

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from the Jihadi Forums

The Second Half of February 2011

This report summarizes the most prominent events that have been mentioned in the Jihadi online forums over the course of the second half of February 2011.

Following are the main issues raised in this report:

- Ayman Al-Zawahiri gave a three-part speech in which he addressed the people of Egypt.
- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's Mufti called on all Muslims to rise against their tyrannical rulers.
- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb threatened the Libyan ruler.
- The Abdullah Azzam Brigades went on an attack against the Saudi regime.
- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan welcomed the overthrowing of President Mubarak.
- Efforts continued to recruit for Jihad in Germany.
- A new Jihadi forum – the “Global Jihad Network” – came online.

Note: It is estimated that most of the Jihadi discourse in the forums over the course of the second half of February 2011 concentrated on the revolutions in the Arab world. Between the lines, one can detect a certain amount of frustration amongst the writers over the fact that the global Jihad is not playing a central role in the revolutions. It seems that, in his publications, Al-Zawahiri is trying to jump on the revolution bandwagon, so to speak, and to make himself heard, although it is obvious that, at this point, the driving force behind the revolutions

is the people in the street. It can be assumed that Al-Zawahiri is aware of this, as his messages are unclear and not focused enough.

As for Libya, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb is calling for the elimination of Gaddafi. The nature of the revolution in Libya is somewhat different than that of the revolution in Egypt and, due to its violence, Jihad operatives are able to intervene more.

The rest of the global Jihad players are trying to connect other parts of the Arab world to the revolution and are encouraging all Muslims to rise against their rulers, with an emphasis on Saudi Arabia.

Another noteworthy point regarding the discourse on the forums is the encouragement and support given to the Islamic Emirates that are not in the heart of the revolution, such as Iraq and Afghanistan, to continue the process.

New publications

Ideology

Ayman Al-Zawahiri's tapes following the events in Egypt

- The "As-Sahab" Jihadi media institute published a speech, in three parts, by Ayman Al-Zawahiri titled "Message of Hope and Glad Tidings to Our People in Egypt".¹ The speech was apparently recorded a week before Mubarak's fall. Following is a summary of the three parts of the speech:

In the first part, Al-Zawahiri reviews the history of Egypt since Napoleon's invasion in the 18th century. According to him, the infiltration of Secularism that accompanied this event, expressed in secular laws implemented by Muhammad Ali, has weakened the basis of the Egyptian people's ties to the Islamic religion. Egypt's British occupiers then tried to corrupt the government by establishing a secular state, in the goal of harming the Sharia rule.

Al-Zawahiri likens Mubarak's regime to a government collaborating with the heretic enemy forces against its Muslim brothers. According to Al-Zawahiri, proof of this is the support Mubarak's government gave to the U.S. forces in occupying Iraq and Afghanistan. The Egyptian Army is also helping the enemy and the crusade against the Muslims by supplying fuel and equipment to the enemy forces and by opening the Suez Canal to American warships going to fight the Muslims in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq etc.

Al-Zawahiri then ponders the reason for the backwardness of the Islamic world compared to the Western world, and notes that there are many reasons for this, including the internal wars within Islam, the West's attempts to take

¹ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb>, <http://www.shamikh1.net>

over the Muslim world's material resources, the West's efforts to divide the Muslim world, and more.

The second part of Al-Zawahiri's speech discusses the current crisis in the relationship between the Muslims and the Coptic Christians in Egypt. Al-Zawahiri blames the Copts for exacerbating the tension, which already existed because of the matter of Kamilia Shehata, a Coptic woman who converted to Islam and who is suspected of being kidnapped by the Coptic Church in the middle of last year. However, Al-Zawahiri denies any connection to the terrorist attack against the Coptic Church in Alexandria that took place at the beginning of 2011.

Al-Zawahiri stresses that Mubarak's regime is responsible, to some extent, for the crisis in the relationship between the Muslims and the Christians in Egypt. According to Al-Zawahiri, Mubarak has refused to take a firm stand on this matter, which stems, to a great extent, from his surrender to the dictates of the Christian Church, which recognizes Mubarak's sensitive political position in light of his wish to bequeath his rule to his son and which has used this to subjugate the President to its will in any crisis that has arisen. The Al-Azhar Institute's leadership is also to blame for the exacerbation in the tension between the Muslims and the Christians, due to its obedience to the state's security officers. The legal system in Egypt is also to blame for this crisis, due its silent in the matter. Another cause for the escalation in the crisis is the unreserved support given by the American government to the Church, pushing it towards separatism and division.

Following these statements, Al-Zawahiri addresses the Coptic Church in Egypt, demanding that they stop collaborating with the enemies of the Muslims and that they avoid intended provocations against the Muslims.

According to him, the Copts in Egypt should not fear Al-Qaeda, as the organization is focused on its war against the crusading West and its agents.

Al-Zawahiri then addresses the Muslims regarding the Christians in the Islamic world and particularly in Egypt, stating that there are two types of Christians: those striving to maintain a proper relationship with the Muslims and not accepting the crusader-Jewish occupation of the Arab and Muslim lands, and those who accept the American presence on Islamic lands and the occupation of Palestine by Israel. As such, a distinction must be made between the Christians wishing to harm the Muslims and the Christians wishing to have a proper relationship with them. Finally, Al-Zawahiri reiterates that Al-Qaeda does not wish to start a war with the Christians and sees fit to invest most of its efforts in fighting the West and the Zionists.

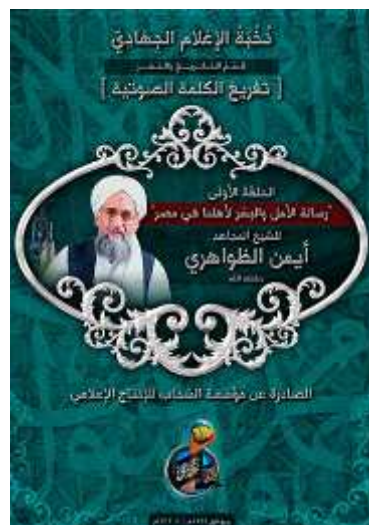
In the third part of the tape, Al-Zawahiri addresses the referendum held in Sudan, which approved the division of the country into two separate states. According to him, Sudan's problem stems from the failure of the Mahdi movement's revolt at the end of the 19th century, which was put down by joint British-Egyptian forces.

In addition, Al-Zawahiri addresses the recent events in Tunisia and Egypt. According to him, "Muslim" regimes such as Tunisia and Egypt are in fact agents of "international superpowers" who play an active role in these superpowers' policy to harm Islam, to stop veils from being worn, to change the curriculum, to strive for normalization with Israel, to separate the Sharia from the government and to pillage the Muslims' resources. That is why these governments receive support from the superpowers, headed by the U.S.

However, one can see that these superpowers welcome the change in these governments and wish for the rise of new regimes. The new regimes mislead

their people by promoting certain reforms and by giving a certain amount of freedom, "however, the interests of the international forces of arrogance and exploitation are preserved". Thus for example in Tunisia, despite the reforms, the release of prisoners, etc., the U.S. is still controlling the government. The Tunisian people have to mobilize for the liberation of the rest of the occupied Islamic countries.

Al-Zawahiri also refers to the riots in Egypt and criticizes El-Baradei, one of the prominent Egyptian opposition candidates, for his intent to run for the office of President in Egypt. Finally, Al-Zawahiri claims that the path to liberate Tunisia and Egypt is still long due to the blatant intervention of the U.S. and its allies in Islamic countries.



- An audio segment by Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Rubaish, known as Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's Mufti, was published. The audio segment is titled "Bin Ali and Bin Saud". In the audio segment, Al-Rubaish expresses joy over the fall of the Tunisian president, Zine El Abidine bin Ali. However, he shares his doubts about whether the Tunisian president's ousting will indeed bring about an improvement in the lives of the Muslims. He fears that another tyrant will replace bin Ali and that, while this may lead to slight improvements in the

lives of the people, Islamic Sharia Law will remain paralyzed and man-made laws will continue to rule.

He recommends to all who linked their fate with that of the tyrants not to devote themselves to these rulers, as, when the tables are turned, the tyrants will abandon them. He then addresses the Saudi Mufti and the religious clerics and wonders why they permitted refuge to be given to the Tunisian president who ruled as a tyrant, was corrupt and attacked the religion. He calls on all Muslims to rise against their tyrants. He calls for caution to be taken so as to prevent the Muslims' efforts being used for the benefit of the heretics, as has occurred in the past when the government was given to national leaders and not to those advocating the path of Islam.

In his eyes, the leadership should be given to people such as Mulla Omar or Abu Omar Al-Baghdadi. In order for the public to obey, he suggests establishing a military force that will wage Jihad for Allah, as the world does not respect anything but force. Al-Rubaish also attacks the religious leaders operating under the patronage of the government who recoil from Jihad. According to Al-Rubaish, the Muslims must take their cue from the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement in Somalia, who was aided by Allah and who started Jihad and today is surrounding the Somali government who reigns only over a very small area, and is also implementing the Islamic Sharia.²

- The "Atahadi" Jihadi forum published the transcript of a speech made by Sheikh Abu Basir Al-Tartusi, a Sheik of Syrian origin residing in London who is identified with Al-Qaeda. The transcript was published in the "Palestine, the Quran and the Sword" chat-room on the famous PalTalk chat program under the title of "Lessons and morals learned from the fall of Pharaoh in Egypt".³

² <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>

³ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb>

In the speech, Al-Tartusi shares 16 insights he has formulated following recent events in Egypt. For example, he claims that the fall of Mubarak's government proves that the life span of tyrannical regimes is not eternal and that their days are numbered. He further claims the regimes that supported Mubarak's government during the popular demonstrations in Egypt are responsible for the blood of the innocents that was shed and for the suffering of the Egyptian people. He notes that the governments in the Middle East, such as Saudi Arabia, surrender to the dictates of the enemies of Islam – the U.S. and the West – and operate against the Muslims in order to please their Western patrons. Furthermore, Al-Tartusi urges the Egyptian people to take extra caution during the transfer of government so that it does not fall into the hands of another tyrant or dictator.



- Sheikh Attiya Allah Abu Abd Al-Rahman, who is of Libyan origin, published statements titled "The People's Revolution and the Fall of the Corrupt Libyan Government".⁴ In his statements, Attiya expresses satisfaction over the success of the popular uprising in Tunisia and Egypt. He conveys his cautious optimism that similar successes will occur in other Muslim countries where popular uprisings are taking place against the tyrannical rulers, such as Libya and Yemen.

⁴ <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>, <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

According to Attiya, the fall of the Tunisian and Egyptian governments does not only mean the fall of tyrannical and corrupt governments, but, more importantly, it signifies the loss of stability in the area – a loss that has created a deep fear within Israel regarding the security on its borders.

Attiya shares his belief that this is the opportune time for the Mujahideen to act against the Yemen government, who is showing weakness. In addition, he suggests that priority should be given to building appropriate infrastructure in Rafah, Sinai and Egypt in general.



Strategy

- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported that Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb has threatened the Libyan ruler, Muamar Al-Gaddafi, as well as what it called "the Zionist-crusader criminals". According to the report, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb has published a message that was sent to the Arab media by Sallah Abu Muhammad, who claimed to be in charge of propaganda on behalf of the organization.⁵

⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

- On February 23rd, 2011, the Abdullah Azzam Brigades published message no. 4 on the Saudi issue. The message, which was issued on behalf of the Brigades' field commander, Najm Al-Kheir, stated that the people of the Arabian Peninsula and of Saudi Arabia, religious clerics, journalists and all of the Muslims have supported the fall of the leaders in Tunisia and Egypt, which is a welcomed event. However, these supporters now remain silent regarding the actions of the group ruling over the Arabian Peninsula, a group which is also criminal, which is also fighting Allah's law, and which is exploiting and stealing the Muslims' funds and helping their enemies.

According to the message, the government in the Arabian Peninsula is no less criminal than the other Arab "agent" governments, and in fact is leading the other tyrannical regimes. The message directly attacks religious clerics in the Arabian Peninsula for ignoring Saudi Arabia's role, specifically the role of its King and Minister of Interior, in the Zionist-crusader war against Islam. In the message, Saudi Arabia is accused of providing aid on the military, logistical, economical and intelligence levels. Saudi Arabia is further accused of waging an all out war against Jihad and the Mujahideen, while bringing about the "westernization" of the Arabian Peninsula, spreading ideological and moral corruption and promoting secularism at the expense of Islam in the fields of media, education and employment. The Saudi government is fighting the religious clerics and is weakening their position; it refuses to implement Islamic Law, but rather turns to secular laws. There is financial and administrative corruption. The Saud family is leading the Arab heretic regimes. Accordingly, the Saudi and Egyptian governments are one and the same.

The message congratulates Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula for a successful year in fighting the Saud family and Ali Sallah's regime, and calls to the religious clerics to cooperate in tarnishing these governments. At the end of the message, the religious clerics imprisoned in the Arabian Peninsula are addressed and are asked to be patient as the Mujahideen have undertaken to do everything they can to attain their release. The message ends by emphasizing "the heads of the government and those of influence are a legitimate target for the Mujahideen".⁶

Instructional and Guidance Publications

- A member of the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum posted correspondence in support of the Muslims in Libya who are fighting the Libyan government. The correspondence contains a very detailed explanation on how to prepare Semtex explosives.⁷



Promoting the myth of the shahids

- Preserving the heritage: the "Al-Furqan" institute, which belongs to the Ministry of Propaganda of the "Islamic State of Iraq", presented a poetry compilation titled "Worries and Pains". The poetry compilation was the work

⁶ <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>

⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

of Abu Hamza Al-Muhajir, "Islamic State of Iraq's" Minister of War who was eliminated in April of 2010.⁸



⁸ <http://www.al-jahafal.com/vb>

Reports from the field

Afghanistan - Pakistan

- An announcement was issued by the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan regarding the victory of the popular revolution in Egypt. In the announcement, the Egyptian people are called on to establish a free Islamic government and to come out against the foreign enemies. The announcement stressed that the Emirate's Mujahideen are at the disposal of the Egyptian people and that they stand by them.⁹

The Maghreb

- A message was issued by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. The message is titled "Help and support to the revolution of our free people, the descendants of Omar Al-Mukhtar". According to the message, the organization is happily following the revolution against "the Libyan tyrant" who has tormented Omar Al-Mukhtar's descendants for 40 years, oppressing and humiliating them, and who has ruled tyrannically and corruptly.

In the message, the organization expresses grief over Gaddafi's massacres and claims that his actions, as well as the actions of the other tyrant rulers, expose "the true face of the tyrannical rulers who are willing without reservation to kill Muslims in order to keep their positions". The organization emphasizes that these murderers lied and falsely blamed the Mujahideen for the murder of innocent people, and "the revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya expose their lies and prove to the world that they are killing innocent people and that they are the ones spilling the blood of helpless people...".

⁹ <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>

The organization expresses its support for the revolution in Libya and stresses that it will do everything it can to help, although no concrete examples are mentioned. The organization calls on the Libyan people to continue with the Jihad and with its revolution and to escalate it so as to bring Gaddafi down. The organization also calls on the Muslim people in Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria and on the religious clerics, preachers, intellectuals and media people to help the Muslims in Libya. The message ends with strong insults directed at Gaddafi.¹⁰



It should be noted that the forums dealt increasingly with the events in Libya, gloating at Gaddafi and insulting him and his regime. For example, the "Al-Tahdi" Jihadi forum manager, Salman bin Muhannad, posted an announcement supporting the Libyan rebels opposing Gaddafi's government. Furthermore, he called on the Muslims both in Libya and in other countries to help the people of Libya in their battle against the tyrant Al-Gaddafi.¹¹

- The "Atahadi" Jihadi forum posted a message titled "As help to the Muslim Ulama... and as help to the Libyan Muslims". The message was issued by Sheikh Abu Bakr Al-Ghazi Al-Ansari, a Palestinian Jihadi Salafi Sheikh.¹²

In the message, Al-Ghazi calls on the Ulama to protest against the tyrannical heretic rulers. According to him, the Ulama's support of the Libyan people and

¹⁰ <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>

¹¹ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb>

¹² <http://www.atahadi.com/vb>

its issuing of fatwas supporting their struggle against a tyrannical ruler should serve as an example in other cases.

Furthermore, Al-Ghazi protests against the criticism directed in the past by some of the Ulama at the Mujahideen because they preached coming out against the heretic rulers, as these same Ulama are not chastising the Muslim people for doing the same. He also wonders why Al-Qaradawi has issued a fatwa that permits the killing of Gaddafi but has not done the same regarding the Egyptian president. At the conclusion of his message, Al-Ghazi expresses hope that the Libyan people will succeed in their struggle.

Egypt

- Al-Muzaffar Umar, a writer on the "Atahadi" Jihadi forum, published an article titled "Failing Revolutions".¹³ In the article, Umar explains that the solidarity expressed by the U.S. and the West with the Muslim people regarding ousting the tyrannical regimes and replacing them with democratic ones does not stem from selfless motivation. According to Umar, there is a hidden reason not everyone is aware of – the aspiration of the American government that one tyrannical regime will be replaced by another, which will continue to serve American interests and which will stay in office another 30 years.

The author claims that, as of now, the "American revolution" in Egypt can be viewed as a relative success. In Tunisia, however, he finds it difficult to judge, due to his unfamiliarity with the subject.

¹³ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb>

Africa

- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported that one of the senior members of the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement has called on the Somali people to follow the example of the Tunisian and Egyptian model and to rise against the Somali government.¹⁴
- Operatives in the suicide brigade of the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement carried out a suicide attack against a military camp near the presidential palace in Mogadishu. The suicide bombers arrived with a military truck laden with explosives and detonated it in the morning hours, when the entrance to the camp was busy. According to the organization, many soldiers in the camp were wounded and killed.¹⁵
- Activity carried out by the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement: the movement's brigades fought forces coming from South Burundi and heading to the Somali capital of Mogadishu. The movement's force surprised the hostile force and succeeded in killing seven soldiers, capturing one of them and seizing significant loot. The movement's official spokesperson, Sheikh Ali Mahmoud Ragi, and another senior member called Sheikh Hassan Taher Awes addressed the media and presented the spoils.¹⁶

¹⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

¹⁵ <http://www.alqimmah.net>

¹⁶ <http://www.alqimmah.net>



The West and the rest of the world

- The "Atahadi" Jihadi forum manager, Salman bin Muhannad, posted a message titled "A message to our brothers in Germany". The message was issued by Abu Adam Al-Almani, a Mujahid of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU).¹⁷

¹⁷ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb>

Miscellaneous

A new forum - "The Global Jihad Network"

- On February 10th, 2011, a new forum - "Shabakat Al-Jihad Al-Alami" (the Global Jihad Network) - opened at <http://www.aljihad.info/vb>. In the forum's first post, it was emphasized that the main topics of discussion will be Jihad and the Mujahideen. The forum requested that Islamic and Jihad media institutes "help the voice of Jihad and the Mujahideen be heard". The forum further called "to all of the honest writers and loyal friends and all of the Muslims to enter the forum and register to it".¹⁸ The forum also operates a Jihad channel at <http://www.aljihad.com/vb/forumdisplay.php?f=60>, where audio and video files of the Jihadi media institutes can be found.

The forum appears to be very serious and contains a chat room belonging to the Ministry of Propaganda of the "Islamic State of Iraq", a message and publications chat room, a current news chat room, a chat room for training Mujahideen, which contains suggestions for Jihad activities and which provides links to aid with such activities such as encyclopedias, virtual courses, etc., a chat room about the Al-Sham region, a chat room about religious issues, a chat room about the fallen and prisoners, and chat rooms on technical subjects. As of March 1st, 2011, the new forum has 180 registered members. It appears that it is operating from Afghanistan as the time appearing on the forum is according to the clock of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

¹⁸ <http://www.aljihad.net/vb>



- The GIMF issued a warning against downloading versions of the "Asrar Al-Mujahideen 2" software that did not originate from a reliable source, meaning either from the GIMF or from the "Al-Fajr" Center.¹⁹

¹⁹ <http://www.aljihad.com/vb>