

Global Jihad: Summary of Information from Arabic Media Sources

The Second Half of July 2011

This report summarizes the most prominent articles on the subject of global Jihad published in the media in the Arabic language in the second half of July 2011.

Following are the main issues raised in this report:

- The US exposes collaboration between Al-Qaeda and the Iranian government through the activity of a group smuggling operatives and funds from the Middle East via Iran to Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- Fighting between the Yemeni army, backed by fighters from the local tribes, and Al-Qaeda operatives entrenched in the city of Zinjibar in the Abyan Province in the south of Yemen.
- For the first time in many months - Al-Qaeda is returning to the pattern of suicide bombings. Extensive military operations by the Algerian security forces prevent additional suicide attacks.

Afghanistan – PakistanAl-Qaeda – General

- On July 21st 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that the Quilliam Institute for fighting extremism exposed an Al-Qaeda plan to produce a series of cartoons for children to teach them Al-Qaeda's history and to encourage them to follow the path of Jihad and carry out terror activities. The plan to produce the series was published by Abu Layth Al-Libi on the "Al-Shumukh" website.¹

Al-Qaeda's Leadership

- On July 28th 2011, the "Al-Jazeera" network's website reported that Al-Qaeda's leader, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, published a video tape which was posted on the Islamic websites. In the tape Al-Zawahiri says that the US collaborated with Assad during his tenure, calling Assad "Israel's border protector"; he also praises the rebels and equates them to the ancient Muslims who carried out occupation campaigns in the name of Islam.²
- On July 30th 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that Washington exposed new information originating in the documents seized by the American forces during the assassination of Bin Laden. The US Treasury Department declared sanctions against six men accused of running a network for the transfer of funds and operatives from the Middle East via Iran into Afghanistan and Pakistan. One of the six, Izz Al-Din Abd Al-Aziz Khalil, of Syrian origin is operating from Iran. According to the documents, the latter operated from inside Iran as part of an agreement between Al-Qaeda and the Iranian government. The Treasury Department also placed on the list Atiyya

¹ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, July 21st 2011, www.aawsat.com

² Al-Jazeera, July 28th 2011, <http://www.aljazeera.net>

Abd Al-Rahman, residing in Pakistan, who was described as the representative of Bin Laden, in Iran. Atiyya is now depicted as Al-Qaeda's general commander in the tribal region in Pakistan. The other network operatives are Omid Muhammad, Salim Hasan Khalifa, Rashid Al-Kawari and Abdullah Ghanim Mahfudh Al-Khuar.³

Afghanistan

- On July 20th 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that the Jordanian Abu Al-Zubair Al-Jabiri, was killed in Afghanistan during an exchange of fire with the American forces in Afghanistan. The newspaper reported that the Long War Journal website reported that Al-Qaeda has announced his death. The article explains that Abu Al-Zubair was one of the most important Jordanian figures wanted by the US, and that another Jordanian, Salah Al-Din Al-Maqdisi, brother of Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, one of the ideologists of the Salafi movement in Jordan, is still on the US wanted list and that he is still in Afghanistan.⁴
- In the second half of July 2011, the Arab press quoted foreign news agencies publishing articles stating the terrorist attacks, including suicide attacks, against NATO targets, its allies and government targets in Afghanistan still continue.⁵
- On July 27th 2011, the "Al-Jazeera" network's website reported that the Mayor of Kandahar was assassinated in Afghanistan. The Taliban movement claimed responsibility for the attack and noted that it has succeeded in

³ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, July 30th 2011, www.aawsat.com

⁴ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, July 20th 2011, www.aawsat.com

⁵ Al-Jazeera, July 20th 2011, <http://www.aljazeera.net>; Al-Hayat, July 29th 2011, <http://international.daralhayat.com>

carrying out the assassination thanks to one of its operatives who sacrificed himself, adding that he has been on the elimination list for some time.⁶

Iraq

- On July 24th 2011, the Iraqi "Al-Sabaah" newspaper reported that the Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of an armed group tied to Al-Qaeda that has admitted to over 100 assassinations. The group was affiliated with the "Islamic State of Iraq" and its members admitted to carrying out over 100 assassinations using silencers and by attaching explosive charges. Furthermore, the group planned on smuggling prisoners from a jail where terrorist operatives were incarcerated. The group's military commander detonated explosives that he was carrying during the attempt to apprehend him, and the security force found a workshop for the manufacturing of weapons with silencers, charges and a weapons cache. It turned out that the group's military commander was a government clerk working at the Ministry of Industry, who was formerly jailed in the Buka Prison.⁷
- On July 27th 2011, the Iraqi "Al-Sabaah" newspaper reported on the arrest of many armed men. Ten of them comprised a cell that has executed 100 terrorist attacks in Mosul. Nine others admitted to carrying out many terrorist attacks in Fallujah; another 10 who were a cell perpetrating assassinations were arrested in Ninveh. Together with the men, large quantities of explosive charges, mortar shells, sniper guns with silencers and handguns with silencers were confiscated.⁸
- On July 28th 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that 15 people were killed and 40 injured in a double terrorist attack in Tikrit. According to the

⁶ Al-Jazeera, July 27th 2011, <http://www.aljazeera.net>

⁷ Al-Sabaah, July 24th 2011, <http://www.alsabaah.com>

⁸ Al-Sabaah, July 27th 2011, <http://www.alsabaah.com>

report, a car bomb was detonated near a bank where members of the military units were receiving their monthly salary. Later, a suicide bomber detonated the explosives belt he was wearing when those injured in the first detonation were being transported.⁹ A day later, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper updated that at the end of the day the casualties were not military personnel, although they were indeed supposed to arrive, but due to a lack of funds they did not come to get their salary, and the people who were at the bank were farmers who came to receive their salary. The article also noted that the car bomb was parked near the bank. The article further reported on a car bomb in Baghdad that demolished 11 stores selling alcohol and on the arrest of suspects.¹⁰

Turkey

- On July 17th 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper, quoting the Turkish media, reported that the Turkish courts ruled on the incarceration of 14 people pending their trial for charges of belonging to Al-Qaeda and planning a terrorist attack against the US embassy in Ankara. According to the charges, one of the suspects was watching the American embassy as well as other diplomatic sites. According to reports in the media, the police also seized 700 kilograms of ammonium nitrate, a substance used in the manufacturing of improvised explosive charges. The Turkish police forces arrested the main suspect following a six month investigation, after having learned that he has undergone training in the placing of explosives in another country. He was in touch with Al-Qaeda operatives in Turkey and in other countries. Assault rifles, ammunition and 700 kilograms of ammonium nitrate

⁹ Al-Hayat, July 28th 2011, <http://international.daralhayat.com>

¹⁰ Al-Hayat, July 29th 2011, <http://international.daralhayat.com>

were found in his apartment. The Turkish media further reported that the suspects were in touch with an organization operating in Afghanistan and planned a revenge attack over Bin Laden's death. The article also reports that Turkey often arrests extremists whom it claims have ties with Al-Qaeda, but only rarely publishes additional details.¹¹

The Arabian Peninsula

Yemen

- On July 18th 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that in Zinjibar, capital of the Abyan Province, fighting is going on between the government forces accompanied by their supporters from amongst the armed local tribes, and the extreme Islamic organizations led by Al-Qaeda who have ruled the city since the end of May. The army forces are comprised of five hundred soldiers and dozens of armored personnel carriers (APC), tanks and Katyusha launchers. They were sent there because Al-Qaeda had laid siege on a camp of the 25th Mechanized Brigade. The operation is also aided by bombings by the Yemeni air force. Sources told "Al-Hayat" that Al-Qaeda is in a bind due to weakness of the wireless communication between the fighters in the field and the commanders, and the intervention of the local tribesmen has adversely influenced Al-Qaeda members. The sources further stated that the Al-Qaeda leaders, Abd Al-Latif Bal-Faqih and Sami Dian, asked the "Ansar Al-Sharia" organization to retreat from the city following the declaration made by the tribes that they will pursue the armed organizations. Thus, a rift was created between the faction the two organizations belong to, which are

¹¹ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, July 17th 2011, www.aawsat.com

considered to be stronger and more heavily armed than the rest of the organization's factions, and the rest of the organization members.¹²

On July 18th 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper added that the tribal forces were comprised of 450 fighters. On July 27th 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that the military confrontations in Zinjibar still continue and that Abdullah Al-Juair, also known as Ibrahim Al-Najdi, who was Al-Qaeda's Emir in Hadramawt of Saudi origin, was killed in the fighting. Al-Juair planned on executing terrorist attacks within Saudi Arabia after having escaped from Iraq to Yemen using a forged passport. Furthermore, he took part in planning terrorist attacks in Sana'a.¹³

On July 28th 2011, the "Al-Jazeera" network's website reported that in view of Al-Qaeda's activity in the Abyan Province, concern is rising in the Lahij region as well. This is mainly on the part of opposition members over the possibility that armed Al-Qaeda operatives will take over the province.¹⁴

- On July 19th 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that the Al-Awadhil tribes in the Ludar region held a meeting to formulate their position in respect of the armed men. The tribes posed an ultimatum to the armed men demanding they leave the region, and have decided to post tribal checkpoints so as to prevent the arrival of armed men wishing to assist their colleagues.¹⁵ On July 27th 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that the tribesmen in the Ludar Province have driven the Al-Qaeda armed men from the city of Ludar, the provincial capital, after searching the government buildings where they were entrenched.¹⁶

¹² Al-Hayat, July 18th 2011, <http://international.daralhayat.com>

¹³ Al-Hayat, July 27th 2011, <http://international.daralhayat.com>

¹⁴ Al-Jazeera, July 28th 2011, <http://www.aljazeera.net>

¹⁵ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, July 19th 2011, www.aawsat.com

¹⁶ Al-Hayat, July 27th 2011, <http://international.daralhayat.com>

- On July 23rd 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that two of Al-Qaeda's leaders were killed in Zinjibar in an American aerial bombing - Abu Ayman Al-Masri and Aedh Al-Shabwani, together with other operatives. The article reports that Abu Ayman, of Egyptian origin, arrived in an unknown manner to Yemen, where he founded his terror center in Jawf. He later moved to Abyan as he was escaping Houthi's supporters. When he was in Abyan, Al-Masri invited fighters from Jihad organizations from all over Yemen as part of an alliance called the "Ansar Al-Sharia", who attacked various locations in the Abyan Province and declared their rule over the province. It is further revealed that the Al-Qaeda operatives intended to take over the Aden Province as well, which would have made it easier for them to control the maritime traffic route near the Bab Al-Mandeb Straits. According to information, Al-Masri was in direct contact with Ayman Al-Zawahiri. The Ministry of Defense confirmed Al-Masri's death.¹⁷
- On July 25th 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported on a suicide attack perpetrated in Yemen against a convoy of military vehicles of the 31st Armed Brigade that has left its base in order to take part in the attack against the armed men taking over Zinjibar. Nine soldiers were killed in the attack. The article further reported that a roll of film containing photographs of Al-Qaeda operatives killed in the bombings has reached "Al-Hayat". Amongst those killed was one of the organization's leaders, Ammar Ubeida Mas'ud Al-Wa'ili, the Emir of the local Al-Qaeda branch in Sa'ada in the north of the country.¹⁸ The following day, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that a source close to Al-Qaeda provided details of the identity of the suicide bomber. According to the source, the perpetrator is a Saudi national called Turki Sa'ad Muhammad

¹⁷ Al-Hayat, July 23rd 2011, <http://international.daralhayat.com>

¹⁸ Al-Hayat, July 25th 2011, <http://international.daralhayat.com>

Qalis Al-Shaharani, also known as "Al-Battar". The latter infiltrated Yemen from Saudi Arabia and joined Al-Qaeda's ranks. Al-Shaharani is the number 8 man on Saudi Arabia's list of the 47 most wanted men residing outside of Saudi Arabia. The Yemen authorities placed a reward of \$50,000 on his head.¹⁹

- On July 27th 2011, the "Al-Hayat" newspaper reported that Nasir Al-Wahishi, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's leader, published an audio tape swearing his allegiance to the new Al-Qaeda leader, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, and that his supporters are in the field alongside the protesting youth demanding the replacing of Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime. Al-Wahishi also attacks the opposition parties in Yemen, who he claims are aspiring to please the US and the crusading West.²⁰

Saudi Arabia

- On July 20th and 25th 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported details revealed in the trial of the 16 men accused of founding a secret terror organization whose goal is to take over the country by creating chaos, with the aid of "external elements". The 16 are charged with various offences, including interfering with the affairs of a foreign country, terror financing, an attempt to unite the factions fighting in Iraq, the founding of an organization called "Mashru' Al-Jil" for raising donations under the guise of a welfare organization, of smuggling funds and of sending them to questionable entities. It was further revealed in the course of the trial that the organization's leader appeared on a tape calling to come back to the concept

¹⁹ Al-Hayat, July 26th 2011, <http://international.daralhayat.com>

²⁰ Al-Hayat, July 27th 2011, <http://international.daralhayat.com>

of Jihad.²¹ It was further learned that the organization's leader suggested to operatives from Syria and Iraq that they establish an army called "the Muslim Army", and that he had ties with Abdullah Jab-Allah, leader of the Algerian "Al-Nahdah" (the Resurrection) Party, with Rashid Al-Ghannushi, head of the Tunisian Resurrection Party and member of the Global Guidance Bureau of the Muslim Brotherhood, and with Hakim Al-Mutayri, head of the Kuwaiti "Hizb Al-Ummah" Party.²²

The Maghreb

Algeria

- On July 17th 2011, the Algerian "Al-Khabar" newspaper reported on a double suicide attack carried out the previous day in the city of Burj Manayel, in the Boumerdès Province. A little before 6am, a Toyota Helix vehicle parked 200 meters from the municipality offices and the police headquarters in the city, approached the building and was detonated by the suicide bomber driving it. Approximately 40 minutes afterwards, another suicide bomber on a Vespa scooter detonated next to a gathering of civilians who came out of their homes following the first detonation. A policeman and a city employee were killed in the terrorist attack.²³

The "Al-Hayat" newspaper also reported on the attack and explained that the city of Burj Manayel is located in a region where Al-Qaeda brigades and companies are operating under the direct command of the organization's leader, Abdelmalek Droukdel, also known as Abu Mus'ab Abd Al-Wadud. The paper further noted that the organization has stopped the suicide attacks for some time and that it is unclear whether the reason is a religious one,

²¹ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, July 20th 2011, www.aawsat.com

²² Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, July 25th 2011, www.aawsat.com

²³ Al-Khabar, July 17th 2011, <http://www.elkhabar.com>

prohibiting suicide attacks or due to the security forces' intensive security activity. It was also reported that Al-Qaeda usually carried out suicide attacks in the summer, and experts foresaw that the organization would try and attack additional targets soon, especially in view of the upcoming Ramadan season.²⁴

On July 21st 2011, the Algerian "Al-Khabar" newspaper reported that Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb claimed responsibility for the attack two days previously. In a manifesto published by the organization on the internet forums associated with the organization, the names of the suicide bombers were revealed: Hamza Abu-Umar, who drove the car, and Abu Mu'adh Sharhabil, who drove the Vespa.²⁵

- On July 22nd 2011, the Algerian "Al-Khabar" newspaper reported that Al-Qaeda in the Sahel region has sent, using one of the middlemen in the negotiations, an additional video clip of the Italian woman held hostage by the organization, Sandra Mariani, to prove that she is still alive. Mariani was kidnapped at the beginning of February by the Abu-Zayd Brigade and is being held in northern Mali.²⁶
- The Algerian "Al-Khabar" newspaper reported in a number of articles on successes in the field of counter-terrorism and on extensive security activity of the Algerian security forces, putting up roadblocks in the capital and in the Boumerdès Province. In the course of the extensive security activity a suicide attack in the capital was prevented, as well as a suicide attack in the city of Al-Thania. It was further reported that in a military operation carried out by the Algerian army near the border between Algeria, Niger and Libya, the army succeeded in seizing Kalashnikov rifles, a machine gun, a rocket

²⁴ Al-Hayat, July 17th 2011, <http://international.daralhayat.com>

²⁵ Al-Khabar, July 21st 2011, <http://www.elkhabar.com>

²⁶ Al-Khabar, July 22nd 2011, <http://www.elkhabar.com>

launcher, and 12 thousand bullets. They also destroyed two Al-Qaeda vehicles, and seized a third car, seized some of the organization's documents, killed seven armed operatives of the organization, seized a large amount of cash, and discovered new land routes used by the operatives into Libya.

In another operation the security forces succeeded in apprehending a member of an eight-man cell responsible for the logistical support for the terrorists in the Sahara region. The cell provided food and fuel to the terrorists in northern Mali under a commercial guise. The security forces seized two trucks coming from Libya, laden with explosives, also under commercial guise. Investigations revealed that one of the suspects is a known smuggler, and the latter provided details on the cell responsible for the logistical supply to the terrorists.²⁷

Al-Sham

Jordan

- On July 20th 2011, the "Al-Jazeera" network's website reported on the conclusions of research conducted by Muhammad Abu Rumman from the Center for Strategic Research at the Jordanian University, on the subject of the Salafi Jihadi movement in Jordan. According to him, the Salafi Jihadi movement in Jordan has agreed to carry out Da'awa peacefully and refrains from armed activity in Jordan. The research is based on documents written by the movement's ideologist, Isam Al-Barqawi, known as Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi. However, the research does not predict that the movement will adopt democratic ideas as the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Egypt has

²⁷ Al-Khabar, July 20th, 22nd, 28th, 31st 2011, <http://www.elkhabar.com>

done. The website further reported that one of the movement's leaders, Sheikh Wisam Al-Amush, said that the fact the Salafi Jihadi movement accepts peaceful Da'awa is not new and that his movement rejects the use of weapons and is considering founding a political party in Jordan. According to him, the security forces in the Arab countries, and particularly in Jordan, are those who do not want the Salafi movement to conduct itself peacefully as they wish to reap the fruits of the war on terrorism, meaning – the funds given them by the US and the West to that end.²⁸

Africa

Somalia

- The Arab press has been reporting on the dire humanitarian situation in Somalia, where many of the country's people are suffering from hunger. The Arab press mentioned the Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen movement as one of the causes of the exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis as the movement is controlling the south and center of the country, and prevents the arrival of humanitarian aid to the hungry people.²⁹
- On July 29th 2011, the "Al-Jazeera" network's website reported on the continued fighting in Mogadishu between the Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen movement and the African Union Forces. According to the reports over previous days, 20 people were killed in the fighting and each of the parties is claiming to have the upper hand.³⁰

²⁸ Al-Jazeera, July 20th 2011, <http://www.aljazeera.net>

²⁹ Al-Jazeera, July 21st 2011, <http://www.aljazeera.net>; Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, July 27th 2011, www.aawsat.com

³⁰ Al-Jazeera, July 29th 2011, <http://www.aljazeera.net>

Eritrea

- On July 28th 2011, the "Al-Jazeera" network's website, quoting the Reuters news agency, reported that Eritrea is behind the attempted attack on the African Union Summit at the end of last January and that Eritrean intelligence agents are operating in Uganda, in South Sudan, Kenya and Somalia, and that the country is financing Somali armed men suspected of having ties to Al-Qaeda. All this was raised in a report by the UN Commission of Inquiry in Somalia and Eritrea.³¹

The West and the rest of the world

The United States

- On July 24th 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper, quoting the American media, reported that the documents found following Bin Laden's elimination show that Bin Laden planned an assassination against the US president, Barack Obama, and against the CIA director. It was further revealed that Bin Laden considered changing the organization's name and that he was also involved in the planning of the terrorist attacks and was not merely a strategic ideologist.³²

Germany

- On July 20th 2011, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that the German courts have convicted three Islamists charged with supporting terror organizations. It was further reported that the proceedings against a fourth man will be resumed later. The four are accused of having spread filmed propaganda material about Jihad via the internet, between 2006 and 2008.

³¹ Al-Jazeera, July 28th 2011, <http://www.aljazeera.net>

³² Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, July 17th 2011, www.aawsat.com

Another four men are also charged with supporting Islamic organizations such as Al-Qaeda and the Ansar Al-Islam organization, as well as belonging to a crime organization. It was also reported that raids on the homes of Islamist activists were carried out in Stuttgart; the operation included raiding the office of the imam of one of the mosques in the city. It was further reported that surveillance was carried out on four German men of Turkish origin suspected of raising funds and transferring them to Muslims outside of Germany for purposes of terrorism.³³

China

- The "Al-Hayat" newspaper, quoting foreign news agencies, reported on a number of casualties in riots that broke out in the Xinjiang Province, China, where the Muslim Uyghur minority resides. It was further reported that the Chinese authorities attribute the tension in the region to separatists operating in collaboration with organizations outside of China, including Al-Qaeda and operatives from central Asia, for the establishment of an independent state called "East Turkistan".³⁴

³³ Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, July 20th 2011, www.aawsat.com

³⁴ Al-Hayat, July 19th 2011, <http://international.daralhayat.com>