

## Al-Qaeda Invests In Propaganda for Spanish-Speaking Target Audiences

As part of al-Qaeda's constantly expanding propaganda campaign, the organization's messages are translated into various languages, including Spanish.

On September 8, 2008, Ibn Al-Athir Al-Ansari, a member of the Al-Hesbah<sup>1</sup> online forum since March 2007, posted a Spanish translation of a speech made by Salah Abu Muhammad to the Muslim public in the Maghreb on September 2, 2008.<sup>2</sup> Salah Abu Muhammad is responsible for propaganda for al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

Before the translation, Ibn Al-Athir Al-Ansari provided the following introduction, demonstrating the increasing spread of ideological Jihadi propaganda to a Spanish-speaking target audience:

*In the name of Allah the merciful and the compassionate... I am pleased to present before you a translation of the words of the beloved brother Salah Abu Muhammad, in charge of propaganda at Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, titled: Who are Those Murdering Innocents?*

*I ask the brothers to publish the translation on Spanish-speaking forums, so that the benefit will reach every believer, and the horror – every infidel. In addition, I address the experts in the Spanish language who inspect the translation and ask them to check my translation, in case of mistakes...*

*Prayer and peace on the seal of prophets, and praise to the Lord... Your brother, Abu Al-Qa'aqe Al-Shami".*

The speech itself is addressed to Muslims in the Maghreb, aimed at convincing them that al-Qaeda is not acting against innocent Muslims, contrary to claims made by the Algerian government and western media. The speech has an apologetic tone and attempts to prove that all al-Qaeda attacks are meticulously planned and aimed only against government and military targets, as well as against the Americans and the French, who provide aid to the Algerian government. Related to this point, the speech also mentions Canadians and Russians as active entities in Algiers and therefore as legitimate targets for attack.

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Hesbah is a leading Islamist websites that serves as a conduit for messages from al-Qaeda and other Jihad organizations.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.al-hesbah.info/v/showthread.php?t=190949>

Upon reviewing the Spanish text of the speech, several insights can be drawn:

1. Exporting ideas, viewpoints, and opinions is an integral part of al-Qaeda's modus operandi, which is intent on influencing potential target audiences and expanding its circle of "believers."
2. As a result, global Jihad activists invest significant resources in translating ideological and propaganda material into foreign languages in order to reach diverse audiences around the world. As the third most spoken language in the world, Spanish is a particular focus of the global jihad movement.
3. The speech adopts an apologetic tone when referring to harm caused to innocent people by terrorist attacks launched by al-Qaeda-affiliated global jihad organizations. The statement was made in response to increased criticism of such organizations, whose attacks have resulted in the injuries or deaths of innocent Muslims. There is clearly an attempt being made to earn legitimacy and support for the actions of jihadi organizations, in spite of the harm – claimed to be unintentional – caused to innocent people.

**Posted messages and the Spanish translation from the Al-Hesbah website:**

**Al Qaeda del Magreb Islámico**

Presenta

Palabra de Salah Abu Muhammad: jefe mediático de la organización

¿Quiénes son los asesinos de los inocentes?

Alabado sea Allah y que Su paz y bendiciones sean con Su Mensajero, con sus familiares, compañeros y seguidores

Nuestra querida nación islámica

Por la llegada del bendecido mes del Ramadán, el mes de las bondades y obediencias, el mes de las incursiones militares y de las victorias, nos dirigimos a ustedes con el fin de felicitarlos por esta ocasión especial, pidiéndoles ser generosos con sus palabras en medio de la noche por los atrincherados *Mujahidín* que Allah les conceda victorias sobre sus enemigos judíos, cristianos y sus agentes que son los fieles perros de caza, esclavos de los gringos e hijos de Francia

Mi palabra de hoy, dirigida a ti mi querida nación, es de gran importancia. Una palabra en era de falsificación y mentira, en tiempo donde las fuerzas del mal maquinan contra nosotros, apuñalando, mintiendo, falsificando y difamando todo

Ya han escuchado, junto con la opinión pública en los últimos días, sobre la despiadada y farsa campaña en contra de los *Mujahidín* y de su metodología, acusándoles de tomar como objetivos en sus operaciones militares a los civiles inocentes y que supuestamente ellos autorizan el derramamiento de sangre de sus hermanos musulmanes

El apóstata régimen de Argelia junto con los medios de comunicación social manipulados por los organismos de inteligencia, comenzaron con su habitual y grito por dolor, haciendo muchas bullas, tratando desesperadamente de convencer a los musulmanes en nuestro Magreb Islámico de que ellos son objeto de ataque por parte de Al Qaeda y, que esos terroristas asesinos no son sino rebeldes que llevan la misma disciplina de la desviada congregación islámica, siendo considerados como apostatas, permitiendo ser masacrados y asesinados

ترجمة كلمة الأسد المسؤول الإعلامي لتنظيم القاعدة إلى الإسبانية

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم  
الحمد لله منه الإهداء والبه الإتهاء وبه ومقاليد الأثناء وحقائق الأ  
رحمة للعالمين محمد بن عبدالله وعلى آله وأصحابه ومن سار على  
الدين، وبعد:

فيسرني أن أقدم لحضراتكم ترجمة كلمة الأخ الحبيب / صلاح أبو م  
تنظيم قاعدة الجهاد ببلاد المغرب الإسلامي والتي هي بعنوان: من  
الأخمة في المنهجيات الطائفة بالأسباب: لجم المائة من أم

المشاهدات: 213 - مشاركات: 8  
PH 10:59, 2008-09-08

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طالب علم بكلية الحقوق  
تاريخ التسجيل: Mar 2007  
الجنس: ذكر  
المشاركات: 6,192