

Periodical Review: Summary of Information from the Jihadi Forums

The First Half of July 2011

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

- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb swore allegiance to Ayman Al-Zawahiri.
- Indian intelligence sources claim that Ilyas Kashmiri is still alive.
- New editions of the "Inspire" and the "Al-Somood" magazines.
- Calls on Jihadi forums to join the Jihad in Syria.

New Publications

Ideology

- The "Islamic State of Iraq" organization's Ministry of Propaganda published a eulogy to mark Bin Laden's death.¹
- The "Al-Malahem" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, published an audio segment titled "The Words of Someone Who Loves You", by Sheikh Ibrahim bin Suleiman Al-Rubaish, a member of the organization's Shura Council.² Al-Rubaish praised the operations of the Mujahideen and said that they will be rewarded in heaven.
- A surfer calling himself "Abu Hafs Al-Sunni Al-Sunni" wrote his own thoughts about the loopholes in Jihadi philosophy, particularly the Jihadi Salafi school of thought, which prevent the Mujahideen from becoming innovative and creative and actively participating in the development of Jihadi work and its dissemination.

He specifies these loopholes: being inflexible with the commoners in order to achieve the goal, instead of demonstrating warmth and tranquility; expressing loyalty to people and organizations, instead of to Allah and his Prophet; disregarding religious studies; refraining from sullyng those with whom there are disagreements whose intentions are good; disregarding "Al-Jihad bil-Lisan" (verbal Jihad)³ and yearning for Jihad of sacrifice of life.⁴

¹ <http://www.aljihad.com/vb>

² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

³ This is the verbal and written weapon which accompanies the physical weapons in the war against Allah's enemies.

⁴ <http://www.aljihad.com/vb>

Strategy

- On July 8th 2011, the "Al-Andalus" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, published an interview with Sheikh Abu Ubeida Yusuf Al-Annabi, a member of the organization's Shura Council, in which he swore allegiance to Al-Zawahiri in the name of the organization. It should be noted that this oath of allegiance was not taken by the organization's Emir, Abdelmalek Droukdal. Droukdal's shaky standing as the organization's leader has been reported several times on Jihadi forums and in the North African media.

In the interview, Al-Annabi referred to the situation in Libya and to NATO's operations in the country. In this respect, he warned of the West's real intentions and urged the Libyans to prepare for a possible direct confrontation with the NATO forces. He also warned the coalition forces of the possibility that there would be a confrontation with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. He stressed that his organization would never accept a Western or Jewish presence on Libyan soil. In addition, he urged the Tunisians to establish an Islamic state as this was the only path to the revolution's success.⁵

- A surfer wished to know the stand of Islamic Sharia with regards to the issue of "Tatarus". One of the surfers refers him to a book by Abu Yahya Al-Libi, entitled: "The Tatarus in Modern Jihad". Another surfer explains that a Mujahid is forbidden to kill innocent Muslims intentionally and states that the issue of "Tatarus" is very complex and is also dependent on the assessment of the commanders on the battlefield who are well versed in the

⁵ <http://www.majahden.com/vb>

matter. Additional surfers express the opinions of many religious clerics on the rules in this matter.⁶

The issue of the Tatarus is a bone of contention among religious and ideological authorities associated with the Salafi-Jihadi school. As a rule, discussion centers on the justification for carrying out terrorist attacks even if these may result in injury to Muslims. Some religious authorities acting in the service of global Jihad justify injury to Muslims, as they feel that the infidel enemy cannot benefit from immunity even in the presence of Muslims – who in turn cannot shield infidels against the attacks of Jihad. In other words, the ends justify the means, even if those ends bring harm to Muslims. At the same time, it is important to note that a spate of suicide attacks (in Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and other Muslim countries) in which Muslims were injured raised a debate amongst Shari'a adjudicators, who ruled against the phenomenon.

- On July 11th 2011, one of the senior members of the "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya" Jihadi forum (the Al-Mojahden Electronic Network), published correspondence under the heading "The Jihad is alive, but time is passing and the painful strike is being delayed".

At the beginning of the correspondence, he mentions some of the Jihadi leaders who were recently assassinated, such as Abu Hamza Al-Muhajir and Abu Omar Al-Baghdadi (Al-Qaeda leaders who were assassinated in April 2010), as well as Bin Laden, and explains that he does not want to add further burden onto the shoulders of the Mujahideen, but he wonders when the painful blow on the enemy will fall. He writes: "We need an exceptional operation, whether its superiority is expressed in the target itself, or if it is

⁶ <http://www.aljihad.com/vb>

expressed by penetrating the barriers and perpetrating an attack in an unexpected location”.

As an example he mentions Saudi Arabia, in particular the American security advisers, as well as Egypt and the Israeli targets there. He explains this choice by stating that attacking these sites will have greater ramifications on the enemy beyond the attack itself. He also explains that carrying out an attack in Egypt carries significant weight from Al-Zawahiri's viewpoint.

He finally contends that every attack should be prepared carefully and documented, as otherwise it will not be successful even if it causes loss to the enemy.

In response to this correspondence, a female surfer who describes herself as someone who is not familiar with the field of fighting, states that in order to ensure the upcoming victory the Mujahideen should not open new Jihadi theaters, but rather focus on the existing ones such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and Yemen.⁷

- The “Hanein” Jihadi forum reported that Indian intelligence sources said that Ilyas Kashmiri, one of Al-Qaeda's senior members, was still alive and had not been assassinated as was previously reported.⁸

Instructional and Guidance Publications

- Under the title “Preparations for the Invasion of Europe”, a supervisor on the “Al-Jahafil” forum, posted an old publication by the “As-Sahab” institute titled “Knowledge in Preparation of an Operation”, dealing with the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Its purpose is to psychologically prepare the Mujahideen

⁷ <http://www.majahden.com/vb>

⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

for perpetrating a terrorist attack against Europe. One of the surfers responds and mentions that the Prophet Muhammad foretold that Rome, where the Vatican is situated, will be conquered by the Muslims.⁹

Promoting the Myth of the Shahid

- A visual publication by the "Al-Furqan" institute, operating on behalf of the "Islamic State of Iraq", to the Islamic emirate's soldiers in the Caucasus.¹⁰



- The "Sawt Al-Islam" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of the Turkistan Islamic Party, published a video tape in Arabic entitled "Lovers of Heaven (5)".¹¹



⁹ <http://al-jahafal.com/vb>

¹⁰ <http://www.aljihad.com/vb>

¹¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

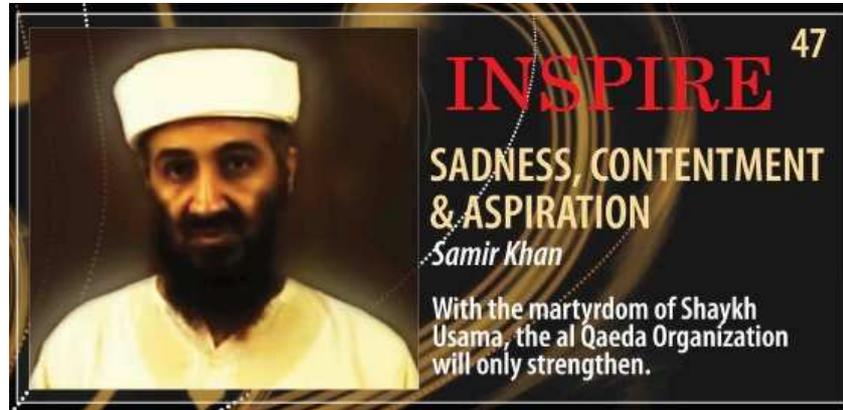
Magazines

- A new edition (No. 62) of the Jihadi "Al-Somood" magazine, published on behalf of the Afghani Taliban movement for the months of July - August 2011.¹² Topics raised in the current edition include: The U.S. failure in Afghanistan; an interview with the Deputy Commander of the Kabisa region; an interview with the official spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan, Dhabihullah Mujahid, on the recent developments in the region; a survey of the Jihad theater in the Nangarhar region; an article on the fact that the Arab uprisings are not an alternative for Jihad, and more.



¹² <http://www.alsomod-iea.info>

- Issue no. 6 of the "Inspire" magazine.¹³



- A new 30 page edition (No. 31) of the Jihadi "Al-Waqi" magazine. The magazine includes short reports pertaining to the various Jihadi theaters, as well as articles dealing with various international news items, such as the rise in the number of Somali refugees coming to Kenya.¹⁴



¹³ <http://www.aljihad.com/vb>

¹⁴ <http://www.atahadi.net/vb>

- The "Al-Jihad Al-'alami" Jihadi forum published the seventh (140 pages) and the eight issue (159 pages)¹⁵ of the "Sawt Al-Haqq" (The Voice of Truth) magazine. The magazine contains all of the official reports and publications made recently on behalf of various Jihad organizations.¹⁶



- Issue no. 2 of the "Al-Jahafil Al-Islamiya" magazine, titled "The Revolutions in the Arab World – Between the Sharia and Reality".¹⁷
- A new issue of the "Nawai Afghan" Afghan Jihadi magazine in Urdu, for June-July 2011.¹⁸

Reports from the field

Afghanistan - Pakistan

- An announcement by the Cultural Committee of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan, condemning the American hacking of the Emirate's website and the publication of a false report on the death of Mullah Omar, as well as the takeover of the electronic mail and the phones of the Emirate's spokesperson and passing on false messages on the subject to the media. The Committee calls on Google and Yahoo, as well as the Afghan media

¹⁵ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

¹⁶ <http://www.atahadi.net/vb>

¹⁷ <http://www.al-jahafal.com/vb>

¹⁸ <http://nawaiafghan.blogspot.com>

network to speak out against the "diabolical act" by the United States. The Committee stresses that the U.S. is on the brink of unequivocal defeat in Afghanistan, and it has no choice but to use such steps in order to raise its soldiers' morale.¹⁹

- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported that the British Army has admitted that the tracks of one of its soldiers were lost in south Afghanistan. A Taliban spokesperson said that his organization has taken the soldier hostage.²⁰
- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported that the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the assassination of the Afghan President Hamid Karzai's younger brother, in Kandahar, southern Afghanistan.²¹
- A Jordanian citizen called Abu Al-Zubair Al-Jaberi was killed in Afghanistan on July 15th 2011 during an attempted break-in to a "crusader forces" base.²²

Iraq

- The "Islamic State of Iraq" organization published an announcement detailing the organization's military operations in Baghdad (numbering 30), such as the killing of the Iraqi President's Advisor's personal driver, the killing of senior police and army officers, the laying of explosive devices, and more.²³

¹⁹ <http://www.aljihad.com/vb>

²⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

²¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

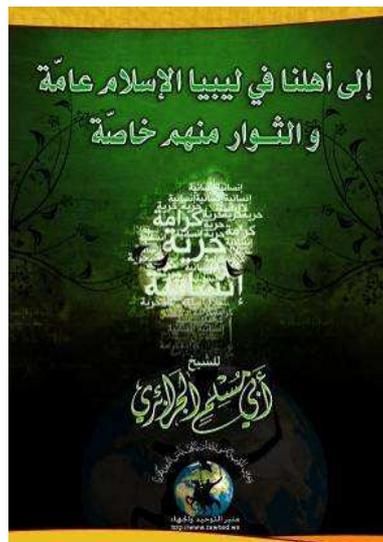
²² <http://www.aljihad.com/vb>

²³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

The Maghreb

- The "Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad" website, a Salafi-Jihadi website, published a 38-page article titled "To Our Muslim People in Libya in General and to the Rebels Amongst Them in Particular" by Sheikh Abu Muslim Al-Jazairi. Jazairi is a member of the website's Sharia Council, which is identified with the Salafi ideologist, Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi.

The article is in fact a selection of questions from the rebels in Libya to said sheikh, and his responses. These include, for example, the view that should be taken regarding the intervention of NATO forces in Libya and more.²⁴



- The "Al-Andalus" Jihadi media institute, operating on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, published an announcement titled "The Battle of Wagadou: the killing of over 20 soldiers and the destruction of 12 vehicles belonging to the Mauritanian Army". According to the organization, the Mujahideen have succeeded in defeating the Mauritanian administration in the Wagadou region in north-west Mali.²⁵

²⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

²⁵ <http://www.atahadi.net/vb>

The Al-Sham region

- A surfer identifying himself as a member of the "Fatah Al-Islam – the Osama Bin Laden Brigades" organization called for help for the organization to join the Jihad in Syria.²⁶

Egypt

- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported that at the beginning of July 2011, Egyptian authorities were forced to shut down the gas pipeline supplying natural gas to Israel, Jordan and Turkey after it was once again blown up, 80 kilometers west of Al-Arish.²⁷

Africa

- Following the U.N. declaration that many regions in Somalia are in a state of famine, a surfer asks the Muslim citizens of the county to provide any help possible. He thanks the Jihadi forum surfers who urge the Muslims to help alleviate the hunger in the country and calls on Muslims worldwide to give a helping hand.²⁸ On the same subject, another surfer asks to publish the names of welfare organizations and centers, through which donations can be made to the Muslims in Somalia. He mentions WAMY as an organization operating in Somalia, and notes other organizations, for example from Bahrain and Kuwait, such as the "Revival of Islamic Heritage Society" (RIHS), which was declared as a terrorist supporting entity by the United States.²⁹

²⁶ <http://www.aljihad.com/vb>

²⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

²⁸ <http://www.aljihad.com/vb>

²⁹ http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/terrorist-illicit-finance/Pages/protecting-charities_execorder_13224-p.aspx



- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported on an aerial attack against targets belonging to the Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen movement in Somalia, which was carried out by an American aircraft.³⁰
- One of the members of the "Atahadi" Jihadi forum published photographs of Somali tribesmen whom he claims became soldiers in the Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen movement's army.³¹



- In late June 2011, an interview with the Boko Haram spokesperson was published in "Blueprint", an online Nigerian Magazine. The interview was conducted 10 days after the June 16th, 2011 attack in which a suicide bomber detonated his car bomb at the police headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria. According to the spokesperson Abu Zaid, the target was selected as a reaction to the statements made by the Inspector General that the organization would be eradicated within two weeks. However, he also said they had a list of targets of government institutions, officials, and security agents. According to Abu Zaid, the attack was carried out by a lone suicide bomber, Mohammed Manga (aka Alhaji Manga), who was a successful business man. He also added that they currently have over 100 suicide

³⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

³¹ <http://www.atahadi.net/vb>

attackers in training for more attacks. With regards to the loss of innocent lives in the attack, Abu Zaid responded on two levels: firstly that civilians were warned to keep away from government buildings, and secondly that since they are willing to give up their lives, they do not regret the loss of other lives.

The Boko Haram spokesperson neither denied nor confirmed any connection to other groups, stating that the ideology is the only link. According to Abu Zaid, the group follows the Sunna with an objective of destroying all non-believers and injustice in their land. They are also calling for Sharia law in all of Nigeria. Abu Zaid also denied that any talks are being held with the government and stated only he was appointed by the Emir, Malam Abubakar Shekau. He also denied any rift or disagreement within the leadership.³²

The West and the rest of the world

- The "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported that an organization calling itself "Muslims against Crusaders" has called for the establishment of three Islamic emirates in Britain, where Sharia will be implemented.³³
- Quoting Chechen sources, the "Hanein" Jihadi forum reported that over the past few weeks, 120 Chechen young men have joined the Jihadi activity in the region.³⁴

³² <http://blueprintng.com/index/2011/06/boko-haram-we-have-lined-up-over-100-militants-for-suicide-bombings/>

³³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

³⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb>

General reports

The online Jihadi channel – Al-Jehadya

- The Al-Jehadya online Jihadi channel³⁵ began broadcasting at the beginning of June 2011.³⁶ The channel shows Jihadi content 24 hours a day, most of it not up to date, including prayers, sermons and speeches of various Al-Qaeda leaders, such as Abu Yahya Al-Libi and others. In addition, emphasis is put on hosting Muslim figures that identify with the idea of Jihad and praise it in their sermons. For example, on July 16th 2011 Hani Al-Sibai, an Islamist Egyptian exile who heads the Al-Maqreze Center for Historical Studies, was a guest on the show. During the program, Al-Sibai answered viewer questions on various issues, mainly on matters related to Jihad.³⁷



- The "Minbar Al-Ansar" chat-room, on the popular "Paltalk" chat program, announced an open forum with Sheikh Hani Al-Sibai on July 16th 2011. An open forum is a platform for the discussion of questions and answers between the guest Sheikh and the participants, on matters of Jihad and other important issues.³⁸

³⁵ <http://www.livestream.com/aljihadya>

³⁶ <http://aljahad.com/vb>

³⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

³⁸ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

Miscellaneous

- The "Al-Fajr" Center announced the opening of a new Jihadi forum called the "Al-Fidaa Islamic Network". The center announced that it is well prepared for the launch of the forum, which will continue the path of former Jihadi forums. Registration for the forum is required in order to view its content.³⁹
- The "Shumukh Al-Islam" Jihadi forum announced its return to full functioning on the network after a three week absence.⁴⁰
- An official website for the "Jihadi Media Elite" media group was opened at the address: www.nokbah.com. The website contains publications of other media institutes, and it also provides the opportunity to receive Jihadi materials via email. The media institute also has pages on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.⁴¹



³⁹ <http://www.aljihad.com/vb>

⁴⁰ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb>

⁴¹ <http://www.aljihad.com/vb>