

Periodical Review January 2010 – no. 1

This report summarizes the most prominent events brought up in the Jihadi online forums in the second half of December 2009:

New publications

Audio and video tapes:

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's media institute published a video tape of Bowe Robert Bergdahl, the American soldier held captive by the Taliban.¹
- The "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" English forum published a movie entitled "Taliban-Pakistan".²
- A video clip produced by the Jihadi "As-Sahab" institute, entitled: "As-Sahab's meeting with Mawlawi Wali Al-Rahman: Amir of the Mas'ud Tribe Mujahideen", in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.³
- A new video clip in English, entitled: "The Next Generation of Mujahideen", on behalf of the "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" English forum.⁴
- An audio tape by Abu Abdullah Al-Muhajir (Khaled Hassan Banat), martyred Amir of "Jund Ansar Allah" – an armed Salafist-Jihadist organization operating in the Gaza Strip.⁵
- The Turkistan Islamic Party's media center – an Islamic Jihadi militant group aspiring to establish an independent Islamic Emirate in East Turkistan, in west



¹ <http://www.majahdenar.com/showthread.php?t=35331>

² <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=14143>

³ <http://www.shamikh.org/vb/showthread.php?t=55025>

⁴ <http://www.as-ansar.net/vb/showthread.php?t=13984>

⁵ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=14128>

China – published an interview in the Uyghur language with Abdullah Mansur, who is in charge of the media in the party.⁶

- The “Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya” forum, in all probability operating from the Palestinian territories, published an interview with Abu Hafs Al-Maqdisi, the Amir of the “Bayt Al-Maqdis” (appellation for Jerusalem) Emirate.⁷

Magazines:

- The “Al-Fajr” media center published the fifth issue of the “Hittin” magazine, written in Urdu.⁸
- The Jihadi forums published the fourth issue of the “Caucasus” magazine. This issue is 71 pages long, and deals mainly with the occurrences in Chechnya and its history.⁹



Books:

- The “Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya” forum published a book by Abu Muhammad Al-



Maqdisi – one of the most prominent Salafi ideologists today, considered to be Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi’s mentor – entitled “Khaybar Khaybar ya Yahud, Muhammad’s Army Shall Return”.¹⁰ The book was also published on Al-Maqdisi’s website, “Minbar Al-Tawhid W-Al-Jihad” (www.tawhed.ws).¹¹

⁶ <http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=35263>

⁷ <http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=35190>

⁸ <http://www.majahdenar.com/showthread.php?p=164417>

⁹ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=10884>

¹⁰ The use of the slogan “Khaybar Khaybar ya Yahud” is a reference to the elimination of Jews in the Khaybar region in the Arabian Peninsula by the Prophet Muhammad in the early days of Islam.

¹¹ <http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=34933>

- The "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya" forum published a 29 page booklet entitled "Come to Jihad". The book was written anonymously in October 2009 and is mainly based on the Islamic tradition, as well as on radical religious clerics such as the Saudi Arabian preacher Salman Al-Awda.¹²
- The "Al-Ansar Al-Baridiya" group published a book by Sheikh Abu Ahmad Abd Al-Rahman Al-Masri, known as a prolific author of books on Jihad and Islam, entitled "Walking Together or Separating from the Movements Legitimizing Secularism".¹³



Other publications:

- The "Al-Ma'sada" Jihadi media institute published a booklet entitled "40 Hadiths praising Jihad and their Interpretation". The booklet is 67 pages long and was written by Abu Abdullah Al-Maqdisi, a senior Sharia member of the Lebanese Salafi-Jihadi organization "Fath Al-Islam".¹⁴
- Ayman Al-Zawahiri's wife, Umayma Hasan Ahmad Muhammad Hasan, published "A Missive to the Muslim Sisters". In the missive she calls upon Muslim women not to join the Jihad, despite it being the duty of every Muslim man and woman, as according to her the path of fighting is not easy for women. On the other hand, she calls upon women to "put themselves at the disposal of the Jihad fighters" and help them with funds, services and information. In addition, the wife of Al-Qaeda's No. 2 leader claims, that if a Jihad fighter requests it, then the woman must participate in the fighting and



¹² <http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=34327>

¹³ <http://www.majahdenar.com/showthread.php?t=35411>

¹⁴ <http://www.shamikh.net/vb/showthread.php?t=54469>

even in suicide bombings, as "several sisters in Palestine, Iraq and Chechnya have done".¹⁵

- The "As-Sahab" Jihadi media institute published a missive by Ayman Al-Zawahiri entitled "The Morning and the Candle". The missive is 128 pages long and deals with the constitution in Pakistan and the various ways in which it contradicts Islamic tradition.¹⁶
- The "Al-Somood" media institute published a booklet entitled "The Comprehensive Book of the Articles by the Military Expert Abd Al-Rahman Al-Faqir". The booklet, published on December 2009, deals with various aspects of Jihadi fighting and includes a series of articles relating to this subject.¹⁷
- A first and unique publication of the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum entitled "The Abominable Betrayal... Where is the Justice?", This publication is included in a series of publications entitled "A Series on the Truth and the Shameful Acts... (Hamas's Betrayals)", which strives to illuminate the negative aspects of the Hamas movement. This time, the publication focuses on the life of the engineer Yahya Ayyash.¹⁸
- The Jihadi "Al-Tahadi" forum published an anthology entitled "Abdullah Azzam's Heritage". The anthology – over 4 GB – contains books, videos and audio segments relating to Abdullah Azzam's persona.¹⁹



The "Abdullah Azzam's Heritage" banner

¹⁵ <http://as-ansar.net/vb/showthread.php?p=54615>

¹⁶ <http://as-ansar.net/vb/showthread.php?p=54614>

¹⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=14306>

¹⁸ <http://www.shamikh.net/vb/showthread.php?t=54973>

¹⁹ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=10889>

- A third publication by the "Jawal Al-Ansar" group, contains, as in the two previous publications, a selection of audio segments, spectacular posters and books on the subject of Jihad, for mobile phones.²⁰

Reports from the field

Afghanistan-Pakistan:

- Following a series of terrorist attacks over the past weeks in Pakistan, which killed dozens of innocent people, surfers posted questions on several Jihadi forums regarding the legitimacy of these attacks.²¹ This trend continues, and one of the surfers on the "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya" forum, asked what is the point of harming innocent Muslims and whether it was permitted according to tradition. He added "How do you expect this Jihad to win, if the people do not support you after such a murder executed without discrimination?" The forum general supervisor, Abu Qatada Al-Muhajir, responded that Muslims were not being murdered, and said it was a media distortion of the situation. According to him, those murdered were infidels from the police and the government. He adds that there is proof that the Mujahideen called off actions in order to safeguard Muslim lives.²²

Iraq:

- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported that the American Army has admitted that Iraqi Jihad activists have the technological ability to cope with the American remote-control planes flying over Iraqi sky. This report, published on the "Wall Street Journal", did not garner any response from the surfers.²³

²⁰ <http://as-ansar.net/vb/showthread.php?p=55665>

²¹ For example, see:

http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_Dec_2009_2.pdf, page 3.

²² <http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=34716>

²³ <http://7anein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=148563>

The Arabian Peninsula:

- Jihadi forums reported extensively on the attacks carried out by the Yemenite forces, with American aid, against Al-Qaeda activists in various areas in Yemen. On December 17th 2009, at least 34 Al-Qaeda activists were killed and dozens of activists were arrested in an assault carried out by the Yemenite Army, focusing on the Abyan Region, in the southern part of the country. According to various reports, in this assault, where an Al-Qaeda activists planned on carrying out terrorist attacks against local and foreign targets in Yemen, Qasim Al-Rimi, the military head of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, was saved.²⁴



Al-Qaeda activist, Saleh Al-Umayr, makes a speech at Abyan and declares that the organization's enemy is "America and its agents" and not the Yemenite Army



A gathering of Al-Qaeda activists and the local tribes at the Abyan Province

A week later, on December 24th 2009, another attack was carried out, this time in the Shabwa Province, against a group of Al-Qaeda activists. Yemenite sources reported that in this assault, the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, Nasser Al-Wahishi, and his Saudi deputy, Sa'id Al-Shihri, were killed together with the religious cleric, Anwar Al-Awlaki, an American Islamic preacher of Yemenite origin, who was in contact with Major Nidal Hassan, who

²⁴ <http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=17235>,
<http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=17286>

murdered 13 soldiers at the "Fort Hood" base in Texas at the beginning of November 2009.²⁵

Some surfers tried to calm things down and said that the leaders of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula were not killed in the Yemenite attack, and that only innocent people were killed. One of the surfers prayed to God that the reports were untrue, while another protested: "Why don't some of the brothers understand that the Mujahideen have their own sources and to that end 'emissaries' were appointed when on more than one occasion they have sacrificed themselves in order to bring the truth to the public, while we 'hunt down' news from here and there and then spread them?!..."²⁶ One of the "Al-Faloja" forum supervisors deleted a response written by a surfer, reporting who was killed in the attack. Other surfers tried to assess who was killed, and again there are surfers who issue a call to wait for an official response by the organization.²⁷ Other surfers quote Abdul Ela Sha'i, the Yemenite journalist renowned for his ties with Al-Qaeda, who revealed to the Al-Jazeera channel that Sheikh Saleh Al-Umayr was the one killed in the attack.²⁸

The many postings on the subject continue and a surfer wondered why the "Al-Malahim" institute, belonging to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, did not publish an official announcement. This angered one of the surfers, who called upon the forum managers to block such responses: "The Mujahideen are not our employees and we cannot ask them what we please... do not embarrass the Mujahideen and do not bother them. I ask the forum managers to block subjects such as those which harm the Mujahideen's interests and distract them from their work... None of the Mujahideen leaders or their most

²⁵ <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11350&article=550010>

²⁶ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=97108>

²⁷ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=97089>

²⁸ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=97052>,
<http://7anein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=149550>

junior fighter will appear unless they receive an order from their leaders or the Shura Council and then only for an important issue. There is no doubt that following these blows, an announcement will be published sooner or later."²⁹

Following the intensive actions taken against Al-Qaeda in Yemen in the accusations that the organization is striving to establish an Islamic Emirate in some of the Yemenite provinces, the organization's activists swore to take revenge against the United States "and against whoever stands beside it".³⁰



From right to left: Nasser Al-Wahishi, Sai'id Al-Shihri and Anwar Al-Awlaki

Following the first attack in Abyan, carried out on December 17th 2009, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published an official announcement stating that five American fighter planes executed the attack. The announcement further stated that American espionage planes have been carrying out intelligence flights over Yemen airspace for



²⁹ <http://alflojweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=96648>

³⁰ <http://7anein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=149337>,
<http://7anein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=149244>,
<http://www.7anein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=150031>

several months, in cooperation with "traitorous" Yemen. According to the announcement, "this massacre" was carried out with the agreement and coordination of the neighboring countries. Therefore, the announcement states the following:³¹

1. The war over our country is a Zionist-Crusader war, targeting Islam and with the objective of eliminating the people of Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Chechnya, Waziristan and the rest of the Muslim countries.
2. This action exposes the lie of western democracy, which does not consider human rights and kills innocents.
3. This massacre exposes the extent of the cooperation of the Yemenite government and the Arabian Peninsula leaders with the Zionist-Crusader campaign.
4. The failure of the joint campaign in achieving the objective, which is the elimination of the Mujahideen in the Arabian Peninsula.
5. The Mujahideen will not allow the blood of Muslim women and children to be spilled without retribution.

Finally, the announcement calls upon the Yemenite tribes and the people of the Arabian Peninsula, to stand against the Zionist-Crusader campaign and its agents, and to attack its military bases, intelligence embassies and war fleets at present in the waters and lands of the Arabian Peninsula.

- A surfer on the "Al-Faloja" forum asks, on behalf of "the brothers in the Arabian Peninsula", that the surfers pray, following the attack perpetrated against them by Yemen in the past few weeks. Many surfers answered the call and asked for God's help on their own behalf, as well as asking for Him to

³¹ <http://www.shamikh.net/vb/showthread.php?t=55335>

receive the dead as shahids. Others spoke out against the Yemenite and Saudi Arabian governments and against the Americans.³²

- A surfer posted correspondence that he received by private mail, in which he warns that the Saudi authorities have circulated a memorandum amongst the security services, containing the names of five wanted people who should be captured immediately following reports of their intention to enter the Kingdom.³³

The Maghreb region:

- The "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" English forum reported that two Italians were kidnapped in Mauritania by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.³⁴
- The "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" English forum reported that four armed men belonging to Al-Qaeda were killed in Algeria.³⁵

The Al-Sham Region (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinian Territories):

- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum published a call directed at Al-Qaeda for help from the Jihadi factions in Gaza and especially from Abu Omar Al-Baghdadi, leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, to help them remove the siege which they are under, especially after the



erection of the fence built by Egypt on the border of the Gaza strip, to prevent smuggling. Jihad activists in Gaza call upon Al-Qaeda to act against this

³² <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=97036>,
<http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=35414>

³³ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=97397>

³⁴ <http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=17288>,
<http://www.7anein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=150080>

³⁵ <http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=17284>

exploitation, to kidnap "Zionist" or American soldiers in Iraq and to publish a warning demanding that the exploitation of Gaza cease.³⁶

- An official announcement by the "Ansar Allah Bayt Al-Maqdis" organization – one of the most radical Islamic movements operating in the Palestinian territories - determining that Jerusalem is the capital of the Islamic Caliphates.³⁷
- The new media institute, "Al-Raya" (the Flag), founded by the Jihadi "Mujahideen Al-Masada" media institute (the Mujahideen's Lion's Den) has decided to change its name to "Al-Riyah" (the Winds).³⁸



- The new media A new photograph of Khalid Banat Abu Abdullah Al-Muhajir, the Amir of the Salafi-Jihadi "Jund Ansar Allah" group, operating in the Gaza Strip, and of Rifat Abu Salima, one of his companions. According to the postings, the photograph was taken inside the Ibn Taimiya Mosque in Rafah, 15 minutes before the massacre was carried out by the Hamas against the aforementioned group.³⁹



Abu Abdullah Al-Muhajir walking in front

- A publication of a manifesto by the "Jaysh Al-Umma" (the Ummah's Army) on the anniversary of the "Cast Lead" operation. The manifesto accused the Crusaders in general and the Jews in particular, of trying to divide the ranks of the Muslim nation, and of trying to empty the Gaza Strip of its Muslim

³⁶ <http://7anein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=149256>

³⁷ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=13837>,

<http://www.muslim48.com/Article.php?id=591>

³⁸ <http://www.as-ansar.net/vb/showthread.php?t=13992>,

<http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=34713>. See also:

http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWGM_Periodical_Review_Dec_2009_2.pdf, page 6.

³⁹ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=10844>

residents. Furthermore, the group calls for the establishment of Islamic Caliphates and strengthens the hands of the Mujahideen.⁴⁰

- Following the reports of the death of a Jordanian officer in a terrorist attack in Afghanistan, the surfers protest the fact that Muslim soldiers fight alongside the Americans, instead of alongside the Mujahideen. They point out that there are other auxiliary forces from Muslim countries such as Egypt, the Gulf Emirates and Turkey.⁴¹
- Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, one of the most prominent Salafi ideologists today, considered to be Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi's spiritual mentor, was lightly injured in a car accident on the Aqaba road. His condition is good and he is now at home.⁴²

Egypt:

- A surfer named Seif Al-Islam Al-Masri, probably from Egypt, wondered why there was no serious Jihadi movement in Egypt as in many other countries. He stressed that this was shameful and he called upon the Egyptian people to rise up and establish a Jihadi movement.⁴³

Africa:

- The "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement in Somalia has announced the boycotting of the U.N.'s Main Action Agency, working in the disarmament of land mines, as according to the movement, the Agency leaks information and maps to western intelligence entities, pays the salaries of the Somali Army forces and strives to create chaos in regions under the movement's rule. Furthermore, the Agency is said to be bribing tribe leaders to act against the movement. Many surfers expressed support of the movement's

⁴⁰ <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=10885>

⁴¹ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=97931>

⁴² <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=98053>

⁴³ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=96962>

announcement, and one of them called upon "all the Mujahideen around the world and especially our brothers in Somalia, to boycott all the aid groups, whether they are Arab or foreign", especially if they belong to the U.N., as they operate against the Muslims and the Mujahideen in particular.⁴⁴

- The "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement has announced its complete takeover of the districts in southern Somalia.⁴⁵
- An announcement of the establishment of a new media institute called "The Islamic Production Brigades" belonging to the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement.⁴⁶ The call for the movement to establish a media institute came up a month ago, but it should be noted that the movement has another media institute called "Jaysh Al-Usra" (The Army of Hardship).⁴⁷
- During the past two weeks, a discussion was held on the beginning of the Jihad in Nigeria. A discussion began on the "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" English forum, following the posting of an article on the continued American involvement in Africa. The discussion started with a citation of one of the books written by the ideologist Sheikh Abu Baker Naji, probably of Jordanian origin, who wrote the famous book "Idarat Al-Tawahush" ("Management of Savagery"), in which he refers to Nigeria as a potential location for Jihad. The surfer opening the discussion mentions Nigeria's weaknesses which reinforce the possibility for the beginning of Jihad – corrupt government, a large Muslim population, wealth stemming from oil and agriculture and extensive borders, which can be separated from the center of the country. The writer



⁴⁴ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=96306>

⁴⁵ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=97254>

⁴⁶ <http://www.shamikh.net/vb/showthread.php?p=317260>

⁴⁷

http://www.ict.org.il/portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_Nov_1.pdf, pages 5-6.

mentions that global Jihad leadership has neglected Nigeria at the present time as a possible Jihad arena. However, he says, after encountering pilgrims in the Hajj, Jihad can be initiated on a small local scale. He further adds that Nigeria is an important location for the United States and Israel, because of the oil supply. The Shiite population is also mentioned as being of interest to Iran.⁴⁸

The West and the rest of the world:

The attempted attack on an American plane:

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published an official announcement on December 28th 2009, taking responsibility for the attempt to blow up an American passenger plane on December 25th 2009, which was headed to the United States from the Netherlands. The organization's announcement said that the attempted attack was made due to "the American aggression against Yemen" and



following the attacks made by Yemen on December 17th and 24th 2009 – in coordination and with the aid of the U.S. and Saudi Arabia – against Al-Qaeda in the Abyan and Shabwa provinces.⁴⁹ According to the announcement, the terrorist Omar Al-Faruk Abdul Mutalab, was in direct contact with the Mujahideen in the Arabian Peninsula. The organization's production

⁴⁸ <http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=17169>,
<http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=17185>,
<http://alm0sul.co.cc/showthread.php?t=1685>

⁴⁹ it should be noted that the terrorist purchased the ticket on December 16th 2009, that is before the attacks in Yemen, and it is clear that the logistical planning of an attack on this scale takes weeks, if not many months: <http://www.examiner.com/x-12585-Minneapolis-AirlinesAirport-Examiner~y2009m12d28-NWA-BOMBING-UPDATE-US-official-admits-Our-system-did-not-work>

department developed the elaborate explosive device and even tested it, but due to a technical malfunction, the device did not detonate. However, the organization pledged to continue on this path, until it achieves its goal. Furthermore, the organization calls upon every Muslim to act in order to expel the infidels from the Arabian Peninsula, by killing every "Crusader" working in embassies and other places. The organization calls for an all-out war against the Crusaders in the Arabian Peninsula on land, in the sea and in the air. Finally, the organization calls upon all active soldiers in the "Crusader Armies", to emulate the actions of Major Nidal Hassan who, at the beginning of November 2009, murdered 13 American soldiers in the "Fort Hood" base in Texas.⁵⁰

Following acceptance of responsibility, a surfer posts a call on the "Al-Faloja" forum to attack American maritime targets and reminds of the attack against the "USS Cole" destroyer in 2000.⁵¹ He enumerates the targets: "all the American military vessels in the seas and oceans – aircraft carriers, submarines and all the military vessels deployed everywhere, are fire targets for Al-Qaeda." He urges to quietly gather information on all the American marine vessels, and emphasizes that they should be only American. He elaborates and explains that one should know the vessel's name, its tasks, its exact location according to conventional coordinates, the vessel's advantages, and the number of American soldiers on it and whether there are soldiers from other countries, as well as their marital status and the places of residence of their families and the types of weapons upon the vessel. He states that one should examine the best possible way to observe the vessels

⁵⁰ <http://www.shamikh.net/vb/showthread.php?p=320702>

⁵¹ For a detailed report on Al-Qaeda's wish to carry out marine attacks, see: http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Maritime_Terrorism.pdf

24 hours a day and to know its shipping route. He issues a call to track the websites where those on the vessels surf, to study which country provides the maintenance for the vessels, examine whether it has nuclear weapons, get to know its technology and learn ways to disrupt the operation of such vessels. The surfers applaud the initiative and publish many photographs and drawings of sea vessels.⁵²

Another surfer also threatens with maritime attacks and stresses that "the next campaign will be decisive both in terms of the complex devices that will not be discovered, and in terms of the quality operations that have already taken place on land and in the air against trains and airplanes and soon at sea, and in marine activity, as the soldiers of the Arabian Peninsula organization are knowledgeable in the field of marine operations". In this regard, he mentions the attack against the "USS Cole" destroyer and against the "Limburg" French oil tanker (October 2002).⁵³

From various reports it is learned, that Omar Al-Faruq stayed in Yemen from the beginning of August 2009 until the beginning of December 2009. He received an entry visa from the official authorities in Yemen and studied Arabic in one of the educational institutes in the capital Sana'a.⁵⁴ Following the attempted attack, many responses came up in the Jihadi forums, praising the terrorist's courage and the attempt to blow up an American passenger airplane. For example, the "Hanein" forum had a posting that "this action is a message that if Muslims are attacked wherever Al-Qaeda is, the infidels will be attacked in the heart of their countries, in response." It was further written: "The blessed blow is a message for all Muslims to support Al-Qaeda and join it... the blow is a message that Al-Qaeda can strike, and has fighting

⁵² <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=97753>

⁵³ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=97985>

⁵⁴ <http://hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=150199>

armies amongst you... the message is directed at the American and European people fighting the Muslims – the acts of your governments bring destruction upon you...". It was further stated that the operation, even though it failed, has proved an "American-British" intelligence failure.⁵⁵

Other postings on this forum stated, that the attack occurred in record time as far as planning, preparation and execution are concerned, but was not completed as the plane did not explode. It further stated that it was executed within a short period of time, as only a few days passed since the attack on the Yemenite provinces. Finally, the surfer wonders what will be the next big terrorist attack after 9/11. He mentions, in this regard, the threats of Al-Qaeda leaders towards the United States and adds the following words: "Weapons of mass destruction", without elaborating on the subject.⁵⁶ Another surfer views the attempted attack as a "significant and historical turn of events in Jihadi work, as the Mujahideen are responding to a crime perpetrated in their territory, in a place far away from the scene of Crusader massacre, with such speed and with a new pattern of operation and by a non-Arab suicide bomber." Another surfer explains that he thought the response to the events in Yemen will be by another Al-Qaeda branch and not from the Arabian Peninsula, and in another place, but "the unity of body has been fulfilled, as was written by the military expert, Abu Bakr Naji, in his book 'Idarat Al-Tawahush' (Management of Savagery)... what I have read in the book is happening in reality in the Arabian Peninsula and in Somalia."⁵⁷ Another surfer explains why the attack did not fail and promises "another Faruq from Kenya, the Gulf, the Al-Sham region, Europe or American itself".⁵⁸

⁵⁵ <http://hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=150296>

⁵⁶ <http://hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=150398>

⁵⁷ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=97594>

⁵⁸ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=97707>

One of the surfers asks whether Al-Qaeda's acceptance of responsibility after the terrorist had been captured, would not increase the torture of the terrorist to extract sensitive information from him as to how the explosives charge was manufactured and how he circumvented the security measures. These postings, even though they challenge Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, were not removed by the forum managers. Several surfers responded to them and said that the acceptance of responsibility has a deterring message which proves that the organization can strike at America and respond to its actions. Furthermore, surfers explain, that despite the fact that the terrorist is alive, there is little fear of revealing information, as all the operational stages were planned in a compartmentalized manner, in the event that the terrorist would be apprehended. It was further written that the acceptance of responsibility testifies to the power of the Arabian Peninsula organization's strength and elevates its popularity amongst the local tribes in Yemen.⁵⁹

On the "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya" forum, a call was addressed to the residents of Yemen to stand by Al-Qaeda in Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula, to help it financially and provide it with personnel and weapons, in view of the war waged by the United States. The message was also directed at the Yemenite security forces personnel, to serve as support for the Mujahideen.⁶⁰

- The Jihadi "Hanein" forum reported that the Spanish Ministry of Interior has increased its level of alertness to the second most severe level, in anticipation of possible terrorist attacks, before Spain becomes President of the European Union in January 2010.⁶¹

⁵⁹ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=97667>

⁶⁰ <http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=35690>

⁶¹ <http://hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=150431>

- Scathing criticism of the lack of proper propaganda by the Muslims in Thailand. The posting shows a desire to boost propaganda on behalf of the Muslims in Thailand and a desire to uncover the oppression they endure at the hands of the Thai government.⁶²
- The "Shumukh" Jihadi forum reported the entry of Russian forces into Afghanistan, following the NATO forces' announcement of the date of their retreat from Afghanistan. According to one of the surfers, Russia's wish to take over Afghanistan a second time is apparent, once the NATO forces retreat. That is why Russia is preparing the ground, as a preparatory stage for the future takeover of Afghanistan.⁶³
- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported that a court in China has sentenced five Muslims to death, from the Uyghur district, following protests which erupted on July 2009 in the capital of "East Turkistan".⁶⁴

General reports:

- A surfer asked about the fate of Sheikh Abu Yahya Al-Libi, said to be Al-Qaeda's Mufti, following reports of his assassination and asked why the "Al-Faloja" forum managers have not commented.⁶⁵ One of the supervisors replied that the only source for official publications is the "Al-Fajr" propaganda center.⁶⁶
- The "Al-Faloja" forum and its surfers commiserate with Ayman Al-Zawahiri over the death of his mother. The official announcement mentions that she died on December 20th 2009, but does not mention the place of her death or

⁶² <http://www.atahadi.com/vb/showthread.php?t=10857>

⁶³ <http://www.shamikh.net/vb/showthread.php?t=54682>

⁶⁴ <http://www.7anein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=149636>

⁶⁵ For conflicting reports surrounding his possible death, see:

http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_Dec_2009_2.pdf, pages 10-11.

⁶⁶ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=95896>

her funeral.⁶⁷ It should be noted that other Jihadi forums also sent their condolences.

- An appeal made by Sheikh Abu Muslim Al-Jaza'ri, apparently a religious cleric from Algeria identified with Al-Qaeda, on behalf of Abu Musab Al-Suri, considered



to be one of the most important Al-Qaeda ideologists. At the beginning of his statement, he explains that many Al-Qaeda religious clerics and leaders were killed over the years. Some were arrested and their location is known, but the fate of Abu Musab Al-Suri is still unknown. Therefore, he calls upon those in charge of the Jihad media institutes and the Jihadi forum managers, to publicize this information and even open a special room for Abu Musab Al-Suri, where relevant information can be posted. He also calls for the establishment of committees that will be assisted by legal rights activists and lawyers, in order to try and discover his fate. He especially appeals to the "brothers in western countries, and especially in Spain, as Al-Suri is a Spanish citizen, and those in Britain where he stayed for an extended period".⁶⁸

- One of the surfers on the "Hanein" forum posted a question on the forum asking "Are the Muslims allowed to obtain nuclear weapons?" This question did not receive many responses; one surfer replied: "My brother, everything is allowed". Another surfer wrote: "Yes, and the Muslims are religiously required to strike the infidels with all the power they have. I ask Allah to place in their hands a weapon of such power."⁶⁹

⁶⁷ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=96595>

⁶⁸ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=96650>

⁶⁹ <http://7anein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=147998>

- Global Jihad ideologists ascribe the utmost importance to the media campaign, so much so, that sometimes it is preferable over actual Jihad. In addition, it seems that Jihad organizations have a chain of command, so that a change of course requires the authorization of a senior member of the organization. A surfer claiming to be from Afghanistan, asks Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, considered to be Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi's spiritual mentor and one of Al-Qaeda's most important ideologists, the following question: "I work in one of the Mujahideen's media groups, but my heart cannot rest. I am healthy and I can go and fight the infidels, but there are brothers who say that our activity in the field of propaganda is preferable, as there isn't much propaganda in the Afghan region. Can I sit behind a computer or should I fight at the front? And if the answer is that in both cases I am carrying out Jihad for Allah, which one is preferable?"

Sheikh Al-Maqdisi replies: "Fighting and collective Jihad under the umbrella of an Emirate, group and unclear path, are the preferable thing... however such Jihad will not be completed, will not succeed and will not achieve its objectives only by fighting... there are other aspects to this Jihad – eloquence explaining its objectives and goals and distancing from its distortions and doubts... if you operate in the field of propaganda on behalf of your Amir or the Mujahideen, I advise you not to leave your work... without their permission and without coordinating with them. You must say that your soul yearns to fight and that you are tired of sitting behind a computer. Let us hope that they succeed in finding someone to fill your place... if they do not allow you to leave your work, you must not do so, as there is no one to take your place and you must not abandon your position."⁷⁰

⁷⁰ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=96380>

Miscellaneous

- The "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya" forum announced the establishment of a new media institute called "Sada Al-Boraq", which operates on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.⁷¹ It should be noted that Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula has its own media institute called "Al-Malahim".
- The "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya" forum announced the founding of a new media institute called "Al-Tawhid". From the announcement of the institute's establishment, it seems this is a media institute that is not affiliated with a specific Jihadi organization, but rather distributes textual materials, as well as video clips and audio tapes, in the name of the Mujahideen worldwide.⁷²
- The deputy manager of the "Al-Ansar" forum tried to calm the forum members and clarified that the reason for the temporary shutting down of the "Electronic Jihad College" group, supervised by Al-Seif Azzam, one of the forum members, is not due to hacking or a penetration of the group, but is due to a request made by its members. Furthermore, he emphasizes that the course itself is worthwhile and provides a lot of knowledge and skills in hacking websites and email accounts.⁷³
- A surfer asked for the surfers' advice on how to begin his path to Jihad. He explained that he has enough money, but does not know where to go to, whether to Pakistan or the Caucasus, and wonders how to get there. He also expresses concern of being caught. The surfers try to help and advise: "You



⁷¹ <http://www.majahdenar.com/showthread.php?t=35723>

⁷² <http://www.majahdenar.com/showthread.php?t=35665>

⁷³ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=13901>

must find a cover story that will lead you to the land of Jihad. Pretend to be working or travelling for..."; "You must begin acting gradually... if for example you wish to reach Iraq, you must go as a tourist... go first to Turkey and from there to Syria and from there to Iraq, or leave for Jordan and from there to Iraq... it is important for someone to greet you in a country near the area where you wish to go and it is important to have a guide who will take you to the region. It is better to arrive as a tourist, as someone looking for work or for investment. You must reach the Jihad arena nearest you."⁷⁴ It should be noted that apart from recommendations there was no real attempt at recruiting the surfer to Jihad activity. There could be three reasons for this: (a) fear that it might be an undercover agent planted by one of the western intelligence agencies; (b) the current forum does not have someone in charge of recruiting; (c) the surfer may have been directed for recruitment to another room, hidden from the other surfers.

- The English room at the "Shumukh" forum posted correspondence explaining how to prepare for Jihad. According to the writer, the article was posted following requests on the subject made via email. The article is divided into several sections, including: a summary of the essence of Jihad; military training as an Islamic necessity; the sincerity of intent on carrying out Jihad; training in the country of residence (physical training, martial arts, survival training, weapons training etc); specific reference to the dangers on the part of intelligence organizations, mainly in Britain.⁷⁵
- In other correspondence posted on the English room at the "Shumukh" forum, it was asked "Is Jihad terrorism?" It should be noted that this correspondence was posted by the same surfer who posted the

⁷⁴ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=95994>

⁷⁵ <http://shamikh.net/vb/showthread.php?t=54869>

correspondence dealing with the preparation for Jihad, the correspondence deals with the comparison between fighting and war and the rules of war in Islam. According to the writer, the West has given the term "Jihad" to Muslim fighting, but it is imprecise. He later makes a comparison between defensive Jihad and offensive Jihad, and finally discusses the reasons for terrorism, stemming from occupation and oppression. He summarizes the correspondence by saying that Islam is a complex religion that should be understood through dialogue, and that Jihad does not target innocent people.⁷⁶

- Alongside the private rooms in the Jihadi forums, where entry requires a password and authorization from one of the forum supervisors, there are open rooms dealing with the training of surfers for fighting, in weapons and equipment and for mental preparation. The "Maarik" forum has, for example, a room dealing with the psychological, physical and technological preparation for the Mujahideen. It includes virtual courses, photographs of weapons, accompanied by explanations, movies, books and encyclopedias and even requests made by surfers on how to manufacture explosives accompanied by explanations. For example: explanations of sniper weapons, the manufacturing of ammonia and other acids, how to rig a mobile phone, A virtual course in media, technology and electronics. On the "Al-Jahafil" forum, one can find a detailed explanation on how to become a military commander, or pass a virtual course in military topography.⁷⁷
- A surfer provides a list of websites following Jihadi forums and slandering Islam.⁷⁸

⁷⁶ <http://shamikh.net/vb/showthread.php?t=54981>

⁷⁷ <http://www.jahafal.com/forumdisplay.php?f=45>, <http://www.m3-f.com/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=9>

⁷⁸ <http://www.m3-f.com/forum/showthread.php?t=17619>

- One of the surfers asked for help in translating a video segment from English to Arabic, in order to distribute it to "the brothers who do not master English". Another surfer refers him to the "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" Jihadi forum, "where they are skilled in editing and translation", as he puts it.⁷⁹

- A new Jihadi forum in English: www.alm0sul.co.cc (Al-Mosul Islamic Network), reminiscent in its characteristics of the "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" English forum.



- The "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" forum in English posted an article on a new field vehicle armored against mines, which is supposed to enter the Afghan arena. The responses surrounding the subject focused on the need to strengthen the roadside explosive charges, so that they effectively impact the vehicle.⁸⁰



- The "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya" forum, operating in all probability from the Palestinian territories, has announced the opening of a new room called "the world campaign for helping Hijab (yes to Hijab)".⁸¹

⁷⁹ <http://alflojaweb.com/vb/showthread.php?t=96047>

⁸⁰ <http://ansarnet.info/showthread.php?t=17474>

⁸¹

<http://www.majahden.com/vb/forumdisplay.php?s=fe4306384d0ac3d3e16d4f2a1dfdde23&f=86>