to the sources, it costs 500 riyals to transport one person across the border.

¹⁹ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, December 8th 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

²⁰ On this matter, see:

http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Arab_Media_Sources_November_2010_2.pdf, pages 11-12.

²¹ Al-Hayat, December 4th 2010: <http://ksa.daralhayat.com>; the Al-Jazeera network, December 4th 2010: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

When the Saudi recruits first arrive in Yemen, they are not allowed to come into contact with the Yemen residents or with other operatives. They receive basic provisions and must do nothing, including not leaving the apartment. They are placed under heavy guard at the apartment they are assigned to out of fear that they will be attacked or will escape. Then, without informing them on where they are being taken, Al-Qaeda operatives transfer the Saudi recruits to mountainous areas, where they receive high-level training and prepare to return to Saudi Arabia to attack specific targets, after which they will once again return to Yemen.²²

Saudi Arabia

- On December 1st, 2010, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper published an interview with Muhammad Al-Awfi, a former senior Al-Qaeda member in Yemen of Saudi Arabian origin who was known as "Abu Al-Harith", who turned himself over to the Saudi authorities after being released from Guantanamo prison and escaping to Yemen. The interview had been conducted on Saudi TV.

In the interview, Al-Awfi said that Al-Qaeda in Yemen has operatives from many ethnic and political groups and movements in the region. According to him, certain countries in the region exploit the devotion and religious zeal of the Saudi citizens in order to push them to go to areas of conflict and carry out terrorist attacks, operating for the interest of these same countries supporting Al-Qaeda, alluding to Iran.

Al-Awfi explained that the average age of the Saudi Al-Qaeda operatives who leave for Yemen and Afghanistan is between 20 and 30 years old. The

²² Al-Hayat, December 4th 2010: <http://ksa.daralhayat.com>

religious zeal of these young Saudis is harnessed to indoctrinate them, but, as they have no basis or knowledge of Jihad traditions, their religious fervor is exploited and they receive injudicious religious guidance. Al-Awfi also revealed that the orders to carry out terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia and Yemen are coming "from the outside".

Furthermore, Al-Awfi discussed the Saudi Al-Qaeda leaders, claiming that they are used as a media front and that the true leadership is not Saudi. This is done because Al-Qaeda wishes to send the Saudi rulers the message that "your sons are the ones fighting you"; it is also done to attract Saudis to areas of conflict and to help in the fundraising effort. He added that the Saudi role in the Al-Qaeda leadership ended after the Jihad in Chechnya.

Al-Awfi claimed that Al-Qaeda operatives do not know who is directing them. He explained that the operatives are taken to secluded locations to await their orders. They do not know who gives them these orders; they do not know that it is Al-Qaeda's Intelligence services and that they have no choice in the manner in which they must execute such orders, whether it be suicide bombing or any other mission. The orders are also given without any background or religious rules. Al-Awfi criticized the conduct of Said Al-Shihri, a Saudi Al-Qaeda leader in Yemen who recorded a tape in which he boasted of the actions of Haila Al-Qusair, a female Al-Qaeda operative who had been apprehended.²³ According to Al-Awfi, Al-Quasir is innocent and the Saudi state was protecting her. He argued that Al-Shihri behaved improperly when he publicly claimed she is responsible for corruption, kidnapping and murder.

²³ See on this matter:

http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Arab_Media_Sources_November_2010_2.pdf, pages 16-17.

He called to Al-Shihri to be God-fearing and understand that he is not a leader, but rather is being led by countries wishing to harm Saudi Arabia.²⁴

- On December 4th, 2010, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper published new details regarding the 19 Al-Qaeda cells recently uncovered in Saudi Arabia.²⁵ According to the publication, the 19 cells were comprised of 124 Saudis and 25 foreigners. The foreign operatives served as links and coordinators with Al-Qaeda and its various branches.

The article revealed that Al-Qaeda used the floods in Pakistan as a platform for raising funds and support for the organization and its activity. The foreign Al-Qaeda activists were part of sleeper cells which raised funds under the guise of charity work for helping the weak, the poor, and women and children in places of conflict and natural disaster. The publication also revealed that the foreign operatives did not take part in the actual execution of attacks, apparently because the organization feared that they would be exposed.

According to the article, 11 of the 19 cells apprehended had foreign operatives. The article details the exact number of foreigners in each of these 11 cells and the role the cell as a whole played:

Cell no. 2: comprised of three foreigners and three Saudi operatives. Its role was to facilitate the travel of recruits to areas of conflict.

Cell no. 3: comprised of one foreigner (who is believed to have been the cell commander) and seven Saudi members. Its role was to spread the organization's ideas and to finance its activities.

Cell no. 9: comprised of 14 operatives including one foreigner, who is believed to have been the cell commander. Its role was to recruit new

²⁴ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, December 1st 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

²⁵ See on this matter:

http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Arab_Media_Sources_November_2010_2.pdf, pages 13-17.

operatives, to coordinate and facilitate the travel of recruits, to spread Al-Qaeda's ideas and to finance the organization's activities.

Cell no. 10: comprised of one Saudi operative and one foreigner. Its role was to carry out a terrorist attack against "protégés" (foreigners residing in Saudi Arabia).

Cell no. 11: comprised of four foreigners and one Saudi. Its role was to finance Al-Qaeda's activities.

Cell no. 12: comprised of six operatives, one of which was a foreigner. Its role was to act as a direct link with Al-Qaeda.

Cell no. 14: comprised of six Saudi operatives and one foreigner. Its role was to prepare and execute a terrorist attack against "protégés".

Cell no. 15: comprised of 21 operatives, three of which were foreigners. Its role was to recruit and coordinate the travel of new operatives, finance Al-Qaeda's activities, and act as a link with the organization.

Cell no. 16: comprised of 13 operatives, three of which were foreigners. Its role was to recruit new operatives and train them in the use explosives, to coordinate the travel of recruits to training locations in unstable regions, and to finance the organization's activities.

Cell no. 18: comprised of six operatives, two of which were foreigners. The cell planned assassinations, coordinated the travel of recruits to unstable regions and financed the organization's activities.

Cell no. 19: comprised of three foreigners and one Saudi. Its roles included coordinating the travel of recruits to unstable regions, financing the organization, training recruits in the use of weapons, manufacturing hand grenades and carrying out attacks on government buildings.²⁶

²⁶ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, December 4th 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

The Maghreb

The Maghreb – general

- On December 8th, 2010, the “Al-Hayat” newspaper published an article on the U.S.' relations with the North Africa countries following the war with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and prior to the “Wikileaks” publications. According to the “Wikileaks” documents, regarding the negotiations for the release of abductees, Washington does not trust the mediators from Mali belonging to the “Tawariq” Tribes, as they sometimes are double agents who enjoy the protection of senior Mali officials. The documents also reveal the Algerians' dissatisfaction with Mali's conduct in the War on Terrorism. The Algerian ambassador in Mali even intimated that it is possible senior Mali officials are profiting from the kidnapping of Westerners. Moreover, according to the documents, the Algerian ambassador said that, in many cases, the Al-Qaeda operatives in northern Mali have prior knowledge of the military activity the Mali Army is planning against them.²⁷

Algeria

- On December 1st, 2010, the “Al-Khabar” Algerian newspaper published an article in which it was claimed that Droukdal's last media appearance, where he exploited the kidnapping of the French citizens, was carried out in Mali without him having any real connection to the kidnapping or to the negotiations for their release. According to the article, this demonstrates Droukdal's inferior position as well as the disconnect that exists between him and Abu Zayd.

²⁷ Al-Hayat, December 8th 2010: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

The article suggests that even supporters of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb view this as an attempt by Droukdal to exploit the kidnappings, which were carried out by a cell in the Sahil region, led by Abu Zayd, despite the fact that there is no coordination or connection between the two. Sarkozy's declaration that the French will not succumb to Droukdal's demands shows that the French Intelligence understands that the fate of the abductees is not in Droukdal's or bin-Laden's hands, and that negotiations should be conducted only with Abu Zayd.

It was further written that, recently, ties between Abu Zayd and Belmokhtar are warming. Belmokhtar is slowly taking the reigns from Droukdal. The disconnect between Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb's Northern Emirate, led by Droukdal, and its counterpart in the southern strongholds is increasing, especially in light of Droukdal's attempt to exploit the abduction without the Sahara Emirate's knowledge, and in light of Belmokhtar's return as head of the Sahara Emirate, which poses a threat to the Northern Emirate due to the many past conflicts and disagreements between Belmokhtar and Droukdal.²⁸

On December 7th, 2010, the newspaper reported that a split between the Northern and the Southern Emirates is nearing. Such a split would result in an independent emirate under Abu Zayd and Belmokhtar. In order to prevent such a division, Droukdal has sent people loyal to him to the Sahil Brigades, to create balance.²⁹

- On December 13th, 2010, the "Al-Khabar" newspaper reported that 11 of Abu Zayd's men are facing legal proceedings for carrying out Abu Zayd's orders to

²⁸ Al-Khabar, December 1st 2010: <http://www.elkhabar.com>

²⁹ Al-Khabar, December 7th 2010: <http://www.elkhabar.com>

attack military installations in the Sahara and to attack foreign oil companies and kidnap their employees.³⁰

- On December 15th, 2010, the "Al-Shuruk" Algerian newspaper reported that 9,000 Algerian soldiers, 2,000 of which were from the reserve units, laid siege to the forces of Abdelmalek Droukdal, also known as Abu Musab Abd Al-Wadud, in the Sidi Ali Bounab Forests. According to the report, the leadership of the Salafi Group for Da'awa and Fighting arrived in the area for a meeting a week after the military operation began. The operation commenced with 5,000 soldiers, and, two days into the fighting, 2,000 additional soldiers were brought in. Special Forces also participated in the operation for fighting terrorism and paratroopers. Telephone lines and networks in the area were cut off to prevent the terrorists from contacting each other. During the operation, close to 20 terrorists were killed.³¹ On December 13th, the "Al-Fajr" Algerian newspaper reported that, in the course of the operation, DNA samples were collected from Droukdal's family and from another senior member called Abd Al-Qahar, so that it would be known if the two were amongst the casualties.³²
- On December 9th, 2010, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that the Algerian authorities, fearing Al-Qaeda's efforts to kidnap western tourists, have limited tourists' movements in the country. Senior sources told "Al-Hayat" that the decision is purely security motivated. The decision was made following reports on an attempt made by Al-Qaeda to kidnap tourists in Algeria.³³

³⁰ Al-Khabar, December 13th 2010: <http://www.elkhabar.com>

³¹ Al-Shuruk, December 15th 2010: <http://www.echoroukonline.com>

³² Al-Fajr, December 13th 2010: <http://www.al-fajr.com>

³³ Al-Hayat, December 9th 2010: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

- On December 3rd, 2010, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that Algeria pardoned 30 members of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb as part of its national peace initiative.³⁴

Mauritania

- On December 1st, 2010, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb has denied reports claiming that, in the previous month, operatives from Mauritania escaped from the organization's bases in northern Mali.³⁵

Mali

- On December 14th, 2010, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that, in collaboration with the Sahil states, Mali has succeeded in dismantling a large drug trafficking network that was smuggling drugs from South America to Europe, via the Sahil, Sahara and northern Africa regions. Two military operations were conducted, one in southern Mauritania and one in northern Mali.³⁶ Already on December 9th, the Mauritanian press was quoting a French news agency who reported that one of those arrested was Sultan Ould Bady, an operative with close ties to Al-Qaeda who was responsible for abducting several Europeans and selling them to Al-Qaeda.³⁷

³⁴ Al-Hayat, December 3rd 2010: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

³⁵ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, December 1st 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

³⁶ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, December 14th 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

³⁷ Al-Khabar, December 9th 2010: <http://elkhebar.info>

Africa

Somalia

- On December 3rd, 2010, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that a force of 1,050 people will be established in the Puntland region of northern Somalia. The Puntland region is a somewhat autonomous region where it is believed there is oil. The objective of the force will be to fight pirates. It is not known who provided the millions of dollars necessary to finance this force or what is its final objective.³⁸
- On December 8th, 2010, the "Al-Jazeera" network website reported that the Somali Forces loyal to the government have promised to expand their control. The Deputy Commander of the Armed Somali Forces said that the government has promised to pay the soldiers their salaries, unlike in the past. In addition, the Somali Prime Minister, Muhammad Abdullah Farmajo, called on the opposition fighters to stop fighting the government. He described the war in Somalia as one waged between the Somali nation and an outside enemy and not a civil war between tribes. On the other hand, the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" spokesperson, Abd Al-Aziz Abu Musab, said that "these senior officials are a product of the United States where they have spent many years". It was further reported that, during the fighting in Mogadishu between the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" and the Somali government and African Union Forces, 19 civilians were killed.³⁹
- On December 15th, 2010, the "Al-Jazeera" network website reported that, the day before, fighting in southern Mogadishu resumed between the Somali government and African Union Forces and the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen". According to the website, the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" is using RPG

³⁸ Al-Hayat, December 3rd 2010: <http://www.daralhayat.com>

³⁹ The Al-Jazeera network website, December 8th 2010: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

mortars and assault rifles. It was further reported that "Al-Shabab" fighters attacked African Union posts in the Makka Al-Mukarramah Street, which connects the Presidential Palace and the Mogadishu airport and constitutes a main traffic artery for senior government members and African Union Forces. The website quoted the "Al-Shabab" spokesperson, Abd Al-Aziz Abu Musab, who said that the "Al-Shabab" forces succeeded in killing eight soldiers and in taking over an area which was serving as a defensive post for the African Union Forces.⁴⁰

The West and the rest of the world

- On December 7th, 2010, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper quoted the American "Daily News" newspaper which reported that, according to the Jihadi online forums, a doctor came up with the idea of surgically implanting explosives in the bodies of suicide bombers to hide them from the scanners used in Western airports. According to the newspaper, the doctor called to other doctors and explosives manufacturers to reach "an ideal solution so as to kill as many heretics as possible". The article further reported that one of participants in the forum's discussion on the subject said that the bomb should be implanted near the body's surface, as the human body absorbs shock.⁴¹

The United States

- On December 15th, 2010, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that a man of Afghan origin called Awais Younis was arrested in Virginia, charged with threatening on 'Facebook' to carry out a terrorist attack on the

⁴⁰ The Al-Jazeera network website, December 15th 2010: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

⁴¹ Al-Hayat, December 7th 2010: <http://ksa.daralhayat.com>

Washington subway and with describing to another person how to manufacture pipe bombs and what shrapnel to use for maximum damage.⁴²

⁴² Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, December 15th 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>