

Global Jihad: Summary of Information from Arabic Media Sources

The First Half of June 2011

This report summarizes the most prominent articles on the subject of global Jihad published in the Arabic media in the first half of June 2011. Following are the main issues raised in this report:

- A speech given by Ayman Al-Zawahiri in which he eulogized Bin Laden, promised revenge, swore allegiance to Mullah Omar, and encouraged the protests in the Arab world.
- The waves of terrorism besieging Iraq and Pakistan continue.
- The armed confrontations between armed Al-Qaeda operatives and the Yemeni army continue in the Abyan Province, declared by Al-Qaeda to be an Islamic emirate.
- Efforts in North Africa to eradicate Al-Qaeda's activity in the Sahel region, following reports of weapons leaking out of the chaos in Libya.

Afghanistan – Pakistan

Al-Qaeda's leadership

- On June 8th 2011 the website of the "Al-Jazeera" network reported that Ayman Al-Zawahiri released a new video which was posted on YouTube. In the tape he eulogizes Bin Laden and says that the Jihad for the removal of the intruders from Islamic lands will continue. Al-Zawahiri promised that the U.S. will regret killing Bin Laden. He also expressed support for the rebel movements and the protests in the Arab world, and called on the Muslim nation in Syria to continue the fight and Jihad against the government. He further called for the establishment of a Sharia regime in Yemen and called on the Libyan people not to surrender to Gaddafi, or to the NATO forces which he called "crusaders". Al-Zawahiri pledged his allegiance to Mullah Omar, leader of the Taliban movement, whom he called the Emir of the believers. He also called on the Pakistani people to rise against its corrupt rulers.¹

Pakistan

- On June 2nd 2011 the website of the "Al-Jazeera" network reported that 27 security personnel and 40 armed men were killed in conflicts between the Pakistani security forces and armed Taliban operatives in the north-west of the country. Reports claim that the conflicts erupted after 200 armed Taliban members crossed the border with Afghanistan, attacking a security checkpoint.²
- On June 4th 2011 the website of the "Al-Jazeera" network reported that Pakistani security sources stated that the commander of the Pakistani Islamic

¹ Al-Jazeera, June 8th 2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

² Al-Jazeera, June 2nd 2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

Jihad movement, Ilyas Kashmiri, was killed alongside nine other operatives in an attack carried out by a drone in North Waziristan. The Islamic Jihad movement published a manifesto confirming his death. It was further noted that in 2009 there were false reports of the death of Al-Kashmiri.³

- In the first half of June 2011, the website of the "Al-Jazeera" network reported a number of terrorist attacks across Pakistan. These attacks resulted in the deaths of dozens of people in the north-west of the country, and included for the first time, a suicide bombing at a bank. The website reported that this is the first time a financial institution in the country was attacked.⁴

Iran

- On June 3rd 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported extensively on the connections between Al-Qaeda and Iran. According to the newspaper, it has obtained a document submitted to certain circles in the U.S. congress, stating that Ayman Al-Zawahiri established the connection between Hezbollah and Al-Qaeda when he was in Sudan at the beginning of the 1990s.

The paper further reported that according to the 9/11 Commission report, Imad Mugnyiah, Hezbollah's military senior commander, served as a "travel agent" for Al-Qaeda's suicide bombers prior to the attacks, and that Iran knew about the 9/11 attacks before they occurred. The paper also reported that 35 of the 85 people on the Saudi Wanted List are either in Iran, or passed through it. According to the paper's sources, Iran provides shelter to Al-Qaeda operatives, and it is unclear whether the goal of this connection on

³ Al-Jazeera, June 4th 2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

⁴ Al-Jazeera, June 6th, 12th and 13th 2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

the part of the Iranians is to prevent Iran from becoming a target for the organization, or to use the organization for its own overseas objectives.

One of the prominent Al-Qaeda operatives receiving Iranian shelter is Salih Al-Qarawi. Al-Qarawi carried out military training in Iran, which included the use of electronic means and explosives. Al-Qarawi also transported operatives to Iraq and Lebanon for training, with the aim of sending them to carry out terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia. The article mentions additional operatives from the Saudi 85 Most Wanted List with ties to Iran, including Abdullah Al-Ayed and Muhammad Abu Al-Khair.⁵

Iraq

- In the first half of June 2011, the Arab press reported a large number of terrorist attacks around Iraq which killed dozens of people. Following are the most prominent ones: on June 4th 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that 17 worshippers were killed in an attack in Tikrit when an explosive device inside an oil drum was detonated when they were leaving a mosque following Friday prayers.

The previous day 10 people were killed in Ramadi in a terrorist attack near a building belonging to the province's council. The attack was carried out with an explosive charge hidden in a garbage bag near a checkpoint. After this explosion, a suicide bomber tried to detonate a bomb, however the police shot him, forcing him to detonate his device a distance away from them. Following this, a car bomb was detonated behind the regional government building, causing many casualties. After these casualties were evacuated,

⁵ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, June 3rd 2011: www.aawsat.com

another car bomb was detonated at the entrance to the hospital. The authorities claim that the attack has the markings of Al-Qaeda.⁶

On June 7th 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported another terrorist attack in Tikrit and updated the number of casualties in the attack that had occurred three days previously, to 24.⁷ On June 12th 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that four people were killed in an attack in an area where restaurants frequented by security personnel are located. The attack was carried out using two car bombs. The article further reported that 47 judges have been killed in Iraq since 2003. The Supreme Judicial Council's spokesperson accused Al-Qaeda of the assassinations.⁸

- On June 13th 2011, the Iraqi "Al-Sabaah" newspaper reported that the Iraqi Ministry of Interior had thwarted an Al-Qaeda plan to attack oil distilleries and pipelines. The paper reported that security personnel defused numerous explosive charges placed in these installations. It was further reported that according to security sources, the organization used employees of the installations to place the charges, and that these operatives were arrested and confessed to planning the terrorist attack.⁹
- On June 14th 2011, the Iraqi "Al-Sabaah" newspaper reported that the Deputy Governor of the Diala Province revealed that former experts from the Iraqi military industry and several former army officers and Ba'ath operatives, were involved with Al-Qaeda operatives in the manufacturing of latching explosives charges. The charges were manufactured in factories, using a new method involving large bottles of carbonated beverages. It further predicted that Al-Qaeda will carry out large terrorist attacks in the

⁶ Al-Hayat, June 4th 2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

⁷ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, June 7th 2011: www.aawsat.com

⁸ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, June 12th 2011: www.aawsat.com

⁹ Al-Sabaah, June 13th 2011: <http://www.alsabaah.com>

near future to undermine security after the withdrawal of the American forces.¹⁰

- On June 15th 2011, the Iraqi "Al-Sabaah" newspaper reported that an attempt was made to take over the regional government building in the Diyala province. Five Al-Qaeda suicide bombers, four of whom were disguised as policemen, tried to invade the regional government building after one of them detonated his bomb at the entrance to the building and one detonated a car bomb near the information center outside the building. The other three terrorists tried to break into the building with the aim of taking it over, but they failed. One of the five terrorists was a woman.¹¹

The Arabian Peninsula

Yemen

- On June 10th 2011, the website of the "Al-Jazeera" network reported that for the previous fortnight, Al-Qaeda was in control of the city of Zinjibar in the Abyan province, and that Al-Qaeda operatives were fighting the Yemeni army around the city. Forty five people were killed in these battles - 30 of them were Al-Qaeda operatives and the rest were soldiers from the Yemeni army.¹² On June 14th 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that the number of casualties amongst the army forces in the area had risen to 81. It was further reported that the armed men who took over the city had RPG shells and mortars, and that the fighters were comprised of Pakistani, Libyan, Saudi and Yemeni operatives.¹³

¹⁰ Al-Sabaah, June 14th 2011: <http://www.alsabaah.com>

¹¹ Al-Sabaah, June 14th 2011: <http://www.alsabaah.com>

¹² Al-Jazeera, June 10th 2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

¹³ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, June 14th 2011: www.aawsat.com

- On June 11th 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that French Presidential sources expressed concern over the "Somalization" of Yemen. According to the sources, there is concern that Yemen will become a new base for terrorism that will threaten the strategic marine routes and will constitute a threat to Saudi Arabia's stability.¹⁴

Egypt

- On June 3rd 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that Hamid Abdullah, the Egyptian Deputy Minister of Interior and Director of the National Security Department, said to the paper that Al-Qaeda has no presence in the Sinai Peninsula, and that reports of the infiltration into Sinai of 400 operatives from various countries, are false. He further added that the deterioration in the security in the north of the Sinai Peninsula is a result of the nature of the tribal society and its problems with the former security forces in Egypt.¹⁵

The Maghreb

Algeria

- On June 9th 2011, the Algerian "El-Khabar" newspaper reported that the Pentagon is considering giving Algeria financial aid for the purpose of battling terrorism. According to the report, Algeria finances 60% of the cost of the anti-terrorism activity in North Africa and the Sahel. It was further reported that between January 2011 and May 2011, the Algerian security forces thwarted 170 terrorist attacks and killed 28 of the 43 terrorists that were eliminated in the Sahel region. It was also reported that during this period

¹⁴ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, June 11th 2011: www.aawsat.com

¹⁵ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, June 3rd 2011: www.aawsat.com

Al-Qaeda perpetrated 39 attacks against Algeria, Mali, Niger and Mauritania, causing the deaths of 95 people.¹⁶

Mauritania

- On June 11th 2011, the Algerian "El-Khabar" newspaper reported that the Mauritanian and Malian armies were planning an attack on Al-Qaeda strongholds in the Sahel, particularly in the Wagadu Forest. It was further reported that senior military officers from both countries met in order to plan the assault. According to the report, the Wagadu Forest has become a passage route for Libyan weapons into the Sahel. The forest is in Malian territory about 60 kilometers from the border with Mauritania. There has been a recent increase in reports on the transfer of weapons to terrorists in the region.¹⁷

Somalia

- On June 1st 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that according to its sources, the Somali Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen movement, which declared its loyalty to Al-Qaeda, is on the verge of disbanding due to the military pressures it faces on several fronts. It was further reported that the movement began moving some of its operatives to Yemen, and that it is considering disarming itself of its heavy weapons and to wage a long-term guerilla war.¹⁸
- On June 2nd 2011 the website of the Al-Jazeera network reported that the spokesman of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Mahmud Raghi, promised at a press conference held in Mogadishu that the movement would escalate its war

¹⁶ El-Khabar, June 9th 2011: <http://www.elkhabar.com>

¹⁷ El-Khabar, June 6th 2011: <http://www.elkhabar.com>

¹⁸ Al-Hayat, June 1st 2011: <http://international.daralhayat.com>

against the African Union Forces, and that this had already begun with a terrorist attack which was carried out by the organization two days beforehand at an African Union base, killing 30 soldiers.¹⁹ The website further reported that there were 17 casualties in confrontations between Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen and the Somali security forces and the African Union forces in Mogadishu.²⁰

- On June 10th 2011 the website of the "Al-Jazeera" network reported that Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack carried out against an African Forces unit in the Port of Mogadishu. According to eye witnesses, the perpetrators entered the port through the main prison near the port at a time when there was not much loading and unloading activity, and most of the workers were on a break. The perpetrators began shooting at the African Union soldiers using hand guns, followed by the detonation of explosives belts. The spokesman of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Mahmud Raghi, declared that the organization's "Suicide Brigade" carried out the attack. The article further reported that the organization recently suffered defeats in the confrontations in Mogadishu, especially in the Bakara Market area, and had decided to increase the suicide attacks.²¹
- On June 12th 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that one of the commanders of Al-Qaeda in East Africa, Fadhul Abdullah Muhammad, was killed in an exchange of fire at a roadblock in Mogadishu. Muhammad was one of the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks on the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen confirmed his death.²²

¹⁹ Al-Jazeera, June 2nd 2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

²⁰ Al-Jazeera, June 2nd 2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

²¹ Al-Jazeera, June 2nd 2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

²² Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, June 12th 2011: www.aawsat.com

- On June 14th 2011 the website of the "Al-Jazeera" network reported that Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen had placed regions on the border of Kenya and Somalia under siege, preventing the traffic of displaced people from Somalia into Kenya. It was further reported that Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen declared a "gasoline war" and was preventing the passage of the fuel to settlements near the border with Kenya and the transfer of gasoline into Kenya itself.²³
- On June 16th 2011 the website of the "Al-Jazeera" network reported that the Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen movement had promised to escalate its activity against the Somali government and to launch a guerilla war against the Somali government's political and military leaders. The movement's spokesman, Abd Al-Aziz Abu Mus'ab, threatened that his movement will carry out organized attacks against political and military leaders, whom he called "the imams of heresy and the recanting of the Islamic religion". According to Al-Jazeera's sources, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen has already begun using guerilla tactics against the Somali government forces in the Jubba Province, where the Somali tribes held a ceremony in which they gave the movement their heavy weapons, including missiles and military vehicles.²⁴

The West and the rest of the world

The United States

- On June 2nd 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper, quoting the foreign news agencies, reported that indictments were served in the U.S. against two Iraqis who attempted to ship sniper guns, money and Stinger missiles to Al-Qaeda operatives in Iraq.²⁵

²³ Al-Jazeera, June 14th 2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

²⁴ Al-Jazeera, June 15th 2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>

²⁵ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, June 2nd 2011: www.aawsat.com

The Caucasus

- The "Al-Jazeera Research Center" belonging to the "Al-Jazeera" network, published an article titled "The Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus after Bin Laden". The article discusses the importance of Jihad in the Caucasus amongst the Salafi Jihadi movement and mentions that Bin Laden stressed the importance of Jihad in the region in several of his speeches. The importance of the Caucasus as a Jihad theater also appeared in Al-Zawahiri's essays, and in those of Abu Musab Al-Suri and others. The article discussed the phenomenon of the localization of Jihad, meaning – the locals' involvement in Jihad, helping Salafi Jihad.

The article explains that the Salafi Jihadists have in the past lost local support when their ties with the locals were only a pact – in Chechnya, Iraq and Sudan. Now, it seems that the "hosts", meaning the locals, have themselves begun adopting the Salafi Jihadi ideology and it seems that this strategy has been successful, especially in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The idea of turning the Jihad into a local phenomenon in other places in the Caucasus was discussed extensively on the Jihadi forums, and especially on Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi's website where articles and books on the subject were translated into Russian. In addition, forums on the events in the northern Caucasus were started on other websites, and fatwas issued by Al-Maqdisi and Abu Basir Al-Tartusi on Jihad in the Caucasus Emirate were published [the content of which was not detailed].

The Jihad movement in the Caucasus has begun developing local leaders and ideologists, and carrying out suicide attacks in many regions in the north of the Caucasus. The Caucasus Emirate is active in Chechnya, Dagestan and Ingushetia, and the past year has seen a sharp increase in the number of

terrorist attacks in the region. Furthermore, the Caucasus constitutes fertile ground for spreading Jihadi ideology, leading to many young people in the region adopting it. A survey carried out in the Kabardino-Balkar Republic revealed that 39% of those surveyed viewed Wahhabis in a favorable light. The article predicted that the Caucasus will become one of the most active Jihad theaters in the world.²⁶

²⁶ Al-Jazeera, June 13th 2011: <http://www.aljazeera.net>