

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from the Jihadi Forums

The First Half of April 2011

This report summarizes the most prominent events brought up in the Jihadi online forums in the first half of April 2011. Following are the main issues raised in this report:

- The fifth part of Ayman Al-Zawahiri's speech to the people of Egypt is published, warning of the conquest of Libya by NATO forces.
- The Jihadi forums publish a new issue of the "Al-Somood" Jihadi magazine.
- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's Mufti justifies attacking the forces of the Yemenite Army.
- A writer in a Jihadi forum posts photographs of Al-Qaeda Mujahideen who arrived at the theater of combat in Libya.
- Indications that Al-Qaeda operatives are participating in the fighting in Libya.
- The "Abdullah Azzam Brigades" organization praises the uprising in Syria.

The global Jihad organizations' attitude towards the revolutions in the Arab world

The wave of riots washing over the Arab world in recent months has caught the global Jihad organizations unprepared. To a great extent, the success of the popular revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt as well as the extensive protests erupting as a result in Algeria, Yemen, Bahrain, Saudi-Arabia, Syria and elsewhere, constitutes a blow to these organizations which advocate overthrowing reigning governments by force. Surprisingly, just several weeks of non-violent protests in Tunisia and Egypt brought the sudden downfall of their dictatorial regimes.

There has yet been no indication of a serious attempt on the part of global Jihad organizations to exploit the current chaotic situation in several locations in the Middle East, even though it seems there are attempts to play a role in the new revolutionary order. Furthermore, the Jihadistic discourse on the subject is unexpectedly scarce and it has become apparent that a developing dialogue on the issue or an overall policy for trying to cope with the events in the region is absent.

It seems that Jihad organization leaders view the matter according to their origin, e.g. – Ayman Al-Zawahiri expressed his opinion on Egypt, Abu Yahya Al-Libi spoke of Libya and Abu Musab Abd Al-Wadud, the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, published statements regarding Algeria.

The discourse on the Jihadi forums regarding the events in the region is characterized by being informative, laconic and somewhat superficial. There is almost no in-depth dialogue on the part of the surfers or even the supervisors, who are perceived as dialogue generators. In reality there is a complete lack of a unified overall systematic approach on the part of global Jihad organizations.

New publications

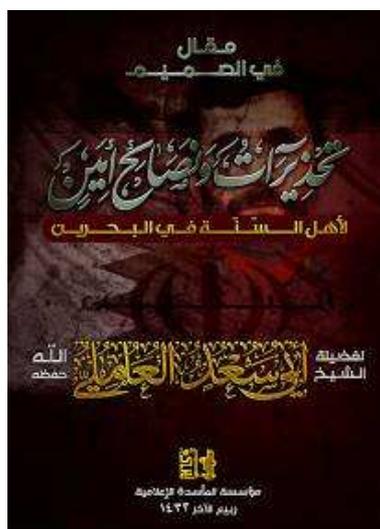
Ideology

- The fifth part of Ayman Al-Zawahiri's speech, titled "Message of Hope and Glad Tidings to Our People in Egypt", criticized Arab governments for their failure to support the Libyan rebels against Gaddafi's regime. In his statement he warned that the country will be occupied by NATO forces and wonders where are the Arab armies are and whether their role has been reduced to merely oppressing the people.¹
- The "Al-Ma'asada" Jihadi media institute published an article titled "To our residents in Bahrain" by Sheikh Abu Saed Al-Amili.² In his article, Al-Amili wishes to clarify the Shiite danger threatening Bahrain's Sunni residents. According to him, Iran had always wished to take over Bahrain since early on, when under the Safavid state headed by Shah Ismail in the 16th century. Al-Amili states that the attempts to ignite a revolution similar to the Iranian revolution in the 1980s made by the Shiites in Bahrain provide absolute proof that Iran is behind this attempt. He claimed that recent events in Bahrain prove that Iran is pulling the strings and tries to export the Islamic revolution to Bahrain, Lebanon, Iraq and Syria. Furthermore, the Shiites in the Gulf countries, including Kuwait and the UAE, have rallied under Iran's banner to a point of a direct attack and have even declared openly their intention to bring down the government. Al-Amili stressed the existential threat looming over the Sunnis in Bahrain and suggested several operative steps that must be adopted in order to cope with it:
 1. The Ulama and preachers in Bahrain must spread the true faith amongst the Sunnis and clarify that the Shiite doctrine borders on heresy.

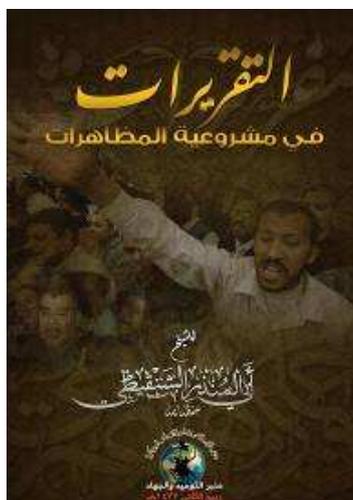
¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

² <http://shamikh1.net/vb>

2. The intellectuals, educators and the media must warn against the Shiite danger and on the means the Shiites use to take over the country. According to him, a Shiite attempt to take over the security forces, the army and the diplomatic corps is also apparent. Furthermore, they encourage marriage at an early age with the aim of increasing their numbers and demographic weight.
3. The Sunni youth in the country must thwart the Shiites' plot. To that end the Shiites must be declared heretics and force must be used against them. Al-Amili mentions Lebanon and Iraq as examples of what might happen in Bahrain, i.e. – the Shiite takeover of the country's institutions.
4. The mothers and home makers of Bahrain must raise future generations on the principles of the proper religion and support their husbands in every possible field, such as the fields of propaganda and education.
5. According to Al-Amili, the Shiite riots in Bahrain pose a dilemma for the Sunnis as to how Bahrain's regime should be treated after failing in implementing Sharia and betraying the principles of Islam. In his opinion, despite the difficulty, the Sunnis must refrain at this stage from fighting Bahrain's regime and focus on the war against the Shiites who plot and try to grab the country's reigns. Even though there is a shared interest between the regime and the Sunnis against the Shiites, it does not mean they directly support the government or collaborate with it in this war. Al-Amili added that the Sunnis must enter the war independently, so that they may help their Sunni brothers later on , especially the Mujahideen in the Arabian Peninsula. Furthermore, the youth must form an independent force whose initial core is Islamic-Jihadist that is a branch of global Jihad headed by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.



- The “Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad” website, identified with the Jordanian Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, published a booklet on “The Legality of the Demonstrations” on behalf of Sheikh Abu Al-Mundhir Al-Shanqiti, a member of the website's Sharia Committee.³



Promoting the Myth of the Shahid

- The “Al-Malahem” Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published a fifth (6 page) booklet titled “The biography of the Shahid Commander: Abu Saber Al-Abini (Jamil bin Naser Al-

³ <http://shamikh1.net/vb>

Anbari)", as part of the series of publications titled "The Shahids of the Arabian Peninsula".⁴

Upon the completion of his studies in Islamic Sharia at Yemen, he left for Afghanistan and from there to Iraq in order to join the Mujahideen. In Iraq he became a senior member in one of the Jihadi groups in the Al-Anbar Province in the west of the country. However, after some time he was forced to return to Yemen to receive medical treatment following a severe injury he sustained in an encounter with the Americans. After his recovery he decided to stay in Yemen and founded a Jihadi group together with 23 other Mujahideen. Soon he became the Emir of the Abyan-Aden Province and of several other provinces. He was killed in an American aerial bombing.



- The "Al-Malahem" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published an anthology of shahid hymns.⁵

⁴ <http://shamikh1.net/vb>

⁵ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>



Magazines

- The Taliban published a new issue (no. 59) of the "Al-Somood" magazine.⁶



- The "Sanam Al-Islam" Jihadi forum published the 28th issue of the Jihadi "Al-Waqi'" magazine, gathering news reports on global Jihad from around the world.⁷

⁶ <http://www.aljihad.info/vb>

⁷ <http://www.snam-s.net/vb>

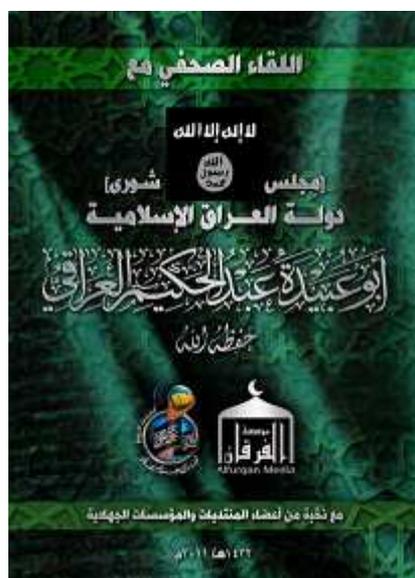
Reports from the field

Afghanistan - Pakistan

- A spokesperson for the Taliban announced that the movement has claimed responsibility for a double terrorist attack carried out at a Sufi location in East Pakistan, killing 41 people and injuring 65.⁸

Iraq

- The "Jihadi media Elite" media institute in coordination with the "Al-Furqan" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of the "Islamic State of Iraq" organization, published an interview with Abu Ubeida Abd Al-Hakim Al-Iraqi, member of the organization's Shura Council.⁹ In the interview, Abu Ubeida addressed the manner in which the organization is coping with the recent developments in Iraq.



- The "Islamic State of Iraq" organization published an announcement on the "Blessed Invasion of Tikrit". The message reveals that the "Islamic State of Iraq's" Ministry of War claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack carried

⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

⁹ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

out at a convention of security forces personnel in the Salah Al-Din Province. The attack was carried out by five terrorists. One of the terrorists, wearing an explosives belt, drove a car bomb which he used to break through the entrance to the security forces' convention. He got out of the car and blew himself up near several officers and security personnel. He was followed by the other terrorists, who broke into the building's perimeter through the entrance breached by the first terrorist's car, while exchanging fire with the guards using light weapons and grenades until they succeeded in entering the main building. Upon the arrival of military and police forces to the main gate, the car bomb abandoned by the first terrorist detonated, killing dozens. More military and police forces arrived and the exchange of fire with the terrorists continued for seven hours. Finally, the four terrorists decided, according to the group's leader's instructions, to detonate themselves inside the building in order to cause maximum damage to enemy forces.¹⁰

- The "Al-Maqreze center for Historical Research" located in London and operating on behalf of Sheikh Hani Al-Sibai, an Egyptian exile heading the institute, published a message titled "The collaborating government in Iraq plans to execute the wife of the shahid Abu Hamza Al-Muhajir", the former Minister of War of the "Islamic State of Iraq" who was eliminated on April 2010 together with the organization's Emir, Abu Omar Al-Baghdadi.¹¹

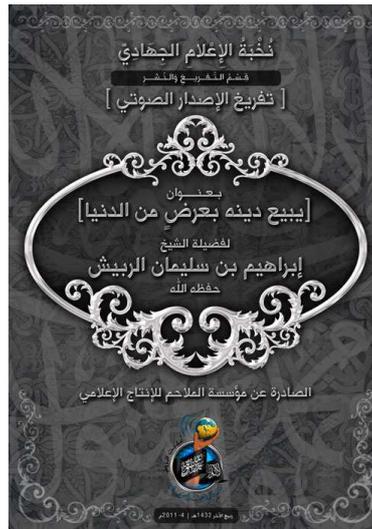
The Arabian Peninsula

- The "Al-Malahem" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published an audio segment by Sheikh Ibrahim Al-

¹⁰ <http://shamikh1.net/vb>

¹¹ <http://shamikh1.net/vb>

Rubaish, the organization's mufti.¹² Al-Rubaish bemoans the fact there are still some Muslims who condemn the Mujahideen for their fighting against army forces operating on behalf of the Yemenite President or any other Arab ruler. Al-Rubaish justifies fighting the soldiers, claiming they defend the tyrannical Arab rulers, such as in Yemen. Furthermore, he accuses them of imprisoning Muslims including many Mujahideen, of executing the government's instructions, of defending the foreign embassies that spy on Muslims, of killing demonstrators, etc. Al-Rubaish calls to Muslim soldiers to examine their actions which, according to him, are directed against the Muslim brothers and to search their soul on the matter.



The Maghreb

- A writer on the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum posted photographs of Mujahideen which he claims have arrived on behalf of Al-Qaeda to the fighting zone in Libya.¹³

¹² <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

¹³ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>



- A surfer on the "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum published a report stating that Mauritania has agreed to build a base for the American army, which will serve as a logistical base and a point of departure for American fighter planes when attacking terrorist entities. Another surfer responded by calling for an attack on everyone involved in the matter. He further promised that Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and the Mauritians themselves will initiate such attacks and others as well. He also mentions the American base in Algeria and the French base in Mali as targets for attacks.¹⁴
- The "Sanam Al-Islam" Jihadi forum reported that kidnapers from Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, holding four Frenchmen since September 2010, demand 90 million Euros for their release.¹⁵

¹⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

¹⁵ <http://www.snam-s.net/vb>

The Al-Sham region

- The "Abdullah Azzam Brigades" organization published its fifth message titled "Arrogant Syria", as part of the series of publications titled "The Path of the Criminals will be Clarified".¹⁶ In the message, the organization commends the people of Syria and especially the people of Dar'a for their protests against Bashar Al-Assad's regime. The organization further stresses that the Syrian government is responsible for killing demonstrating Syrian citizens and that any contention or attempt on its part to depict the Islamists in the country as being responsible for the killing and acts of terrorism against civilians is false. The organization calls to Islamist groups in Syria to support the revolution and to reexamine their strategy and their alliances in view of the recent developments in the country. Finally, the organization calls for anyone working for Syria's Security Forces to defect and join the rebels.
- The "Al-Ma'asada" Jihadi media institute published an article titled "To the heroes from amongst the people of Dar'a", by Sheikh Abu Yusuf Al-Urduni, a prominent writer in Jihadi forums whose true identity is not known.¹⁷ The writer praises the people of Dar'a for their audacity and determination to protest against Bashar Al-Assad's regime.
- The "Ansar Al-Sunnah – Aknaf Bayt Al-Maqdis", a Palestinian Salafi-Jihadi group, published an announcement on the founding of a Jihadi media institute called "Al-Jihad". The announcement stated that the media institute will have several objectives:¹⁸
 1. Spreading Sunni doctrine.

¹⁶ <http://www.shamikh1.net/vb>

¹⁷ <http://shamikh1.net/vb>

¹⁸ <http://shamikh1.net/vb>

2. Instilling the principle of "Al-Wala wal-Bara", which is founded on trusting Muslims and renouncing anyone who is not Muslim or a Muslim who has strayed from the righteous path.
3. Publishing the Mujahideen's activities.
4. Publishing the biographies of these shahids.



- The Jihadi forums reported the abduction and the execution of an Italian activist by the "Jama'at Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad" organization, a Palestinian Salafi-Jihadi group.¹⁹

Africa

- The "Al-Kataib" media institute, operating on behalf of the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement, published a video on the welfare activity carried out by the movement, which included an interview with Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Aal-Muhammad responsible for the movement's welfare bureau.²⁰ According to the movement, the humanitarian aid given to Somalia on the part of international aid organizations stems not from pure intentions, but rather from a desire to loot Somalia's produce, e.g. – flour; and eventually ruin its agricultural economy. The U.N.'s World Food Program (WFP) organization is especially targeted by the movement's accusations as

¹⁹ <http://www.snam-s.net/vb>

²⁰ <http://shamikh1.net/vb>

being responsible for spreading disease in the country due to the distribution of its food products. Therefore, the movement has brought the organization's activity in the country to a halt; a step which it claims has brought prosperity in the agricultural sector and reduced poverty. In the video, the movement explains that poor Muslims that do not own any land to cultivate will receive charity from the Mujahideen.

In his interview, Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Aal-Muhammad mentions the movement's welfare bureau which has 87 branches, and described its founding, its structure and its activity.



The West and the rest of the world

- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported a terrorist attack carried out on April 12th 2011 at a Belarus subway, killing 11 people and injuring over 100.²¹
- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported that Emir Suyfan Abd Al-Latif, one of the prominent Mujahideen leaders in the Caucasus who was close to Dokka Abu Uthman, leader of the Islamic Emirate in the Caucasus, has been killed.²² On

²¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

²² <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

the same subject it should be noted that the Jihadi forums denied that Emir Abu Uthman has been eliminated and stressed that he is well.²³

General reports

- The "Sanam Al-Islam" Jihadi forum reported that the "Atahadi" forum has informed the Muslims in Ceuta and Melilla, two Spanish enclaves in Morocco, of a plan, formulated by the Spanish and Moroccan Intelligence Services, to raid Muslim homes in the area and commit crimes against them.²⁴

Miscellaneous

- The "Al-Maqreze center for Historical Research" located in London and operated by Sheikh Hani Al-Sibai, an Egyptian exile, published a message titled "An agreement between Iran and Egypt on the extradition of Islamists". The message stated that an agreement has been signed between Egypt and Iran on the extradition of Egyptian Islamic leaders and their families to the Egyptian government, as part of an agreement to renew the relationship between the two countries. Among the figures that face extradition to Egypt are the journalist Abu Al-Walid Al-Masri, owner of the Mafa website which gathers reports on Jihad issues.²⁵

²³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

²⁴ <http://www.snam-s.net/vb>

²⁵ <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>

Facebook

- Facebook pages identified with Al-Qaeda and global Jihad:

The "Al-Andalus" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. The page was established on January 8th 2011.

Currently it has 370 members.²⁶



²⁶ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Al-Andalus-%D9%85%D8%A4%D8%B3%D8%B3%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%86%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%B3-%D8%AA%D9%86%D8%B8%D9%8A%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D8%A8%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%BA%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A/132456280152008>