

Global Jihad: Summary of Information from Arabic Media Sources

The First Half of October 2010

This report summarizes the most prominent articles on the subject of global Jihad published by the Arabic language media over the first half of October 2010.

Following are the main issues raised in this report:

- The Coalition Forces continue to assassinate senior Al-Qaeda and Taliban members in Afghanistan and Pakistan from the air.
- The Yemen Foreign Minister declares that his country will not extradite Anwar Al-Awlaki to the United States.
- The standing of the Amir of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) continues to deteriorate.
- Reports on a schism in the leadership of "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" in Somalia.
- Phenomenon: more and more women in the West take an active part in Jihad activity.

Afghanistan – Pakistan

Afghanistan

- The NATO forces reported on September 29th 2010 that they succeeded in killing a senior Al-Qaeda member called Abdullah Omar Al-Quraishi in an aerial bombing they carried out. Al-Quraishi has coordinated a number of terrorist attacks and has organized the arrival of foreign fighters, especially Arabs, to the region. Furthermore, the Al-Qaeda bombing expert, Abu Ata Al-Kuwaiti, was killed along with several other Arab fighters.¹ It should be noted that Abu Ata Al-Kuwaiti was a prominent participant on the "Al-Firdaws" Jihadi forum, which no longer exists, in the "Jihadi preparedness" section where he shared his knowledge on how to assemble explosives with the surfers.

All the while, Al-Qaeda is continuing the attacks against foreign targets: two NATO soldiers were killed by a roadside explosives charge in the south of the country.²
- On October 8th 2010, the BBC website in Arabic reported on the assassination of the Governor of the Kunduz Province in an attack at a mosque. Over 20 people were killed in the terrorist attack. Some of the witnesses claimed that the terrorist attack was carried out using bombs placed in the mosque, while others claim that it was executed by a suicide bomber. The governor was considered to be close to the Afghan President, Hamid Karzai, and has survived several assassination attempts in the past at the hands of the Taliban. This assassination came two weeks after the Taliban's assassination of the Governor of Gazni Province.³

¹ www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2010/09/100928_pakistan_rocket.shtml

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<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11626&article=588501&feature=>

³ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2010/10/101007_afghan_attack_tc2.shtml

- Over the course of the first week of October 2010, the Arabic media reported that the Taliban organization in Pakistan claimed responsibility for the burning of dozens of Pakistani supply trucks making their way to Afghanistan to provide supplies for the NATO forces in Afghanistan. The organization stated that these actions were in retaliation for the bombings carried out by the Americans using unmanned aircrafts, and so that the Pakistani land will not be a conduit for the transport of supplies to the NATO forces.⁴ According to reports, the trucks were transporting fuel, and the terrorist attack consisted of shooting at the trucks.⁵

Pakistan

- The American attacks using unmanned aircrafts continue. According to reports, some of the Al-Qaeda casualties were Arabs and Turks with German citizenship.⁶ Furthermore, a British citizen named Abd Al-Jabbar was killed. He had been in contact with the terrorist who tried to carry out the attack at Times Square in May 2010, and he planned to found a Taliban cell in Britain.⁷ In recent days the United States has increased its attacks, and it is thought that the reason for this is the recent threats to Europe made by Al-Qaeda.⁸ In addition, the U.S. accuses the Pakistani authorities and the Pakistani Army of refraining from entering into military confrontations with the Taliban and Al-Qaeda in North Waziristan.⁹

⁴ <http://www.daralhayat.com/portalarticlendam/188807>

⁵ <http://aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11636&article=589879&feature=>

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http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2010/10/101004_pakistan_german_attack.shtml

⁷ <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=589882&issueno=11636>

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http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2010/10/101005_alqaeda_links_attacks_europe_tc2.shtml

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http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2010/10/101007_american_report_pakistan.shtml

- The Al-Jazeera television station's website reported on October 7th 2010 that two suicide bombers blew themselves up in succession near a group of Sufis who were on a pilgrimage to the tomb of a Sufi sheikh in Karachi. Ten people were killed and dozens injured in the terrorist attack. The Pakistani Prime Minister said in response: "These parties who carried out the terrorist attack do not believe in any religion, and they only want to create chaos and shock society".¹⁰

Iraq

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that Iraqi authorities are trying to recruit tribal entities to the struggle against the organization. During a meeting of local tribes in the Diyala Province, the police and Iraqi army threatened to arrest the Sunni tribal leaders if they do not sign a commitment to provide them with information on Al-Qaeda operatives or to turn them in. This follows the increase in Al-Qaeda's activity in the last summer, after some began to talk of its demise.¹¹
- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported at the end of September 2010 that the Kurdish Security Forces had succeeded in foiling an attack against the "Peshmerga" forces. A suicide bomber belonging to Al-Qaeda in Iraq's Kurdistan Brigades was seen approaching a concentration of Peshmerga soldiers near their headquarters in the village of Dawdi. The soldiers had gathered together to receive their monthly salary. The Kurdish Security Forces managed to surround the bomber a few meters from the cluster of soldiers. The terrorist was carrying an explosives belt containing 10-15 kg of

¹⁰ www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/923030D9-A1C7-471F-97E5-306094CE6525.htm

¹¹ <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11628&article=588781>

TNT. The terrorist attack was foiled with the aid of intelligence received from the region's residents regarding the terrorists' activities.¹²

- One of the Awakening Council's leaders in northern Iraq reported that Al-Qaeda continues to collaborate with the Awakening Council and is also collaborating with Shiite entities in the south. The organization pays the Shiites in return for intelligence and the manufacturing and placing of bombs in Shiite regions. However, the U.S. Army reports that it has no evidence of collaboration between the Shiites and Al-Qaeda.¹³
- The Iraqi Ministry of Interior blames the Ministry of Justice, in charge of supervising the jails, for the fact that the Al-Qaeda leaders are continuing to run terrorist activities from inside prisons using cell phones. On its part, the Ministry of Justice declared that the incarcerated prisoners in the jails are under supervision, and that this is a slander attempt on the part of several parties.¹⁴

The Arabian Peninsula

Yemen

- The Yemen Foreign Minister, Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, declared at the end of September 2010 that the American bombings of Al-Qaeda targets inside Yemen have stopped since December 2009 as they did not bring results, and that the fight against Al-Qaeda is the responsibility of the security forces and anti-terrorist forces in Yemen. He stated that his country will not extradite Anwar Al-Awlaki to the United States and denied that Al-Awlaki's tribal connections are an obstacle to his capture. Furthermore, he confirmed that the U.S. has demanded the extradition of other Yemenis with American

¹² <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11629&article=588906>

¹³ <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11628&article=588781>

¹⁴ <http://www.daralhayat.com/portalariclendah/187469>

citizenship, but Yemen has refused to turn them over as it contradicts its constitution.¹⁵

- The terrorist activity in Yemen continues. Parties apparently belonging to Al-Qaeda ambushed the convoy of the Shabwa Province Governor, Dr. Ali Al-Ahmadi, which also included the Deputy Yemen Chief of Staff and several senior military and other security officials. A soldier was killed and others were injured in the terrorist attack. The convoy was on a mission with the purpose of visiting the forces fighting in the region and to follow the progress of activity against Al-Qaeda operatives in the region. It should be noted that as well as this attack, the confrontations continue and dozens from both sides were killed over the past weeks.¹⁶
- On October 6th 2010 two separate terrorist attacks against western targets took place. An RPG rocket was launched towards a diplomatic car belonging to a British delegation, about three kilometers from the British embassy in Sana'a in a street used by the diplomats every morning. The Yemen Ministry of Interior stated that the attack has Al-Qaeda's "fingerprints". No casualties were reported.¹⁷ In an attack in which the company's security guard shot at them, two employees of the Austrian OMV oil company were targeted - a French citizen was killed and a British citizen was injured.¹⁸

The Maghreb

North Africa – General

- On September 31st 2010, the Al-Jazeera channel broadcast for the first time, photographs of the seven abductees from the AREVA Company who were

¹⁵ <http://www.daralhayat.com/portalariclendah/186363>

¹⁶ <http://www.daralhayat.com/portalariclendah/186363>

¹⁷ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2010/10/101006_yemen_embassy_tc2.shtml

¹⁸ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2010/10/101006_yemen_embassy_tc2.shtml

kidnapped in the uranium quarry region in Niger.¹⁹ France is using the former rebel leader of the Tawariq Tribe, Iyad Ghali, in the negotiations with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb regarding the seven abductees. Choosing Ghali was acquiescence to France's demand to send someone trusted by the leader of the Al-Qaeda Sahara branch, Abd Al-Hamid Abu Zaid, which is holding the seven abductees.²⁰

- The Chiefs of Staff of Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Niger met at Tamanrasset Base at the end of September 2010. It is reported that the joint collaboration includes only the transfer of intelligence, as Mali is refusing to have any military activity against Al-Qaeda armed operatives, while Algeria refrains from military activity outside its territory due to constitutional constraints.²¹ The countries agreed to recruit drug smugglers to help them track bases belonging to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.²²

Morocco

- At the end of September 2010, the Moroccan security forces carried out a sweep of several neighborhoods in the city of Tétouan in the northern part of the country, in particular in the Marzuqa neighborhood, which authorities claim has become a hotbed for extremists, especially those recruited for suicide bombings in Iraq, much like the Sidi Mu'min neighborhood in Casablanca. Authorities reported that they have arrested eight men and that the search for other suspects continues. Authorities estimated that some of them left Morocco for Spain via the city of Ceuta – a Spanish enclave in the

¹⁹ <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/EXERES/5D3389A0-4E9D-4D89-BBC0-8A7A9575B0C1.htm>. See also: http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_October_2010_No_1.pdf, pages 25-26.

²⁰ <http://www.daralhayat.com/portalaricledah/187798>

²¹ <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/6919925C-BF16-4685-800B-85B8ACA7403D.htm>

²² <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/EXERES/5D3389A0-4E9D-4D89-BBC0-8A7A9575B0C1.htm>

northern part of the Maghreb in Morocco, which is run as an autonomous Spanish province.²³

Algeria

- The Al-Shuruk newspaper reported at the beginning of September 2010 that the Algerian security forces have recently interrogated several suspects operating in organized networks of merchants and businessmen entrusted with the task of laundering money from smuggling, and investing revenue for the benefit of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC). Amongst those arrested were residents of the cities of Tamanrasset, Adrar and Al-Mani'a. Some of them are suspects in the terrorist attack in Tin Zaouatine in which 11 Algerian soldiers were killed.

According to reports given by those who renounced the path of Jihad, several merchants and businessmen have succeeded in founding an economic cell whose role is to launder money, operating under the GSPC's Emirate, led by Abd Al-Hamid Al-Sufi, whose full name is Abd Al-Hamid Abu Zaid.

The results of the investigation showed that most of the funds obtained by the Emirate and the cells operating in the border towns in southern Algeria between 2008 and 2009, came through middlemen from regions in northern Mali, Mauritania and Algerian towns in the Sahara. This confirms that the funds finally reaching the organization cells came from the dubious activity of the merchants which apparently includes the smuggling of cigarettes, drugs and even weapons.

²³ www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issue=11627&article=588638&feature=. On more than one occasion the surfers on the Jihadi forums called to act against Spain for the liberation of this city and the city of Melilla, located on the northern coast of Africa. On this subject, see: http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_June_2010_No_1.pdf, pages 9-11.

The Algerian security forces reported that the weapons used in the terrorist attack in Tin Zaouatine, carried out by Al-Sufi's organization, were funded by this criminal activity.²⁴

- More on the subject of terror financing in Algeria: the Algerian minister in charge of the Maghreb and Africa said that 95% of terror funding comes from ransom payments made to terrorist organizations. He said that it is not enough that European countries call for ransoms not to be paid; the European Union must forbid such payment by law. It should be noted that Algeria is attempting to insert two articles into the U.N. Security Council Resolution 19/04 regarding the fight against Al-Qaeda, in which the payment of ransoms will be banned.²⁵
- The Al-Shuruk newspaper reports that the Algerian Army is enjoying success in the operation against the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) in the region of Skikda in the northern part of the country, where the forces in this area are led by Amar Lamoum, also called Abu Zakariya. According to the reports, the army has succeeded in destroying laboratories for the manufacture of weapons, and terrorist hiding places.²⁶
- The Al-Shuruk newspaper reported at the beginning of October 2010 that the Amir of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), Abdelmalek Droukhal (aka Abu Musab Abd Al-Wadud), has eliminated his "right hand man", the military advisor Ahmad Jabri. It is reported that Jabri secretly began spreading the message of reconciliation amongst the organization's members. The newspaper reports that Droukhal has already eliminated dozens of the organization's members due to their remorse, and because they considered the lack of religious legitimacy of the armed activities and wished

²⁴ <http://www.echoroukonline.com/ara/national/59146.html>

²⁵ <http://www.echoroukonline.com/ara/national/59813.html>

²⁶ <http://www.echoroukonline.com/ara/national/60166.html>

to join the nation's reconciliation treaty. According to the newspaper, the elimination of the military senior officer has generated a kind of mutiny against Droukdal.²⁷ It is important to mention that in recent months there were quite a few reports, both in the Jihadi forums and in the Arabic media, of the weakening of Droukdal's standing as the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. The names of other candidates from the organization's elite came up as possible replacements on more than one occasion.

Africa

Somalia

- The fighting between the army and the African Union peacekeeping forces, and the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" fighters continue. The African Union forces declared that they now control over 40% of the area of the Somali capital, Mogadishu. However, some say that despite the Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen's recent weakness due to disagreements within the movement, it is unlikely the African forces will take over all of Mogadishu.²⁸
- Mary Harper, a BBC correspondent on African matters, reported that some armed men who fought with Ahmad Godane, Al-Shabab's leader, have left him. According to her, Godane (also known as Mukhtar Abu Zubayr) has a great number of foreign fighters.²⁹ As stated already, disagreements have surfaced recently amongst the Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen leadership in Somalia, between Mukhtar Robo Abu Mansur, the no. 2 man in the movement, and Ahmad Godane. According to reports, the disagreement began when some of the Shabab commanders were killed by Shabab fighters, during an attack carried out by the organization. Mukhtar Robo demanded the

²⁷ <http://www.echoroukonline.com/ara/national/60853.html>

²⁸ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2010/10/101007_au_somalia_tc2.shtml

²⁹ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2010/10/101007_au_somalia_tc2.shtml

event be investigated, but Godane refused. In response, Robo said that he will not send any more fighters or commanders to other attacks, and demanded his fighters withdraw from conflict areas. There are reports that some of the movement commanders in central Somalia escaped to the Bay and Bakool regions.³⁰ It should be noted that the no. 2 man in the movement, Mukhtar Robo Abu Mansur, has denied the existence of controversy in the organization.

Uganda

- Details on the terrorist attack in Uganda in the summer during the World Cup games have been revealed. The Ugandan police, together with the CIA, have arrested 36 people of 7 different nationalities following terrorist attacks which caused the death of 76 people. One of the suspects confirmed that Al-Qaeda recruited and trained him. The Somali "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement claimed responsibility for the attack and declared that it was due to the participation of Ugandan troops as part of the African Union peacekeeping forces in Somalia.³¹

The Uganda Military Intelligence Administration stated that Al-Qaeda has at least partial connection to the attack, despite the belief that it was planned on Somali soil. The suspects who were arrested come from various backgrounds: businessmen, students and imams of small mosques. Some come from Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania, as well as from Uganda. Human rights activists criticized the accusations and claimed that some of the suspects have no connection to the attacks.

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http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2010/10/101007_somalia_shaba_rift_tc2.shtml

³¹ On this matter, see:

http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_July_2010_No_2.pdf, page 11.

According to the reports in the article, the suspects were found because the third bomb which was supposed to detonate in a dance club (the other two exploded in a restaurant and in a sports club where football fans gathered) did not explode as the terrorist who was supposed to detonate it changed his mind. Police found his cell phone, thus exposing the other people involved in the attack.

Another suspect told the police that the Al-Shabab organization had given him \$4,000 for the preparation of the terrorist attacks - for renting an apartment in Uganda, amongst other things. He confirmed that he transported the explosives from Somalia via Kenya, and that Kenyan policemen helped him execute the plot and cross the border.³²

The West and the rest of the world

Europe – General

- Concerns about terrorist attacks increase in Europe. American intelligence sources warned that Al-Qaeda leaders, including Bin Laden, plan to carry out terrorist attacks in European cities. The targets are Britain, France and Germany.³³ In two different operations the French police arrested 12 Islamic operatives in Bordeaux, Marseilles and Avignon in the south of the country. The police stated that nine of the 12 were arrested carrying weapons, explosives and forging equipment for passports, as well as identity cards made for Muslims returning from Afghanistan.

Police clarified that three out of the 12 were detained for questioning without a specific charge. In Naples, a Frenchman of Algerian origin called Riahd Hennouni, was recently arrested in possession of equipment for the

³² www.daralhayat.com/portalarticlendam/189751

³³ www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2010/10/101001_us_qaeds_europe_terror.shtml

preparation of explosives. According to BBC reports, his arrest enabled the police to track the network of the 9 detainees, after their names were found in Hennouni's papers. Hennouni had recently arrived in Italy from Afghanistan.³⁴

- According to journalistic sources, the western security forces succeeded in foiling a series of synchronised terrorist attacks in Britain, France, Germany and the United States. The German "Der Spiegel" newspaper reported that the man behind these terrorist attacks is the no. 3 man in Al-Qaeda, Sheikh Yunus Al-Mauritani, with Bin Laden's authorization and financial support. According to reports, Al-Mauritani sent a German Islamic operative of Afghan origin, who is now detained by the American forces in Afghanistan. The operative is Ahmad Al-Sidiq from Hamburg, and he met with Al-Mauritani in northern Pakistan at the beginning of the summer, before his arrest in July 2010 in Kabul.³⁵

Spain

- Senior Spanish figures reported at the end of September 2010 that they had arrested an American citizen of Algerian origin called Muhammad Omar Dabhi, who was transferring 60,000 Euros to Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb. Dabhi transferred the money to an Algerian individual named Tawfiq Mazzi.³⁶

Norway

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awast" newspaper reported on September 29th 2010 that three suspects were arrested for the planning of a terrorist attack against the newspaper which published a caricature of the Prophet Muhammad. One is a Kurdish-Iraqi living in Norway and another suspect, of Uyghur origin, also

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http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2010/10/101005_arrest_suspects_france.shtml

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http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2010/10/101005_arrest_suspects_france.shtml

³⁶ www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2010/09/100929_spain_qaeda_arrest_tc2.shtml

admitted to an attempt to blow up the Oslo embassy in China.³⁷ The third suspect is a refugee from Uzbekistan.³⁸

Global Jihad – General

- Hassan Abu Haniya, a commentator on the subject of Islamic groups, said in an interview to the BBC that "Salafi-Jihadi ideology has changed as far as the participation of women in armed activity is concerned". He explained: "While traditional Jihadi ideology reduced the women's participation to supporting roles – caring for the ill, education, moral support and so on – and has rejected their participation in armed activity, the movement has begun discussing religious theories pertaining to the participation of women in armed activity".

The first to address this issue was a senior Al-Qaeda member in Saudi Arabia, Yusuf Al-Uyeryi, who was killed in 2003. During this time there was an increase in the number of terrorist attacks carried out by Chechen women in the northern Caucasus. It should be noted that Ayman Al-Zawahiri opposes the participation of women in Jihad.

The article reviews several prominent terrorist attacks carried out by women in recent years and mentions Malika Al-Aroud who is standing trial in Belgium for incitement for Jihad, and Coleen LaRose also known as "Jihad Jane", who is accused of conspiring to commit murder and recruiting fighters on the internet with the goal of executing terrorist attacks.

The article claims that the phenomenon of women's participation in Jihad is especially prominent in the West. Huriya Ahmad, a researcher at the Center

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<http://www.aljazeera.net/Mob/Templates/Postings/NewsDetailedPage.aspx?GUID=A9DC6EDA-0361-446E-9D36-BD82B540DB56>

³⁸ <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=588785&issueno=11628>

for Social Cohesion, mentions that in the past weeks a cell planning on carrying out a terrorist attack in France, which had a woman amongst its members, was apprehended. She estimates that it is possible that this is related to the decision to ban the wearing of the "Niqab".³⁹

India

- India hosted the 19th Commonwealth Games. Prior to this, Australian television revealed the unsatisfactory security arrangements and showed how one can bring materials that can be assembled into a bomb into the games, without being detected by the security men. The "Sunday Express" newspaper reported that a group linked to Al-Qaeda planned on killing and abducting British sportsmen and fans. Australia asked its fans not to wear clothing in the national colors.⁴⁰

³⁹ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2010/09/100930_female_alqaeda.shtml

⁴⁰ <http://www.daralhayat.com/portalararticlendah/187123>