

## Global Jihad: Summary of Information from Arabic Media Sources

### The Second 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 course of the second half of October 2010. Following are the main issues raised in this report:

- Saif Al-Adel, who was released from Iran and arrived in Afghanistan, will lead Al-Qaeda's military branch.
- Atiyah Allah, one of Al-Qaeda's most important ideologists, was killed as the result of an aerial attack in the Waziristan region.
- Coverage of the story of the explosive parcels sent from Yemen.
- Significant changes in the leadership of Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb.
- The no. 2 man in the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement in Somalia denies the existence of disagreements within the organization's leadership.
- Bin Laden threatens France in a new audio tape.
- Adam Gadahn calls on the Muslims in the West to carry out terrorist attacks against the "Zionist-Crusader Alliance".

## Afghanistan – Pakistan

### Afghanistan

- Saif Al-Adel, the “brain” behind many terrorist attacks, including the attacks against the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, and Saed bin Laden, Osama bin Laden’s son, had been held under house arrest in Iran. They were released by Iran as part of a deal with the Pakistan Taliban, who reciprocated by releasing an Iranian diplomat who was kidnapped in North Pakistan in 2009 by the Taliban.

Terror expert Noman Ben Othman, told the “Der Spiegel” newspaper that Saif Al-Adel moved from Iran to the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Ben Othman added that the house arrest was more of a protective measure than a supervisory measure, and that Saif Al-Adel had great freedom which may have enabled him to plan the attacks against Saudi Arabia in 2003. He also mentioned that the two have organizational and planning capabilities, and they are experts in creating international terrorist networks.<sup>1</sup> It was further stated that Al-Adel will become the leader of Al-Qaeda’s military branch.<sup>2</sup>

- A suicide attack was carried out on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 against the U.N. delegation headquarters in Herat, in western Afghanistan. No casualties amongst the U.N. employees were reported. The perpetrators launched mortars towards the headquarters, and later opened fire on the target using machine-guns. At the time of the attack there were about 20 people in the office, including employees and security personnel. According to the Herat police reports, the terrorist attack was carried out by three suicide bombers,

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<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11655&article=592571&feature=2>

<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=1&issueno=11655&article=592595&feature=>

dressed in women's clothing or police uniforms. The first one attacked the front door and the other two tried to enter the building following the explosion, however they were killed by the guards and the police.<sup>3</sup>

#### Pakistan

- The U.S. bombings using unmanned aircraft continue. In a bombing in Waziristan on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2010, eight people were killed including the Libyan leader, Atiyah Abd Al-Rahman, also known as Atiyah Allah. Atiyah was Al-Qaeda's ideologist and was wanted in the United States with a bounty of \$1 million. Bin Laden appointed Atiyah as his representative in Iran for recruiting armed men and creating ties with other Islamic organizations, with the objective of carrying out terrorist attacks.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Iraq**

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that hundreds of members of the "Awakening Councils" are returning to Al-Qaeda's ranks. One of the Council's former leaders said that the government's intentions towards the Councils are unclear and the operatives are faced with two options: "Either stay alongside the government, which will put their lives in danger, or help Al-Qaeda as double agents". He clarified that the Awakening Councils constitute "a source of information" for Al-Qaeda which will be used for attacking targets that could not be reached beforehand. According to the newspaper and other Iraqi media, the Council's operatives can receive higher salaries from Al-

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=592227&issueno=11653>

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<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=1&issueno=11640&article=590451&feature=>,  
[http://www.rewardsforjustice.net/index.cfm?page=atiyah\\_abd&language=arabic](http://www.rewardsforjustice.net/index.cfm?page=atiyah_abd&language=arabic)

Qaeda than the \$300/month salary they receive from the government, and also gaining more security.<sup>5</sup>

- According to "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" sources, senior military members report that Al-Qaeda has become more lethal after its Iraqi fighters have become tougher following their imprisonment in American jails. Iraqi senior officials call the new generation of Al-Qaeda fighters "Third Generation" and state that the organization's fighters can blend into Iraqi society and that they know its weaknesses. Today Al-Qaeda is trying to foil the attempts to establish a government in Iraq, seven months after elections that did not result in a decisive ruling. According to senior Iraqi military officials, today Al-Qaeda is carrying out more daring terrorist attacks and is trying to attack heavily-guarded targets. The article details **that the first generation of Al-Qaeda activists were Arabs coming from outside of Iraq, while the second generation was comprised of Sunnis from outside of Iraq and the Iraqis who objected to the occupation and the Shiite rise to power. Now the Iraqi security forces are faced with young Iraqi men who wholeheartedly believe in Jihad.**<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=1&issueno=11647&article=591446>,  
<http://www.sotaliraq.com/iraq-news.php?id=9756>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11657&article=592824&feature=>

## The Arabian Peninsula

### The explosives parcels from Yemen

- At the end of October 2010, two parcels containing explosives were detected in Britain and Dubai. From reports in several media outlets in Arabic, it seems that the charge discovered in Britain was on a UPS aircraft and the charge in Dubai was discovered at the FEDEX installations. The bombs were secreted in printer ink cartridges containing an electrical circuit and a cell phone mechanism. Both packages were destined for synagogues in Chicago and contained powerful PETN explosives. According to investigators, the use of this type of explosive shows investigators not only the identity of the organization behind the attempted attack, but also the identity of the person manufacturing the charges. It is speculated that this individual is Ibrahim Hasan Al-Asiri, a Saudi citizen on the list of the Saudi authorities' 85 most wanted men.

It should be noted that at the end of August 2009, Al-Asiri secreted a bomb made of PETN inside the body of his little brother Abdullah, as part of an assassination attempt in August 2009 on the life of the Saudi Deputy Minister of Interior, Prince Muhammad Bin Naif. This explosive was also used in the attempted Christmas Eve 2009 attack on an aircraft en route to Detroit from Amsterdam, carried out by the Nigerian Omar Al-Faruq Abd Al-Mutallab. It is thought that Al-Asiri was also behind the attempted plane attack. According to the reports, Al-Asiri obtains the materials for his explosives charges by stealing drug components from hospitals in Sana'a. Al-Asiri is a member of Qasim Al-Rimi's cell, the Al-Qaeda Yemen military commander. He studied chemistry at the King Saud University, but did not complete his studies.

Al-Asiri and his brother Abdullah joined Al-Rimi's cell in Yemen after having fled from conflicts with the Saudi security forces in Riyadh in 1996.

Both packages detected on October 29<sup>th</sup> 2010 were sent from Yemen in the name of Hannan Muhammad Al-Samawi, a Computer Studies student at the Engineering Faculty of Sana'a University.

As of the beginning of November 2010 there are several unanswered questions, including the extent of Samawi's involvement in the affair; whether only these two packages were sent, or were there more packages which went undetected; were the packages meant to detonate in the synagogues they were sent to, or was it a fictitious target and they were actually meant to detonate en route, perhaps during the flight.<sup>7</sup>

#### Yemen

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that the wave of assassinations of intelligence officers in the southern provinces has expanded to the south-eastern provinces. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula claimed responsibility for the assassination of an intelligence officer in Hadramawt. All of this occurs following the dismissal of one of the senior members of the security forces in Abyan by the Minister of Interior, due to the deteriorating state of security. The assassination was carried out by two masked armed men riding a motorcycle, who shot at the intelligence officer using a Makarov pistol. It should be noted that the fighting between the army and the Al-Qaeda activists in the Shabwa and Abyan Provinces continue,<sup>8</sup> and that the Yemen authorities are using tribal militias in the Shabwa Province to fight Al-Qaeda

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<sup>7</sup> This review is based in the following sources:

<http://international.daralhayat.com/internationalarticle/198104>,

<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=593399&issueno=11661>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11639&article=590238>

and apprehend Anwar Al-Awlaki who is a wanted man.<sup>9</sup> According to local sources, the authorities are trying to recruit the local tribes in the fight against Al-Qaeda; they pay the tribal fighters \$50/day, supply them with weapons and go out with them on joint operations. It is further reported that the Al-Awaliq tribes, to which Anwar Al-Awlaki (one of Al-Qaeda's leaders) belongs, are amongst the tribes helping the authorities in their battle against Al-Qaeda. It should be noted that this policy is controversial and does not receive widespread support.<sup>10</sup>

On the other hand, the Al-Awaliq Tribes in Abyan and Shabwa have issued a proclamation warning against any attempt at harming their tribesman, Anwar Al-Awlaki. The proclamation stated that the tribe "will not sit idly by in face of even one hair of Al-Awlaki's head being harmed, or in the face of a plot against him or an attempt to spy on him". The tribesmen condemned the U.S. government which has permitted the killing or arresting of Al-Awlaki.<sup>11</sup>

- After several months with no terrorist attacks, Aden became a Jihad arena again when an RPG mortar was shot from a car towards a military patrol, injuring two soldiers. This occurred at a time when the "Khaliji 20" football tournament is due to take place in the city at the end of November 2010.<sup>12</sup> On October 11<sup>th</sup> 2010 there was an explosion at the stadium in Aden, killing three people. Following these events, the Yemeni security forces arrested 20 men and tightened security.<sup>13</sup>
- More in Yemen - on October 25<sup>th</sup> 2010 the trial began of the Al-Qaeda activists accused of planning to attack targets in the capital, Sana'a. A

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<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11654&article=592441&feature=>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/EXERES/98D7FC5E-3983-4D71-A61F-7246A40161D2.htm>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/3F291367-C20B-4EA5-A8D0-13F08C7F7DED.htm>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=590429&issueno=11640>

<sup>13</sup> <http://aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=590680&issueno=11642>

defendant named Faraj Hadi Mas'ud admitted to recruiting activists for Al-Qaeda, while another defendant named Qasim Ali Qasim Al-Isami admitted that Al-Qaeda had planned to attack security targets, kidnap soldiers, steal from officials' payrolls, as well as attacking other targets. Isami's confessions further reveal that the Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's military commander, Qasim Al-Rimi, used to dress in women's clothing to move from place to place in 2009.<sup>14</sup>

#### Yemen – Saudi Arabia

- The Saudi Ministry of Interior declared that the no. 20 man on the Most Wanted List of 85 people, Jabir Jubran Al-Fayfi (aka Abu Jaafar Al-Ansari) turned himself in to the Saudi security forces, after communications between him and experts at the Prince Muhammad Bin Naif Center for Advice and Care in Riyadh.

Al-Fayfi was a Guantanamo detainee who was released and then joined the Al-Qaeda operatives in Yemen. Knowledgeable sources reported to "Al-Hayat" that Al-Fayfi exploited the conflict between the Yemen Army and Al-Qaeda in the city of Ludar in the Abyan Province, and used the relevant parties to coordinate his transfer to the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, before his return to Saudi Arabia. These sources stated that Al-Fayfi has been struggling for a while with the question of whether to turn himself in, due to rumors spread by Al-Qaeda leaders in Yemen with regards to the harsh treatment at the hands of Saudi authorities that is received by those who turn themselves in. This is in contradiction to the denials of this made by the Saudi Ministry of Interior. The sources stated that Al-Fayfi has indeed turned himself in, which contradicts the statements made by Al-Qaeda that the Yemeni authorities

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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=592546&issueno=11655>



arrested him in during a Jihad mission in which he had to lay down his weapons for security reasons.<sup>15</sup> The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper reported that Al-Fayfi told the Saudi authorities that Al-Qaeda has been using them as a "fuel for a brothers' war".<sup>16</sup>

- According to "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" sources, the Saudi Ahmad Abd Al-Aziz Al-Jasir, on whom Yemen has placed a \$50,000 reward for any information provided on him, planned together with four other Saudi's (also on the list of the Saudi Authorities' 85 wanted men), to carry out terrorist attacks during the Saudi Army's fighting against the Houthis on the border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. The five operatives were on Yemen soil, and planned to infiltrate Saudi Arabia in December 2009 to carry out terrorist attacks, which may have included a series of assassinations and an attack on oil installations.

One of the four activists was Abdullah Al-Juair, who was captured in Yemen, and from whom the Yemen authorities have apparently extracted information on which they based the declaration that Jasir is a wanted man.

Another wanted man in this affair is Naif Al-Qahtani, considered to be the link between the Al-Qaeda leaders, who in the past had joined a terrorist cell planning assassinations and attacks on oil installations in Saudi Arabia. He is also said to be in charge of propaganda within the organization.<sup>17</sup> Furthermore, it is known that he infiltrated Yemen and trained in weapons and shells, as well as forging ties with Ammar Al-Waili and Hamza Al-Qutai'I,

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<sup>15</sup> <http://ksa.daralhayat.com/ksaarticle/192445>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=1&issueno=11645&article=591181>

<sup>17</sup> Al-Qahtani, who was killed in May 2010 and was on the list of the 85 most wanted men of the Saudi authorities. He was called Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's "head of propoganda and military instructor" in an audio tape made by the organization's military commander, Qasim Al-Rimi:  
[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_May\\_2010\\_No\\_2.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_May_2010_No_2.pdf), page 3.

who are Al-Qaeda activists in Yemen. He is also accused of funding a terrorist attack against Spanish tourists and attacks against oil installations in Yemen.

Another wanted man involved in this matter is Walid Ali Al-Asiri, described as the religious leader of the cell. He too underwent weapons and shells training.

The cell operative captured in Yemen, Juair, has previously entered Iraq in the past to join Al-Qaeda activists and participate in the organization's activity there. He planned terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia and left Iraq with a forged passport so that he could plan terrorist attacks and arrange for safe-houses for operatives in Saudi Arabia.

Another operative in this affair is Murtada Maqram Al-Sharik, who was released from Guantanamo and then infiltrated Yemen and joined Al-Qaeda under the leadership of Al-Wahishi.<sup>18</sup>

## The Maghreb

### The Maghreb – General

- The "Al-Hayat" newspaper published an article reviewing the changes occurring in Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb and its various factions, over the past years. According to the article, the charisma of "Abu Musab" (Droukdel), also known as Abu Musab Al-Wadud, in the northern Maghreb has diminished and many of his activists have left him. In contrast Abu Zaid's<sup>19</sup> influence has increased, and another leader, Mukhtar Belmukhtar, has become active again in the "Sahil" region of the Sahara.

The Algerian security forces are operating against Al-Qaeda on two levels: one – the security level in which the security forces are trying to carry out

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=591870&issueno=11650>

<sup>19</sup> For more information on Abu Zaid, see:

[http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_October\\_2010\\_No\\_1.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_October_2010_No_1.pdf), pages 25-26.

military activity against the organization, and the second – a political level, in which the Algerian authorities are trying to attract the organization's leaders who believe in compromise.

In northern Algeria the organization continues to carry out terrorist activity including ambushing the army and planting bombs against the military forces, but the Algerian authorities view these acts as "remnants of terrorism", as Al-Qaeda's activity in the area has significantly diminished. **As of 2008, the Algerian security forces succeeded in eliminating prominent leaders operating under Abu Musab Abd Al-Wadud. A tolerant religious dialogue spread by the authorities has begun to gain dominancy, with the support of dozens of religious clerics from Arabic countries from the new generation of Salafi religious clerics, many of whom forbade Jihad in Algeria, thus helping a wave of "reformation" and a decrease in the popularity of the organization's leaders in 2010.** This way, many of Abd Al-Wadud's supporters in northern Algeria were neutralized, and the center of activity has moved to the "Sahil" region, where there is fertile ground for activity for an organization such as Al-Qaeda due to the lack of presence of the security forces and the helplessness of the countries in the region, who are amongst the poorest of the world.

This transformation has turned Mukhtar Belmukhtar and Yahia Abu Zaid into the most influential leaders in the field with regards to Al-Qaeda's activity, and has increased the presence of leaders from Mauritania such as Abd Al-Rahman Anas Al-Shanqiti, who became the organization's greatest force in the Sahara.

These transformations helped recruit fighters from various African countries, and in this region there is a lot of ransom kidnapping. The ransom money is used to purchase weapons and ammunition.

The article surveys the prominent Al-Qaeda leaders in the Sahara region, and presents a profile for each one:<sup>20</sup>

- **Abd Al-Malek (Droukdel), called Abu Musab Abd Al-Wadud:** Born in 1970 in the town of Miftah, about 25 kilometers south-east of the Algerian capital. He has a Bachelor's degree from the Al-Blida University. He began his activity with the Armed Islamic Group (GIA). He was not known in the organization whilst it was under Hassan Al-Hattab, but was appointed to be its Amir after Nabil Sahrawi was deposed in 2004.

From Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi's website it is learned that Abd Al-Wadud swore allegiance and joined Al-Qaeda in the month of Sha'ban 1427 Hijra (September 2006).<sup>21</sup>

- **Sallah Qasimi, called Abu Muhammad Al-Baskari:** In charge of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb's Media Committee and of propaganda. Born in 1971, a university graduate in civil engineering. He was arrested in the mid 1990s and spent several years in the Tamanrasset Prison for his terrorist activities. In 1998 he was released from prison and joined the Salafi Jama'a by contacting the leader of one of the organization's squadrons. He joined the Media Committee in the Bumerdes Province, headed at the time by Murad Khattab, who today is leading the disarmament initiative, together with Hassan Al-Hattab. In 2004 Abu Muhammad was appointed head of the organization's propaganda group.

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<sup>20</sup> <http://international.daralhayat.com/internationalarticle/193272>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.tawhed.ws/a?a=kn5k4tam>

- **Abd Al-Hamid Abu Zaid, called Hamid Essufi:** the current field commander in the Sahara, despite the fact Yahia Jawadi Abu Ammar is the commander of the Sahara region. Abu Zaid, whose real name is Hamadu Ubaid (aka Abu Ubaida Al-Qammari), was born in Al-Zawiya Al-Abadiya in south-east Algeria in 1965. He joined the Islamic Rescue Front and later the Armed Islamic Group in 1994. He lived in an abandoned house in Al-Zawiya Al-Abadiya, which served as a hiding place for a terrorist cell until the security forces placed the house under siege, but Abu Zaid managed to escape with his brother and was not seen again until 2007 when he was appointed as Deputy Amir of the Tariq Bin Ziyad Brigade, known as the "Desert Brigade". The group lead by Abu Zaid is considered to be more dangerous than Belmukhtar's group, due to its size (over 40 activists) and the new tactics it employs. These include driving only 4x4 vehicles at night with the lights off and staying in camouflaged hiding spots during the day, so as to deceive aerial surveillance. Abu Zaid, who excels in kidnapping westerners in the "Sahil" region for vast sums of money, is considered to be the only one who can threaten security in the Sahara.
- **Mukhtar Belmukhtar Abu Abbas, called Belaouar:** also known as Khalid Abu Al-Abbas. He was born in 1972 in Ghardaia in Algeria, and is also called the "Blind" as he lost vision in one of his eyes. In the past he was one of the "Afghan Arabs" who participated in the Afghan war. He joined the terrorist organization in 1992. He was the first one who convinced Abd Al-Razzq (Al-Bara), the leader of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), to kidnap western hostages and hold them for ransom. He is known for his charisma and his ties with the "Tawariq"

tribesmen and with the Arab tribes in the Sahara. Belmukhtar has survived several assassination attempts from within the organization, and he views himself as Hassan Al-Hattab's natural successor. For this reason he has quarreled with Droukdel and found himself going from being the Amir of the Salafi group to the head of a highwaymen gang. He operates in north-west Mali near the border with Algeria and Mauritania, and supervises four posts and training camps where he trains his operatives, members of the Tawariq, Arabs and Malians, as well as several Algerians. Belmukhtar ceased his activity for a while due to diabetes, but he has returned to armed activity and has begun operating near the border with Mauritania.

- **Yahia Jawadi Abu Ammar:** Ammar was the Amir of the West Brigades of the Armed Islamic Group and later the Amir of the Fighting Salafi Group. He later joined the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat. The media reports that he is the Amir of the Sahara, but there has been no sign of him in any of the events.

#### Morocco

- The Moroccan Minister of Interior declared on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 that 34 activists in an international drug network were apprehended, including the "brain" behind the network in Morocco. This individual worked in collaboration with the network supervisor in Mali, now detained in Bamako. They both have Spanish citizenship. The network distributed hard drugs such as cocaine and exported them to Europe via sea, air and land. The network has branches in Latin America, Europe and Africa and is working with Al-Qaeda members in the Islamic Maghreb.

The Moroccan Minister of Interior said that between March and August, the network members managed to carry out eight smuggling operations of a total quantity of 600 kilograms of cocaine to Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania. He said that large quantities of cocaine, other drugs, cars, tear gas bombs and large sums of money of foreign currency and Dirham were apprehended.

The network also founded shell corporations in several countries for the laundering and smuggling of money. The Moroccan Minister of Interior added that Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb provided logistical support to the network, and secured the transfer of drugs. The drugs were brought from Latin America, in particular from Colombia and Venezuela, to northern Mali. From there the Al-Qaeda members secured their transfer via the desert in Mali, Mauritania and Algeria to the Moroccan border, with the aim of distributing some of it in Morocco, and exporting the rest to Europe.

The Minister of Interior reported that in November, Al-Qaeda activists transported a truck laden with gasoline to a Boeing aircraft carrying tons of cocaine from Venezuela to northern Mali. The aircraft did not succeed in taking off due to the poor quality of the gasoline, so the operatives burnt it. He said that the terrorist entities do not shy from any means to obtain their funds, and they make use of all the means available to them. He further added that the network has made contact with Moroccan drug smugglers for the purpose of smuggling drugs via the sea, or by using small aircraft leaving Spain and Portugal.<sup>22</sup>

- In Morocco, the end of October marked the opening date of the trial of apprehended cell members, led by the Palestinian Yahia Al-Hindi. According to the authorities, Al-Hindi settled in Morocco, and exploited the sympathy of

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<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11645&article=591141&feature=>

locals to the Palestinian issue as part of spreading "the Jihad ideas" and Takfir. The cell planned the assassinations of Moroccan figures and Jews of Moroccan origin, as well as attacks on tourism centers and security centers. "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" sources reported that the cell members are loyal to Al-Qaeda, led by Bin Laden, but it is unclear as to whether there is an organizational connection alongside the ideological identification.<sup>23</sup>

- According to Moroccan authorities, a cell recruiting and sending Jihad fighters to Iraq has recently been apprehended in Morocco.<sup>24</sup>

## Africa

### Somalia

- Sheikh Mukhtar Robo (aka Abu Mansur), the no. 2 man in "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" in Somalia, denied reports of disagreements within the organization's leadership. He said that the "Somali government strives to spread these rumors so as to cover up its complete failure...". Mansur, who made his statement from the Nasr Al-Din Mosque in Mogadishu, said that the "Al-Shabab" members consider themselves to be the students of the Al-Qaeda leader, Osama bin Laden. He said: "We are the students of Sheikh Osama bin Laden in Somalia, and we are not embarrassed to speak openly on the matter and we do not fear our actions being labeled as terrorism". He went on: "We say to you, our Sheikh, Osama bin Laden, that your students in Somalia, the Jihad fighters of the "Al-Shabab" movement, are determined and still united. They are continuing the path of Jihad".

Abu Mansur promised to escalate the fight against the African Union Peacekeeping Forces and against the Somali government forces. He declared

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<sup>23</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=591857&issueno=11650>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11660&article=593190&feature=>



that the war against them will continue and that a new military campaign will be announced that will be more forceful than the one declared against them on the month of the Ramadan, weakening the "enemies'" ability. He called on the Somali people to "take part in the war against the foreign forces in the country". On the other hand the Somali government claims that the disagreements within the "Al-Shabab" leadership pertain to the management of the war and the political and ideological outlooks. This is with regards to, amongst other things, the unification talks between "Al-Shabab" and the Islamic Party, as well as regarding the connection between the local fighters and the foreign fighters, whom the Somali government claims have now taken over the decision-making in the movement.<sup>25</sup>

- The toll of casualties in the fighting between "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" and the government and the African Union forces, continues to rise. The organization's military spokesperson, Sheikh Abd Al-Aziz Abu Musab, stated that the "Al-Shabab" forces succeeded in fending off a combined attack of the Somali Army and Ethiopian Forces in the city of Baldawin, as well as killing several soldiers and taking over several military vehicles.<sup>26</sup> On the other hand, the army forces together with fighters from Ahl Al-Sunnah, succeeded in taking over the city of Balad Hawa, near the border with Kenya and Ethiopia. According to testimonies, this battle against the "Al-Shabab" movement, which according to testimony went on for about 10 hours.<sup>27</sup>
- In Somalia, the "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" movement instructed three media companies to stop the money transfer services over the phone these companies provide their clients. The movement claimed that western countries as well as Israel, derive great use from this service and that "the

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=590206&issueno=11639>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/78E80999-EE79-4639-9BEB-6BB2AA6F3D0E.htm>

<sup>27</sup> <http://aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/A9D6D0EA-E3E8-4BC9-8801-E6D13F4C6D71.htm>

money transfer service over the phone was originally spread by the West, especially by the United States, to compensate for its losses as a result of the financial crisis". This is according to a manifesto issued by the political department of "Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen" published on October 18<sup>th</sup> 2010. The movement further claims that this service causes a loss of funds for the Muslims, especially the Jihad fighters, due to the excuse of the "fight against terrorism".<sup>28</sup>

### **The West and the rest of the world**

#### Germany

- The "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" newspaper cited reports from German intelligence services that members of a Jihadi cell who went from Hamburg to the tribal regions in Pakistan for training, have recently returned to Germany and are moving about freely. The cell members were recruited at the Taybah Mosque where Muhammad Atta, the leader of the 9/11 attacks, used to attend. It is believed that the remainder of the cell members are still in the border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and are linked to Al-Qaeda's plan to carry out terrorist attacks in Europe.<sup>29</sup>
- Senior U.S. officials declared that they believe it is possible that an "extremely dangerous" Islamic radical of Turkish and German citizenship, is on his way to Germany after having stayed at a training camp in Pakistan.<sup>30</sup>

#### France

- On October 27<sup>th</sup> 2010, the Al-Jazeera station published a new audio tape by Osama bin Laden which was addressed to the people of France. In the tape, Bin Laden says that the kidnapping of the Frenchmen in Niger was in

<sup>28</sup> <http://aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/A9D6D0EA-E3E8-4BC9-8801-E6D13F4C6D71.htm>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11639&article=590226>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=11639&article=590226>

response to France's exploitation of the Islamic nation. Bin Laden questions the French collaboration with the occupation of Muslim countries and with helping the Americans kill Muslim women and children, whilst at the same time wanting to live peacefully and securely. Bin Laden further adds that the French are preventing Muslim women from covering their heads and that therefore the Muslims have the right to behead the French invaders. Bin Laden calls on the French people to retreat from "Bush's war" in Afghanistan.<sup>31</sup>

#### The United States

- Adam Gadahn, (aka Azzam the American), considered to be Al-Qaeda's spokesperson in the United States, has published a new tape distributed on the internet in which he calls on the Muslims living in western countries to carry out terrorist attacks against what he calls the "Zionist-Crusader Alliance". He stated that he is mainly addressing the immigrants on "the sidelines of society", in the poor suburbs of Paris, London and Detroit, and added that they "have the chance to attack the heretic leaders in their countries".<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/5B81A3D2-C479-4ED0-A502-6A97CD2558EE.htm>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.daralhayat.com/portalariclendah/195210>