

## Global Jihad: Summary of Information from Arabic Media Sources

### The Second Half of November 2010

This report summarizes the most prominent articles related to the subject of global Jihad that have been published in the media in Arabic during the second half of November 2010. Following are the main issues touched upon in this report:

- The Arab media analyzes Al-Qaeda's new strategy – an economic war of attrition – following the affair of the explosive packages and the publication of a new issue of "Inspire", the English Jihadi magazine.
- Following the exposure of 19 terrorist cells in Saudi Arabia, the Arab media discusses the modus operandi of Al-Qaeda in Yemen and the role that women play in Al-Qaeda.
- Contradicting assessments regarding Al-Qaeda's involvement follow terrorist attacks against the Houthis in northern Yemen.
- The Arab media discusses the connection between crime and the financing of Al-Qaeda's terrorist activities in the Islamic Maghreb.

## Afghanistan – Pakistan

### Al-Qaeda's leadership

- In light of the recent reports on the release of Said Al-Adel,<sup>1</sup> a senior Al-Qaeda activist who was being detained in Iran, on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 the Saudi "Al-Riyadh" newspaper published a summary of his biography. Saif Al-Adel, whose real name is Muhammad Makkawi, was an officer in the Egyptian Army. He joined Al-Qaeda and became the no. 4 man in the organization at the onset of the war in Afghanistan at the end of 2001. Al-Adel then became third-in-command following the death of Muhammad Atef, who previously held that position. However, the organization's dispersion pushed him and several hundreds of other activists and their families to Iran. Al-Adel has since spent his years in Iran and, despite the fact that its neighboring countries have accused Iran of providing shelter to Al-Qaeda, Iran has become a platform for the execution of terrorist attacks abroad.

In addition to Al-Adel, several other senior Al-Qaeda members went to Iran, including many of Bin Laden's family members and the organization's spokesperson, Sulaiman Abu Ghaith. The Saudi article raised doubts about whether the reports on the exchange are true, and claimed that the Iranians have kept Al-Adel and other senior Al-Qaeda members, who are of high political value.<sup>2</sup>

- On November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010, the "Al-Jazeera" network dedicated an episode of its show "Behind the news" to the subject of "Al-Qaeda's new strategy in the Arabian Peninsula". The episode delved into the strategy of economic attrition that Al-Qaeda has begun employing in its war on the United States and the

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<sup>1</sup> On the subject, see:

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG\\_Arab\\_Media\\_Sources\\_October\\_2010\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Arab_Media_Sources_October_2010_2.pdf), page 2.

<sup>2</sup> "Al-Riyadh", November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010: <http://www.alriyadh.com>

West. The show's guests were Hasan Abu Haniya, a researcher of Islamic organizations, and Osama Abu Rashid, the editor-in-chief of the "Al-Mizan" newspaper.

Abu Haniya spoke of Al-Qaeda's economic war of attrition and said that such a strategy is not a new one; rather, immediately after the 9/11, Bin Laden spoke of how those attacks cost Al-Qaeda less than \$500,000, while they cost the United States over \$5 billion. Furthermore, Abu Haniya said that Al-Qaeda is following the developments in American and Western strategy, which sees the organization as the main threat to their security. Abu Haniya estimated that the U.S. will not be able to economically withstand a war against Al-Qaeda and that, faced with the new Jihadi generation the U.S. will suffer defeat all over the world.<sup>3</sup>

Abu Rashid said that Al-Qaeda's strategy will not prove fatal for the United States; in fact, there is a school of thought which believes such a strategy even serves American interests as the U.S. is a large weapons manufacturer and thus an increase in security threats will encourage American industry. Abu Rashid also estimated that the fighting will move from Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan to Yemen and northern Africa. He further added that the war is not merely a military one but also an ideological one that is connected to the rise of the right wing in the United States and its foreign policy.

#### Afghanistan

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2010 that an officer and nine guards were killed in a terrorist attack carried out by Taliban forces. The Taliban forces lost seven fighters. According to the article, a group

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<sup>3</sup> The show aired on the "Al-Jazeera" channel on November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010; a transcript of the show was posted on the "Al-Jazeera" network website on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

of Taliban fighters attacked a telephone communications tower on November 15<sup>th</sup> and succeeded in killing the guards, as well as one officer from the police forces who was sent to help the guards. It was further reported that telephone communication towers have become a target for the Taliban ever since the organization prohibited the use of cell phones in regions under its control, due to its estimation that the foreign forces are tracking the organization's activists through their cell phones.<sup>4</sup>

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported on November 28<sup>th</sup> 2010 that two suicide bombers, disguised as policemen, succeeded in killing four actual policemen. It was also reported that Afghan and NATO forces killed 15 armed men overnight, near the Pakistan border.<sup>5</sup>

#### Pakistan

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported on November 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 that the Americans have increased the use of unmanned drones for bombing Taliban strongholds in the Waziristan Province. Since September 2010, over 220 people have been killed in such attacks. Recently, a group of buildings that served as a training center and a weapons cache were bombed. Fifteen insurgents were killed. The article reported that the region that was bombed serves as a stronghold for the "Al-Haqqani" network which has been involved in several attacks in Afghanistan, including the terrorist attack that killed seven CIA operatives in December 2009.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 16<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

<sup>5</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 28<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

<sup>6</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 17<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

## Iraq

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2010 that two car bombs were detonated in Mosul, Iraq. The attack killed the commander of the Emergency Force of the Badush Prison and wounded 16 others. Following the explosion, dozens of prisoners escaped, but most of them were apprehended with the aid of the U.S. forces.<sup>7</sup>
- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported on November 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 that two Christians were killed (on November 15<sup>th</sup>) in Mosul. Armed men broke into the home of one Christian family while, in the home of another Christian family, there was an explosion that injured a passerby.<sup>8</sup>
- The "Al-Arab Al-Yawm" Jordanian newspaper reported on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 that an Al-Qaeda manifesto announced the death of four Jordanians killed last July during a confrontation with U.S. forces. The four were named as: Abd Al-Karim Taha Samara, Musa Khudayr Ramadan, Yusuf Anwar Yusuf Abu Sharbi and Alaa Ibrahim Ahmad Muhammad. Samara, Ramadan and Abu Sharbi had been previously indicted for terrorist activity.

Abu Sharbi was apprehended in Syria in mid-2007 on suspicion of trying to join the fighters in Iraq; he was repatriated to Jordan. Yusu Abi Sharbi's father told the "Al-Arab Al-Yawm" newspaper that his son was released in February 2009 after being incarcerated for a year without trial, and that he left for Iraq in April 2010 with Musa Ramadan. Abu Sharbi left a letter telling his father that they will meet in heaven and that he will be his father's advocate.<sup>9</sup> According to his father, a text message was sent in July 2009 to

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<sup>7</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 16<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

<sup>8</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 17<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

<sup>9</sup> According to Islamic belief, he who dies a martyr's death can be an advocate for his relatives on the day of the resurrection of the dead and thus bring them into heaven.

the cell phone of Abu Sharbis' wife, relating the news of his death in Iraq. However, the circumstances of his death were not detailed.

Abu Sharbi was a graduate of the "Aal Al-Bait" University, where he studied computer programming. According to his father, Abu Sharbi became very religious when he joined the university, probably the result of encountering people there who encouraged him to change. His father further testified that Abu Sharbi went to Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi's home when the latter died, and was interrogated by the security forces several times.<sup>10</sup>

- The Iraqi "Al-Sabah" reported on November 28<sup>th</sup> 2010 that the Iraqi security forces have succeeded in apprehending 12 of those involved in the execution of several terrorist attacks, including the attack on the "Our Lady of Salvation" Church in Baghdad. According to the Iraqi authorities, amongst those arrested was Hudhaifa Al-Batawi, referred to as "the Governor of Baghdad", who replaced Manaf Al-Rawi, who is currently being detained by the Iraqi security authorities.

It was further reported that five laboratories for booby-trapping cars and manufacturing explosive devices were uncovered. Amongst other things, the Iraqi authorities found explosives belts, silencers, over six tons of explosives and several bottles containing toxic materials. In addition, cash was found in the possession of the defendants, who confessed that they obtained it by robbing banks and jewelry stores.<sup>11</sup>

- On November 30<sup>th</sup> 2010, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper published an announcement from the Iraqi security forces in which they declared that they had foiled an attempt to blow up the French embassy in Baghdad. The newspaper reported that according to a French news agency, a suicide

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<sup>10</sup> "Al-Arab Al-Yawm", November 20<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.alarabalyawm.net>

<sup>11</sup> "Al-Sabah", November 28<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.alsabaah.com>

bomber belonging to the terrorist group that carried out the attack on the "Our Lady Of Salvation" Church, tried to detonate a car bomb near the embassy on November 29<sup>th</sup>. The authorities arrested him before he was able to do so.<sup>12</sup>

### The Arabian Peninsula

#### The affair of the packages<sup>13</sup>

- On November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that two days previously (November 21<sup>st</sup>), Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula had published a new issue of their English magazine, "Inspire". The magazine was published on websites connected to the organization. The new issue addressed the economic war of attrition being waged against the West. The attempted attack involving explosive packages was used as an example - it only cost about \$4,200 to carry out and was not meant to kill, but rather to cause economic shockwaves, particularly in the aviation sector of the U.S. and the West. In the magazine, Al-Qaeda declared that while the packages cost the organization relatively little money, they cost the United States and the Western countries billions of dollars. It was further written that Al-Qaeda is working on sharing its experience and expertise in this field of economically-savvy attacks to other radical Islamic organizations, so as to encourage them to carry out similar actions. The organization declared that "We shall continue to carry out such operations, and it doesn't matter to us at all if we get caught".<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 30<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

<sup>13</sup> See on this matter:

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG\\_Arab\\_Media\\_Sources\\_November\\_2010\\_1.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG_Arab_Media_Sources_November_2010_1.pdf), pages 10-11.

<sup>14</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

The publication also contained a claim of responsibility for the accident involving the UPS plane, which crashed in Dubai on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010.

- Following the affair of the explosive packages, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper published commentary by Christophe Naudin, the author of the book "Flight security: The great illusion". In his commentary, Naudin explained that the terrorist attack involving explosive packages was foiled only thanks to information provided by an agent from the organization. He further stated that Al-Qaeda will eventually succeed in bringing down a plane, as the security forces around the world will not be able to foil every attack. According to Naudin, it is only a matter of months before they are successful. Furthermore, Naudin said that terrorist activists are planning on using chemical weapons on aircrafts, such as lethal gases produced by mixing various substances with water, that can pass through cockpit doors.

The newspaper also quoted Magnus Ranstorp, Director of Research at the Center for Asymmetric Threat Studies at the Swedish National Defense College, who said that Al-Qaeda sabotage experts adapt quickly to the defensive security actions taken in response to their attempted attacks, while the security measures take months or even years to implement and finance.<sup>15</sup>

#### General

- A summary of the research conducted by the "Al-Mahjar Research Center" in Dubai was published on the "Al-Arabiya" network's website on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2010. The research showed that Al-Qaeda is not only waging a military war but also an economic war as part of its attrition strategy. One of its main targets is oil installations. Moreover, the organization carries out many small

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<sup>15</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 26<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

attacks so as to maintain its presence in the media and to continue to shock the world.

The research also showed that Al-Qaeda is diligently trying to base this economic war in religion, so as to create "The Economic Jihad strategy", or, as Al-Qaeda in Yemen calls it, "the attrition strategy" or "the thousand cuts strategy". Moreover, in its activity against the oil industry, Al-Qaeda is employing guerilla warfare and small cells, as seen with the leader of the "Abdullah Azzam Brigades", Saleh Al-Qarawi, in Al-Qaeda in Yemen and Al-Qaeda in Iraq.<sup>16</sup>

#### Yemen

- On November 20<sup>th</sup> 2010, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper published an article that sheds light on the phenomenon of Yemeni tribesmen hiding Al-Qaeda operatives. According to the article, Al-Qaeda operatives are in the Shabwa, Marib, Abyan and Al-Jawf governorates. The tribes in these governorates often refuse to hand over any of their members to the authorities, even when they are wanted on charges of terrorism. This is due to tribal conventions and traditions forbidding the turning in of tribe members or anyone finding shelter with the tribe. One of the wanted men enjoying such tribal protection is Anwar Al-Awlaki, who is hiding in the mountains of the Al-Said District in the Shabwa governorate with the Al-Awaleq tribe, one of the most famous tribes in south Yemen.

In an interview with "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", Sheikh Mabkhut bin Abud, one of the sheikhs of the Marib governorate in the west of the country, said that the tribes sometimes do not surrender their members who are suspected of

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<sup>16</sup> "Al-Arabiya", November 25<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.alarabiya.net>

belonging to Al-Qaeda and who are wanted by the authorities because there is a lack of trust between the tribes and the state, and the tribes are not convinced the defendant will receive a just trial in the event that he is not guilty. He further added that tribal conventions require that shelter be provided for the poor and the oppressed.

Sheikh Nasir Al-Sharif, one of the sheikhs from the Sana'a governorate, also said that the issue of turning in wanted men depends on the nature of the relationship between the tribe and the state. According to him, if the ties between the sheikhs and tribe leaders and the state are good, and the government is providing services and there is growth, then the tribe will collaborate with the state. However, he added that it is also dependent on how the tribe perceives the charge against the accused and on his "position" within the tribe [in other words, to what extent is the accused a key figure in the tribe or to what extent is his standing with the tribe].

The sheikh suggested that Yemen's government take a different approach – one of providing advice and trying to reach an understanding with the tribes instead of simply demanding that wanted men be handed over to the authorities. He explained that turning in wanted tribal members is considered to be against tribal conventions in Yemen. However, turning in wanted men who are not members of the tribe but have requested the tribe's shelter and protection is a much simpler matter – the wanted men pay the tribes for their protection, while the security forces use the same method to apprehend the wanted men.

Dr. Abd Al-Baqi Shamsan, a professor of Political Sociology at the University of Sana'a, explained that while tribal conventions play a part in the decision not to hand wanted men over to the state, such conventions would not be

enforced to the extent that they are had the Yemeni government encouraged growth and put in place a more effective judicial system. Furthermore, there is another important factor besides tribal conventions – the Islamic religious motivation factor. According to Dr. Shamsan, affiliation with the Islamic religion “plays a part in the sympathy towards those men [the wanted men – translator], and it doesn’t matter that the state classifies them as terrorists or as belonging to Al-Qaeda”. The tribes in Yemen identify with the goals of the terrorist groups, which are fighting the Americans, the West and Israel.<sup>17</sup>

- The Arab media reported that approximately 20 Houthis were killed and dozens injured when a car bomb exploded amidst a convoy of Al-Houthi supporters during one of their religious ceremonies in the Al-Jawf Governance in northern Yemen, on November 24<sup>th</sup> 2010. The spokesperson of the Al-Houthi group said in an interview to the “Al-Jazeera” network that American and Israeli intelligence services are behind the terrorist attack. He added that the nature of the attack fits with the American strategy of trying to cause ethnic tension within the Islamic society and that the Al-Houthi group does not recognize Al-Qaeda “as it is an imaginary organization run by the American Intelligence”.

The “Al-Jazeera” network also aired statements made by a Yemeni political commentator, Adel Al-Ahmadi, who believes that Al-Qaeda is not behind the explosion as it is not in the organization’s interests to start a new war against the Al-Houthi group while it is embroiled in conflict with Yemeni forces. He added that Al-Qaeda and the Al-Houthi movement share a common denominator – hatred for the United States and the Yemeni regime, and that

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<sup>17</sup> “Al-SHarq Al-Awsat”, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

the organizations have not been in conflict with each other in the past, making it extremely unlikely that Al-Qaeda was behind the attack.<sup>18</sup>

On the other hand, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper published an investigative report on the motives for the terrorist attack, concluding that despite the accusations against the United States and Israel and Al-Qaeda's "acquittal", even by the Houthi themselves, certain indications suggest that Al-Qaeda is in fact behind the attack. According to the story, the terrorist attack is Al-Qaeda's retaliation for the arrest of two of their operatives about a month ago by the Houthi, who refused to release them and turned them in to the authorities. According to the report, Al-Qaeda in the Al-Jawf region had harshly criticized the arrest and had promised to retaliate. A security source told "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" that the two recent terrorist attacks carried out against the Houthi have Al-Qaeda's "fingerprints" and point to the existence of an unofficial war between the two groups. The investigative story ended with comments from Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih, a Social Science lecturer at the University of Sana'a, who said that the modus operandi and the recruitment are typical Al-Qaeda, and that he has never heard of a tribe taking revenge by way of a suicide attack. The newspaper also repeated Dr. Al-Faqih's hypothesis that the Houthi movement's own accusations against the United States and Israel and its exoneration of Al-Qaeda are the result of the Houthis' reluctance to be perceived as fighting against Al-Qaeda and, thus, alongside the U.S.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> The "Al-Jazeera" network's website, November 24<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

<sup>19</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 28<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

### Saudi Arabia

- The Saudi press reported the Saudi Ministry of Interior's announcement that 19 terrorist cells have been uncovered and disbanded over the past eight months. These cells were related to "errant ideas" such as "Takfir" and were comprised of 149 people, of whom 124 were Saudi Arabian. According to the Ministry of Interior, the cell members focused on spreading the concept of Takfir and collecting funds for supporting "the errant organization" (i.e. Al-Qaeda), both within and outside the country. The cell members were found in possession of 1,244,620 Saudi riyals, all in cash. It was further revealed that the cell members were recruiting operatives, arranging for their transport to unstable places, planning the execution of criminal acts with the aim of causing chaos and harm to internal security, and training recruits in the preparation of explosives.

According to the Ministry's statements, plans which were in advanced stages to assassinate security personnel, senior figures and members of the media were foiled, and documents and weapons were apprehended, through the use of surveillance of these cells. It was further revealed that some of those arrested were exposed through the surveillance of forums on the internet. The Saudi Ministry of Interior's spokesperson clarified that errant ideas still exist in Saudi Arabia, and that the government's preventive actions have only proven Al-Qaeda's ability to reach the youth and recruit them. He pointed to a connection between some of the cells and the activists appearing on the Saudi authorities' list of the 85 most wanted men. The spokesperson explained that Al-Qaeda wishes to exploit the Hajj and Umra for fundraising and recruiting youth. He hinted that Al-Qaeda wishes to exploit the love that Saudi citizens have for donating funds to charity, for purposes of

fundraising.<sup>20</sup> Moreover, he stated that every cell that was apprehended worked alone and thought it was the only one.

The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that, according to the Ministry of Interior, ten of the 19 cells apprehended operated within three networks. The first network was comprised of five cells and it was planning to carry out terrorist attacks against senior figures, security personnel and security installations. The second network was comprised of three cells whose goals were to spread Al-Qaeda's ideas, coordinate operatives' movements, collect funds, and carry out terrorist attacks against security personnel, foreigners residing in Saudi Arabia and military installations. The third network was comprised of two cells and it was planning on attacking foreigners. The remaining nine cells operated separately. Three of these cells were linked to Al-Qaeda and specialized in manufacturing explosives, providing professional training for the manufacturing of explosives, and preparing for terrorist attacks against senior figures and security personnel, as well as assassinations and attacks on government buildings.

"Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" included the statements made by Dr. Anwar Ashqi, Chief of the Middle East Center for Legal and Strategic Studies. Dr. Ashqi expressed his opinion that the tactic adopted by Al-Qaeda to carry out assassinations and small, cheap terrorist attacks, is a result of both its financing sources drying up and the effective action taken by the Saudi security forces, rather than a change in the organization's strategy. Al-Ashqi highlighted Saudi Arabia's efforts in the field of fighting terrorism, which include international propaganda efforts and the founding of the National Dialogue Center and the

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<sup>20</sup> "Okaz", November 26<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.okaz.com.sa>; "Al-Riyadh", November 27<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.alriyadh.com>

"Ideological Security" Center, as well as the Saudi forces' change from a defensive to an offensive tactic.<sup>21</sup>

- Following the exposure of the 19 Saudi cells, the "Al-Riyadh" Saudi newspaper quoted Dr. Khaled Mansour Al-Durais, the Supervisor for the Prince Naif Chair for Intellectual Security Studies. According to Dr. Al-Durais, the organization is now planning smaller attacks than in the past, due to the weakness of Al-Qaeda's infrastructure. He equated the organization's modus operandi to that of snakes, adapting quickly to changes in their environment. He explained that the organization is employing a "snake misdirection" tactic, which involves avoiding any action that draws attention, laying traps, deception and fraud. He also pointed out the fact that, while in the past the organization's members called for the "Saudization" of the Jihad plan, the exposure of 25 cell members who are not Saudi Arabian has proven that this is in fact global terrorism. It also shows that Al-Qaeda is instructing its activists to move from place to place, to confound security forces and to build new bases through non-local leaders with accumulated fighting experience. Furthermore, he pointed out that the organization is using "nano-cells", that is – small cells, which are not connected to other cells.<sup>22</sup>
- Following the discovery of Al-Qaeda cells in Saudi Arabia at the end of November 2010, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper discussed, in two separate articles, the role that women play in Al-Qaeda. The newspaper quoted the Ministry of Interior's security spokesperson who said that women's roles in the organization is centered on three axes: raising funds; "spreading errant ideas" [ideological propaganda – translator]; and providing shelter for their relatives that were recruited. The spokesperson said that most of the

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<sup>21</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 29<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

<sup>22</sup> "Al-Riyadh", November 28<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.alriyadh.com>

women active in the organization were related to other activists. Moreover, in several cases, the women were influenced by errant ideas as a result of surfing the internet. The spokesperson declared that after questioning them, the security authorities will release the detained women on bail until the investigations are complete and the charges clarified.

One of the articles reported that Al-Qaeda's female voice is disappearing almost completely now that the "Voice of Jihad" is no longer published. An unusual example of a female voice in the global Jihad is the "Al-Khansaa" magazine, published by an Egyptian woman calling herself "Umm Osama". The magazine called on women to cook and provide material support for Jihad, however only one issue of this magazine has ever been published.

This article also mentioned the wife of Salih Al-Awfi, the former Al-Qaeda leader in Saudi Arabia, who helped him, collaborated with him and concealed the activities of wanted men. Al-Awfi was apprehended in 2004. According to the article, since 2006, there has been no more talk of women's role in Al-Qaeda, the exception being the use of female clothing by men as camouflage. The article explained that female roles began reappearing in Al-Qaeda after Wafaa Al-Shihri, the wife of Said Al-Shihri, who is today Al-Qaeda's deputy leader in Yemen, disappeared from her parents' house in Saudi Arabia in the middle of a sandstorm and reappeared on an internet broadcast from Yemen. Another example of a female activist in Al-Qaeda is Haila Al-Qusair – over the past two years, she raised funds for the organization in Yemen by obtaining jewelry and money under the guise of building mosques and orphanages. According to security sources, Al-Quasir led 60 activists involved in terrorist activities, sheltered wanted men, recruited the female relatives of other activists to the ranks of the organization, transferred laundered funds and

was involved in Wafaa Al-Shihri's infiltration to Yemen. It was further reported in the article that one of the women who was caught at the end of November in Saudi Arabia was using Jihadi websites under the name "Daughter of Najd" and was in charge of Al-Qaeda's propaganda on the internet.<sup>23</sup>

The second article stated that 13 women aged 28-37, who were not part of the leadership, were apprehended in the recent wave of arrests. It was further reported that in Saudi Arabia, the role of women within the Al-Qaeda organization is very limited in comparison to other countries such as Iraq, Chechnya and the North African countries. The head of the Saudi "Assakina" program noted that Al-Qaeda's female element is important as women facilitate movement and are less likely to be followed or suspected - this reason, Al-Qaeda is trying to attract more women to their Saudi cells. However in Saudi Arabia the role of women in the organization remains limited.<sup>24</sup>

- On November 28<sup>th</sup> 2010 the "Al-Riyadh" Saudi newspaper published an investigative report on Naif Al-Qahtani, a Saudi Arabian Al-Qaeda operative living in Yemen and no. 81 on the wanted list of the Saudi security forces. According to the article, reports of Al-Qahtani's death in Yemen are uncertain and were denied by official Saudi security sources. The article explained that Al-Qahtani was a link between Al-Qaeda's cells in Yemen and its cells in Saudi Arabia, in addition to his being in charge of various terrorist attacks in Yemen. He organized and funded the terrorist attack on the U.S. embassy in Sana'a on September 17<sup>th</sup> 2008, and was most likely behind the terrorist attack carried out in July 2007 in Yemen that killed eight French tourists. He was also involved in the planning, supervision and financing of terrorist attacks in

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<sup>23</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 29<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

<sup>24</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 29<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

both Saudi Arabia and Yemen, some of them against oil installations. The report also stated that Al-Qahtani is the spokesperson for Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and that he takes part in the publication of the organization's magazine, "Sada Al-Malahem".<sup>25</sup>

- Following the apprehension of 19 Al-Qaeda cells in Saudi Arabia, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper published on November 28<sup>th</sup> 2010 an investigative report claiming that Al-Qaeda's branch in Yemen has changed its strategy for recruiting young people and training them for terrorist attacks. According to the report, Al-Qaeda is now trying to recruit its operatives within Saudi Arabia, and not in Yemen as it did in the past, in order to facilitate the carrying out of terrorist attacks. According to the newspaper's sources, most of the cells that were apprehended were in contact with Al-Qaeda in Yemen. Moreover, they were focusing their efforts on training new recruits in the manufacturing of weapons, coordinating their travel outside of the country and raising funds for the cells within the country. The sources also said that the training of new recruits was being done outside of Saudi Arabia, in places fraught with conflict and civil wars such as Yemen, Somalia and Afghanistan. It was further written that since May 2003, over 210 terrorist attacks were foiled in Saudi Arabia.

The report quoted terrorism expert Dr. Yusuf Al-Romeh, who said that the small terrorist cells are more dangerous than the large ones. He explained that the cells that were apprehended were not connected to each other so that if one or more of them were discovered, they would not be able to expose the others. He added that what links all the terrorist cells is the concept of Takfir, and that this is not "Communist or Marxist terrorism, but

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<sup>25</sup> "Al-Riyadh", November 28<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.alriyadh.com>

rather extreme religious terrorism". Therefore it should be dealt with "in the mosques and the Friday sermons", as the ideas must be dealt by a strong and clear religious figure. He suggested that the mosques' Imams allocate one day a week for discussing the dangers of the idea of Takfir, after the afternoon prayers.<sup>26</sup>

### **The Maghreb**

#### The Maghreb - general

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper published a report on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 on the convention held in Tangier on the subject of terrorism and crime. The article reported that according to the international researchers who spoke at the convention, Al-Qaeda has recently undergone a transformation - morphing from a terrorist organization based on ideological beliefs and radical policy, to a network of criminal gangs that employ terrorism as a cover for committing crimes and whose main objective is to achieve wealth for a group of criminals. The researchers further stated that the greater politically-motivated Al-Qaeda has taken a back seat to a new generation of terrorist organizations that belong to Al-Qaeda but have begun operating in complete independence from each other and from the mother movement.

Jean Baptiste Carpentier, Director of the "Tracfin" Program for handling illegal money transfers, said that this change can be seen clearly if one compares Al-Qaeda's dialogue in the 1990s to the superficial dialogue of its leaders today, especially of those belonging to "Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb". Carpentier pointed out that acts of kidnapping and the execution of hostages for money are now taking place, in addition to drug trafficking, the smuggling

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<sup>26</sup> "Al-Hayat", November 28<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://ksa.daralhayat.com>

of tobacco and people and other criminal activities carried out under the "mask" of terrorism. Carpentier further explained that Al-Qaeda has transformed from an organization that used crime to finance terrorism to a new collective of organizations that uses Al-Qaeda and terrorism as a guise for pure criminal activity in the goal of achieving wealth.

Carpentier claimed that in most cases, terrorism is used as a radical retaliatory act against occupation or social problems, however the radical means it employs do not award it a political future and thus it cannot achieve its goal. When terrorist movements do not achieve their political goal, they disintegrate as political movements, and as a result a door is opened for them to become criminal organizations using the same means of illegal financing. Carpentier concluded that this change makes the battle against terrorist organizations less difficult, as regular methods of fighting organized crime can be used while their moral deterioration makes it easier to isolate these organizations socially and limit them politically.

Judge Jean Louis Bruguiere also spoke at the convention, explaining that Al-Qaeda members arrested over the past decade have succeeded in recruiting a large number of prisoners, exploiting their mental state. He expressed his regret that the authorities continue to ignore the danger of placing terrorists with the rest of the prison population. He reported that during 2004, the French were surprised to discover that a terrorist organization had been fully established within prison and that the members were all former indicted criminals. The organization was planning to carry out terrorist attacks in France once its members were released from prison. Bruguiere also spoke about Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, explaining that the organization has three goals on its agenda today: (1) attacking France; (2) creating instability

in the Maghreb; and (3) weakening the African Sahel countries and spreading west, so as to control the countries on the Atlantic coast such as Burkina Faso, Senegal and the Ivory Coast, as the ocean is a good channel for smuggling drugs, cigarettes and weapons from South America.<sup>27</sup>

### Algeria

- The "Al-Jazeera" network reported on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 that the Emir of "Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb", Abu Musab Abd Al-Wadud, issued a message to the French government and the French people via an audio tape. In the message he made clear that the safety of the French hostages being held by the organization (for two months so far) was conditional on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. Abd Al-Wadud added that any future negotiation regarding the hostages should be done with Al-Qaeda's leader, Osama bin Laden.<sup>28</sup>
- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 that a demonstration by hundreds of residents was held in the Tizi Ouzou Governance in protest of terrorist organizations kidnapping wealthy people and families for ransom. According to the newspaper, there has been a dramatic increase over the past year in the number of such abductions. Several mayors belonging to the secular opposition participated in the demonstration, protesting the lack of security in the region. The demonstration took place after a building contractor was shot when he tried to escape his kidnapers who were members of Al-Qaeda.<sup>29</sup>
- On November 18<sup>th</sup> 2010, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper published statements made by Ilias Bukraa, the Deputy Director of the African Center for Terrorism

<sup>27</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 15<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

<sup>28</sup> "Al-Jazeera" network's website, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

<sup>29</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

Research in Algeria. In his statements, Bukraa said that there has been a decrease in terrorist activity in Algeria. He also said that the main financial sources of the terror organizations are ransoms and taxes levied by armed men. According to Bukraa, foreign military intervention in terror-stricken countries will actually serve the terror organizations' interests, as foreign intervention lends them legitimacy and allows them to be portrayed as liberation movements, thus making it easier to recruit supporters in the name of defending and unshackling the nation from foreign occupiers<sup>30</sup>. This was the case in Somalia, Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan.

#### Mauritania

- Military sources told "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" that 28 Mauritians have escaped from Al-Qaeda bases in the Sahara and in northern Mali, and are now on their way back to Mauritania. The Mauritians have been indoctrinated with Jihad ideas endorsed by Al-Qaeda in the Sahel region and were trained to carry weapons. According to military source in Mauritania, "some were beaten at the camps by Al-Qaeda activists, so as to force them to adopt the radical ideas". None of the Mauritians were older than 14 years of age. The article noted that a month ago, six other young Mauritanian men escaped Al-Qaeda's base in northern Mali. These events indicate that the new terrorism law approved by the Mauritanian Parliament in July 2010, which allows for special treatment and even release without trial for radical activists who turn themselves in, may be paving the way for the surrender of Islamic fighters.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> "Al-Hayat", November 18<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.daralhayat.com>

<sup>31</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

## Africa

### Somalia

- The Somali Prime Minister stated in an interview with "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 that his country's main battle is with Al-Qaeda. He said that those who infiltrated Somalia from Afghanistan and Pakistan should return immediately to their own countries to carry out Jihad, rather than using Somali soil and exploiting Somali citizens. According to the Prime Minister, Al-Qaeda is a strong organization that can disrupt Somalia's stability. As such, he called on the Arab world and the international community to support Somalia in its fight against Al-Qaeda. He added that Somalia is ready for a dialogue with anyone who is not in direct contact with Al-Qaeda, implying that there is a willingness to have a dialogue with the "Al-Shabab" organization.<sup>32</sup>
- The "Al-Jazeera" network reported that the conflict between the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement and the local militias and peacekeeping forces persists and continues to take lives.<sup>33</sup>

## The West and the rest of the world

### Germany

- The Arab media quoted the German "Der Spiegel" newspaper's report that Al-Qaeda had planned, with the help of a Shiite organization, to carry out a terrorist attack on the German Parliament, the Reichstag. This led to the Parliament being closed for the day on November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 20<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

<sup>33</sup> The "Al-Jazeera" network, November 24<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aljazeera.net>;

The "Al-Jazeera" network, November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com>, <http://www.alarabiya.net>

### The United States

- The Arab media quoted the reports of several Western news agencies of a 19 year-old man of Somali origin, Muhammad Osman Mahmoud, who attempted to carry out a terrorist attack during the Christmas tree-lighting ceremony in Portland.<sup>35</sup>

### Israel

- The Arab media reported that the Salafi-Jihadi "Islamic Army" organization in Gaza had issued a threat in the form of a 30 second audio recording posted on the website belonging to the "Ansar Al-Sunnah" group. The recording, which was in Hebrew, warned that the Jews will not be safe from missile and other attacks until they leave the Palestinian land.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> "Al-Hayat" November 28<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://international.daralhayat.com>;  
"Al-Sharq Al-Awsat", November 28<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>

<sup>36</sup> "Al-Hayat" November 19<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.daralhayat.com>; "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat",  
November 20<sup>th</sup> 2010: <http://www.aawsat.com>