

## Disseminating the Message of Jihad from a British Haven

The following review will present the content appearing on the website of the Al-Maqreze Center for Research, and information on the head of the center, Sheikh Hani Al-Siba'i. Sheikh Al-Siba'i, who resides in Britain after being granted political asylum, is a former operative of the Egyptian Jihad movement and was close to various terrorist operatives from amongst the Egyptian movements. In addition, he is still in contact with Al-Qaeda to this day. Al-Siba'i uses his website, as well as other internet services, to take an active part in the general Jihadi discourse and to spread his fundamentalist beliefs.



The website's address: <http://www.almagreze.net>.

### Hani Al-Siba'i

Hani Al-Siba'i is an Egyptian law graduate from the University of Cairo, and served as defense attorney for members of the Islamic movements in Egypt in several cases tried before the Egyptian military court. During the war in Afghanistan in the 1980s he raised aid for the Jihad in various cities and villages in Egypt. He was a member of the Islamic Lawyers' Union in Egypt, as well as writing for various magazines. He served as an advisor at the Research Center for Islamic Studies in Australia. He was arrested by the Egyptian security forces on charges of membership of a terrorist organization and involvement in planning terrorist attacks in the "The Returnees from Albania" trial. In 1994 he fled to Britain where he received political asylum, even though the British security

authorities view him as a member of the Egyptian Jihad organization's Shura Council. He has appeared on the U.S. and the U.N. lists of individuals connected to terrorism since 2005.

He founded the Al-Maqreze Center for Research from his residence in London.

Al-Siba'i's resume on his website notes a long list of terrorist figures he has met with over the years:

- Ayman Al-Zawahiri
- Muhammad Al-Zawahiri
- Abu Obeida Al-Banshiri
- Muhammad Atta
- Abu Khaled Abd Al-Aziz Al-Jamal
- Thirwat Salah Shehata
- Abd Al-Kadr bin Abd Al-Aziz (Sayyid Imam)
- Abdul Abd Al-Majid
- Abu Omra Marwan Mustafa Salem
- Montasser el-Zayat
- Nabil Naim
- Ahmad Salame
- Abud Zamer
- Mustafa Shamia
- Alaa Mahi Al-Din
- And other various operatives from the Jihad and Salafiyya movements.

As stated above, the British security forces concluded that Al-Siba'i is a member of the Egyptian Jihad organization's Shura Council, but they allow him to operate freely under the status of political asylum. Al-Siba'i is frequently interviewed on various Arabic TV channels.

In addition, Al-Siba'i is a member of the "Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad" Salafi-Jihadi website's Shura Council. The website was founded by the Salafi Sheikh, Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi (born in 1959), one of the founders of the Salafi movement in Jordan and primarily known as the spiritual father of Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi (the former leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq).



### Technical details

An examination of the website's technical details reveals that its manager is an individual named S. Hany, who uses the email address: [fuaad964@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fuaad964@yahoo.co.uk). A search of this email address on the internet shows several connections to websites dealing in computers, news from the Arab world, as well as films posted on YouTube. The address has no other connections to websites and forums in the world of terrorism.

The physical address associated with the website is: 344 Harrow Road, Maida vale, London W9 2H, GB<sup>1</sup> and the phone number is: +44-2072866334.

### Content in English

The website has a link to an English version of the site, however it leads to a page notifying that the website is under construction.

### Description of the website

Under the center's logo, there is a menu which directs to the site's main areas of content, including the following:

- Articles
- Books
- Miscellaneous (this is another news page<sup>2</sup>)
- Sermons
- Discussions
- Pamphlets
- Poetry

Under this line, there is a news ticker which contains various notices on behalf of the center, which reports major events such as the death of prominent figures in the world of Jihad. Usually the website reports news pertaining to figures in

<sup>1</sup> Please note that address given on the website is in fact incomplete.

<sup>2</sup> The difference between this page and the news page is unclear. Both of them contain links to various talkbacks and messages on behalf of the center on current affairs and other issues.

Egypt, however the website made an exception and also reported Osama bin Laden's death, whom it called - "The Renovator of Islam in Our Day".

Over the center's logo, the website depicts at random, various notices promoting reports and articles by various writers. One such notice is under the heading: "Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque", on behalf of the Jihad organization's Emir in Jerusalem, Sheikh Asad Bayyud Al-Tamimi. The notice explains Muslim history connected to the Al-Aqsa Mosque and its importance, and lists the crimes committed ostensibly by Israel and the Jews which threaten the mosque. It calls on the Muslim nation to unite and fight the Jews.

The website's content is open to all surfers and does not require any registration.

The website deals with major issues on the Jihadi agenda, with most of the website's content emphasizing issues pertaining to Egypt and to the various Egyptian Jihad operatives. Thus for example, the articles page displays an article on Al-Azhar's Sheikh Tantawi, depicting him as a servant of the Egyptian government. There is also an assortment of statements made by members of the Muslim Brotherhood movement during the recent public demonstrations in Egypt. The news page displays various updates on the situation of the detainees from various Jihadi movements who are held in prisons in Egypt. Amongst other things it also refers to the death of the Chechen Mujahideen leader Maskhadov.

It seems that most of the website's content is written by Hani Al-Siba'i himself. Many parts of the site refer the surfer to audio and video files by Al-Siba'i which are stored in the website's archive, and contain speeches and interviews he gave.

### Additional links

In addition to the written content on the website and the referral to audio and video files from YouTube, the website also contains an archive of contents from Paltalk, where it seems that Al-Siba'i is involved in additional activity. This content contains sermons, as well as open forums for questions from surfers.

### Content

- **Articles** – under this heading one can find a long list of articles written by Al-Siba'i himself. The articles are reviews of various subjects pertaining to the Arab Muslim world and to Islam in Egypt. A review of some of the articles' subjects reveals for example: an article about Al-Azhar's Sheikh Tantawi, who is depicted as a servant of the Egyptian government; an assortment of statements made by members of the Muslim Brotherhood movement during the recent public demonstrations in Egypt; and a historical review attacking the Egyptian Ministry of Dedications, accusing it of collaborating with neo-colonialism. Furthermore, amongst the website's contents, one can find exchanges between Montasser el-Zayat, an Egyptian lawyer representing Jihad operatives in Egypt, and elements from amongst the detained Jihad operatives. These elements accuse him of betrayal in relation to the 2008 initiative which was an arrangement between the Egyptian government and the Jihadi operatives. In a similar context, the website contains an article responding to the messages of former Jihad leaders who received amnesty from the government, and then attacked Jihadi activities. In another instance, in response to the Al-Qaeda announcement of the death of the Egyptian Abu Khabab and his

entourage, who were senior Al-Qaeda operatives all killed in an American assault, Al-Siba'i bemoans their death and reviews their activity. Alongside these issues, Al-Siba'i also refers to other subjects not exclusively pertaining to the Egyptian arena. In one of his articles, Al-Siba'i answers a journalist and explains the background and Islamic justification for the phenomenon of female suicide bombers in Iraq. On another occasion, Al-Siba'i responded to a report on the suicide of three Jihad activists in Guantanamo, declaring them to be shahids and blaming their death on the U.S., the Arab Ministers of Interior, and the espionage services. In another article, Al-Siba'i states that the Armenian massacre is a big lie.

- **Books** – this page shows books authored by Al-Siba'i:
  - Premeditated murder - a comparative study of criminal comparative law
  - Punishment – a comparative study of criminal law (ten chapters, and includes an introduction by Montasser el-Zayat)
  - The conflict between the religious institutions and the ruling governments (including an introduction by Montasser el-Zayat)

In addition, the page also displays the book of Mustafa Hamed (aka Abu Al-Walid Al-Masri): "The Role of Rafa Tatawi in the Destruction of the Muslim Identity".

**Following are several examples of some of the content which recently appeared on the website:**

- A list of 40 Islamist activists who were released from Egyptian prisons, and a call on the Supreme Military Council to release the remaining 38 prisoners.
- Reference to an interview given by Al-Siba'i using the Paltalk service, touching on a variety of issues such as the Arab revolutions in Libya, Yemen and Syria.
- An article by Dr. Tarek Abd Al-Halim, an Egyptian intellectual who supports the Muslim Brotherhood, attacking the heretic Syrian government for the massacre it is carrying out against its people, and attacking the Arab regimes serving the Zionist and American interests and not helping the Sunni in Syria.
- An article by Dr. Muhammad Rahal, an Arab intellectual residing in Sweden, attacking Erdoğan who is depicted as a hero of the Muslim nation, but who in actuality does nothing for the Muslims in general or for the revolution in Syria in particular.

### **The Center's publications on Jihadi forums**

Content by the Al-Maqreze Center appears on Jihadi forums such as the "Ansar Al-Islam" and the "Shumukh Al-Islam" forums. This content contains sermons by Al-Siba'i as well as interviews he gave, and reports and exclusive news relating to Global Jihad operatives. This includes reports on the family of the former leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Hamza Al-Muhajir, as well as reports on the conditions of Jihad operatives in the Egyptian prisons. Previous Jihadi Websites Monitoring



Group reports have examined an Al-Maqreze publication on an agreement between Egypt and Iran for the extradition of Jihad operatives<sup>3</sup>, and on an audio tape published by a Jihad operative detained in Britain, Sheikh Abu Hamza Al-Masri.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Periodical Review: Summary of Information from the Jihadi Forums for the first half of April 2011, <http://www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=EyF7MnU8IMo%3d&tabid=344>

<sup>4</sup> Periodical Review: Summary of Information from the Jihadi Forums for the first half of February 2011, [http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG\\_Periodical\\_Review\\_February\\_2011\\_No\\_1.pdf](http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_February_2011_No_1.pdf)