



TRC TWW Report

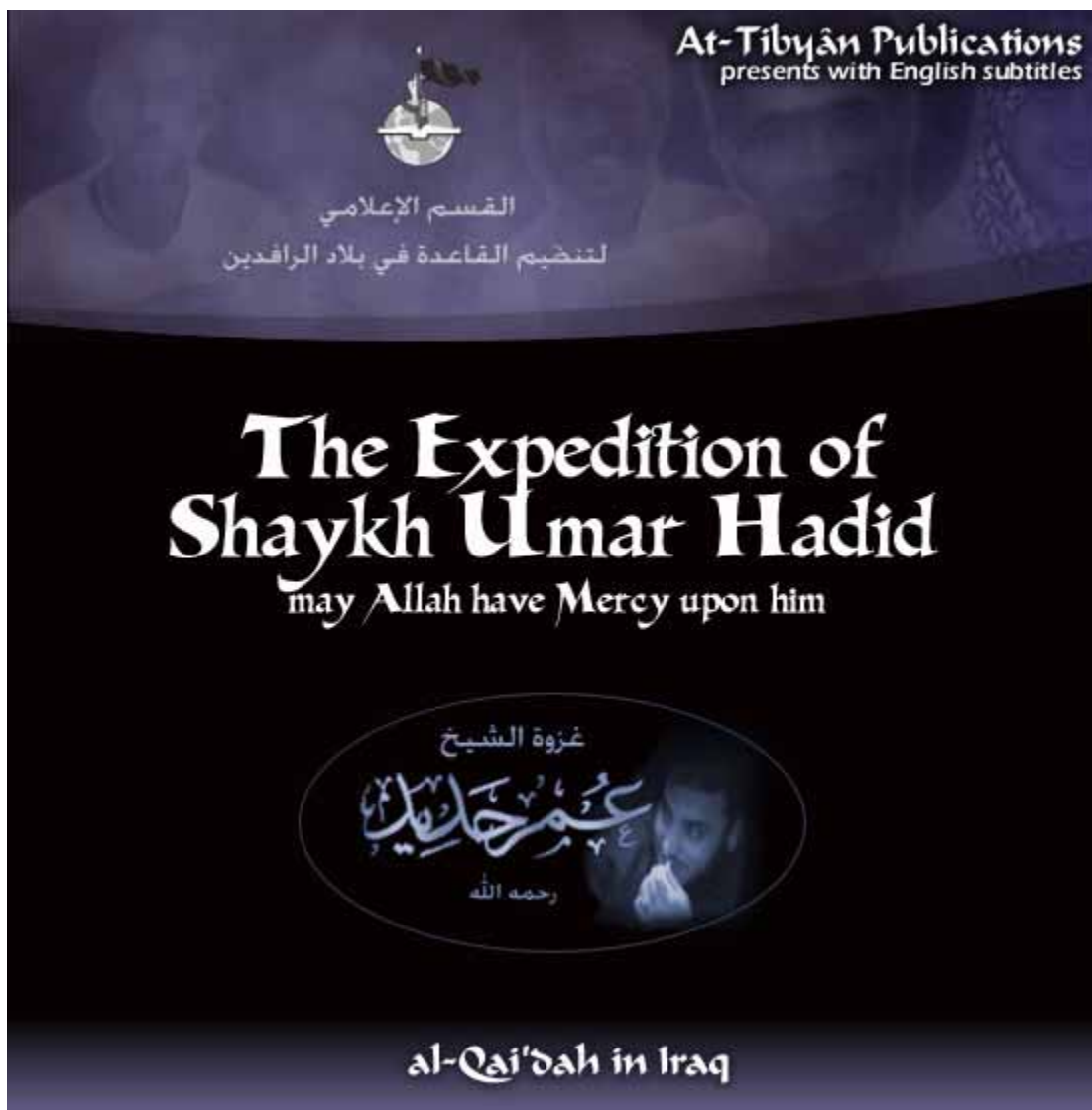
Terror Web Watch Report



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Graphic: At-Tibyan publications issuing bi-lingual Jihadi films (Item 4)



Orientation/Introduction:

Please review the introduction to the Terror Web Watch at [Intel Report](#).

Item 1: Discussions of Retribution for Prophet Cartoons Fill Jihadist Forums

Cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed printed in European papers have been the preoccupation of Jihadist websites over the past week. News from Europe has been relayed and appropriate retaliation discussed. Most attention has been focused on Denmark ([Country Profile](#)), the country in which the cartoons were originally printed. Last week, talk focused on a boycott of Danish products sold in the Middle East, with pictures of popular and common products to boycott.

This week, talk of retribution was dominated by calls for violence. Pictures were circulated that claimed to show one of the cartoonists and the editor of a Danish paper that published the cartoons. One of the pictures shows Per Edger Kokkvold, the General Secretary of the Norwegian Press Association who supported the republishing of the cartoons in a Norwegian magazine. The picture being circulated on Jihadist websites incorrectly identifies Kokkvold as one of the Danish cartoonists.



Original photo of Kokkvold: [source](#)

Also, a photo of Vebjorn Selbekk, editor of the Norwegian magazine *Magazinet*, is being circulated in Jihadist planning forums. Selbekk – the editor of the Norwegian magazine that reprinted the cartoons – is incorrectly identified as the editor of the Danish paper that first published them.

The al-Ekhlāas Jihadist website posted pictures of Dutch film maker Theo Van Gogh, assassinated by an Islamic extremist in the fall of 2004 for producing a film deemed offensive to Islam ([Terrorist Incident](#)), as well as his assassin, Moroccan immigrant Mohammed Bouyeri. The posting praised Bouyeri, and asked "Where are you, O Muslims of Denmark? Do you not love Mohammed? Do you not love the Messenger? Do you not love the honor of our Muslim nation, or is it that every day you are thinking only of yourselves, and never of the Muslim nation? Are there any among you like Mohammed Bouyeri, the lion who killed the Dutch producer who angered God and His Prophet?" A picture of Van Gogh's dead body, lying on the street with knives still protruding, follows.

The author of the posting called himself "the Prince of the Ghorabaa [strangers]." Ghorabaa is a term typically used to describe religious Muslims living outside the Muslim world. His posting also identifies the Norwegian Kokkvold incorrectly as a Danish cartoonist.



Calls for blood are coming from the Arab world as well. The Arabic language news station *al-Arabiya* has reported that a Kuwaiti sheikh, Sheikh Nazim al-Masbah, has issued a fatwa calling for the murder of the Danish cartoonists. Also, according to an unverified report on one Jihadist website, crowds in the capital of Sudan ([Country Profile](#)) marched in protest to the cartoons while shouting "Attack, attack, O bin Laden! Attack, attack Copenhagen!"

On Jihadist forums, some agreed that assassinating the individuals involved in the publishing of the cartoons was not enough; terrorist attacks would have to be carried out against Denmark. One threat was posted swearing that attacks would be carried out soon in Denmark. "Soon, with God's permission, we will repeat the slaughter of New York, Washington, London, and Madrid in Danish land," read the statement posted by a member of the al-Ekhlaas forum calling himself Abu al-Bara al-Dusairy. "People of Denmark, we have come bearing slaughter. Await us, it will not be long." The threat is signed "the Brigades of the Sheikh Osama bin Laden."

This threat is followed by a snapshot of an AK-47 with a dozen magazines, laid out on a sheet (see photo below). A picture of an MP-5 and an AK-74 are posted below that. "These [guns] are our preparation to confront the people of Denmark," read a caption.



The pan-Arab paper *al-Quds al-Arabi* also reported a terrorist threat to Denmark made by a self-described "al-Qaeda" group. The paper reported that a statement threatening the attacks had been sent directly to *al-Quds al-Arabi* from the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades of the al-Qaeda organization ([Group Profile](#)). The statement threatened Denmark with "continuous war and blessed raids." The statement directed its message to the Danish people: "Your position against Islam and its people, and your taking pride in insulting [the Prophet], will not lead to anything except for your graves, which you are now digging with your own hands." *Al-Quds al-Arabi* reported the statement on February 2, 2006.

The Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades have made a number of threats in the past and have also claimed responsibility for attacks or events of which they were not likely a part. Among these are the power black out of August 2003 in the northeastern United States ([Country Profile](#)), the attack on the United Nations' building in Baghdad in August 2003 that was actually carried out by Abu Musaab al-Zarqawi's organization ([Terrorist Incident](#)), and both the Madrid and London train attacks ([Terrorist Incident](#) and [Terrorist Incident](#)).

It is also difficult to interpret how seriously to take the threat from "the Brigades of Osama bin Laden," posted on the al-Ekhlaas site. The pictures of the weapons seemed to have been offered up as proof of the seriousness of



the group's intentions. However, there have been at least a couple other threats from self-described al-Qaeda ([Group Profile](#))-affiliated groups that posted on Jihadist websites in the past year that have not yet been followed up on.

However, given the fate of Theo Van Gogh, individuals recognized—either correctly or incorrectly—to be associated with the production or publication of the cartoons could be at risk. Similarly, given the anger caused by these cartoons among Muslim populaces in Europe and the calls for retribution, amateurish or low-level attacks from self-forming groups in response to the cartoons are also a danger.

This issue will be further discussed in an Intel Report and in the February 8, 2006 WAR Report.

Item 2: Jihadist Web Browser

In their evolving effort to utilize the Internet as a medium for propaganda and spreading radical Islamic ideology, jihadists have developed a web browsing software that confines a user's navigation within an on-line community of militant Salafist websites. As reported by Jarret Brachman of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, the web browser—similar to Firefox, Internet Explorer, Netscape, etc.—suppresses web traffic and only searches the web site of the pre-eminent Salafist ideologue Abu Muhammad al-Maqqdisi. The purpose of the browser is to isolate the user from the Internet's community of ideas, confining his/her exposure to the thousands of texts on Salafism and the culture of jihad linked to al-Maqqdisi's website.

Abu Muhammad al-Maqqdisi (whose real name is Mohammed Taher al-Barqawi) is a Palestinian who fought in the Afghan jihad in the late 1980s and was involved with terrorist groups and operations throughout the 1990s. He was imprisoned by Jordanian security services from 1994 to 1999 for his role in Beyyat al-Imam ([Group Profile](#)), a group he formed with Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and re-imprisoned since 2002 for terrorist related activities. He is considered to be the spiritual mentor of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. The two jihadists met in Peshawar, Pakistan ([Country Profile](#)) in 1989, subsequently worked on terrorist recruitment and operational planning in Jordan ([Country Profile](#)), and then served a joint stint at the notorious Suwaqah prison. In addition to Zarqawi, al-Maqqdisi has inspired thousands of young Muslims through his extensive writing on fundamentalist Islam and jihad, authoring sermons, articles, and books such as "Clear Evidence of the Infidel Nature of the Saudi State" and "The Faith of Ibrahim." Indeed, investigators discovered 18 Al-Maqqdisi publications among the personal possessions of 9/11 ([Terrorist Incident](#)) cell leader Mohammed Atta. Despite his current incarceration, Al-Maqqdisi's persuasive rhetoric continues to echo on-line, allowing the ideologue to maintain his role as a dangerous, spiritual leader of radicalized Muslims.

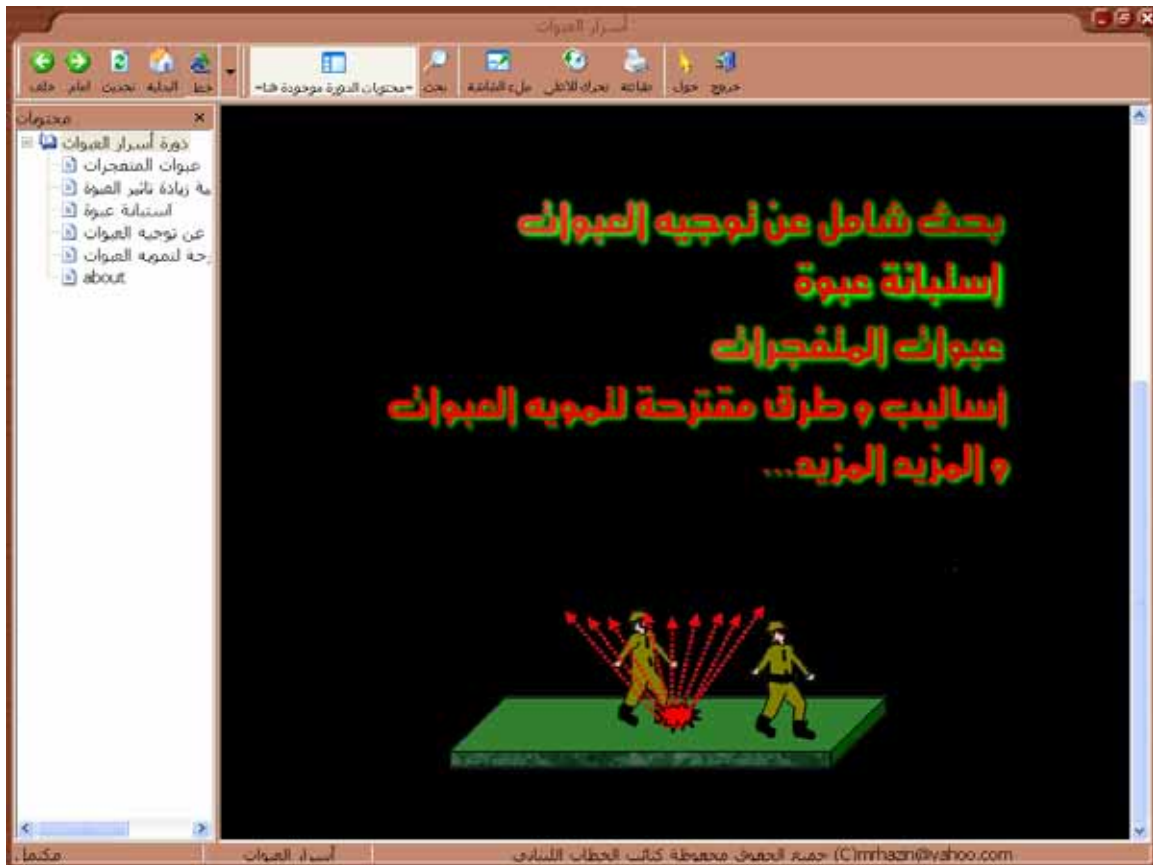
Governments in tightly controlled societies, such as China ([Country Profile](#)) or Iran ([Country Profile](#)), use filters and other technology ([WAR Report](#)) to prevent their citizens from accessing information that could undermine or disparage their version of events or system of government. With the jihadist web browser, there is a similar attempt to limit the user's access to information that runs counter to radical Islamic ideology. Moreover, outside of bringing a recruit to a radical mosque or remote terrorist training camp, the restrictive web browser acts as an effective substitute for indoctrination by providing a forum saturated with the thoughts of Abu Muhammad al-Maqqdisi. However, as noted by Brachman, the web browser also presents an opportunity for counter-terror web specialists to create an alternate, identically designed web browser that subtly shepherds users to sites undermining radical Islamic thought and violent jihad.

Item 3: A Downloadable Explosives' E-Book

An e-book containing five sets of instructions on different aspects of planting an explosive device is being made available on Jihadist forums. Instructions include information on placing explosives in markets and in vehicles for car bombs, advice on how to increase the explosive power of a device, and how to direct the blast of an explosive charge.

Listed in the e-book is the name of the group who compiled it, "the Brigades of the Lebanese Khattab." The name is a tribute to the late commander of Arab forces in Chechnya. An email address is listed at which "the Brigades" may be contacted: mrhazin@yahoo.com.





Explosives e-book

Terrorist manuals and instructions are diversifying in the ways that they are distributed, with such formats as this downloadable explosives e-book being part of that trend. The use of powerpoint, Yahoo! groups, and blogs are also examples of ways Jihadists are taking advantage of different Internet enabled formats to spread information. Another trend is the inclusion of an email address along with the set of instructions at which the author could, in theory, be reached for questions or clarification.

Item 4: Jihadist Videos with English Subtitles

An organization calling itself "At-Tibyan Productions" has been releasing versions of Jihadist videos with English subtitles. The group announced the release of three videos this week. One is a speech by Zarqawi called "Such are the Messengers Tested, and then the Outcome will be in their Favor." Another is a speech by a former al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula ([Group Profile](#)) member named Sheikh Abdullah Rashood, who ended his career in Iraq ([Country Profile](#)) as part of Zarqawi's group. The speeches themselves are not new, but the addition of English subtitles, a trend seen over past months in various kinds of Jihadist videos, seems indicative of an initiative on the part of the Jihadists to make their material reachable to a larger audience or to certain English-speaking populations.

Given that those speeches contain messages directed at the supporters of the insurgency in Iraq rather than threats and admonitions to western audiences, it may be that these bilingual editions are aimed at non-Arabic speaking Muslims around the world. The desire to get more propaganda out to non-Arabic speaking Muslims may be part of a drive to recruit more political or material support from these populations.

The third video is called "The Expedition of Omar Hadeed," after an aide of Zarqawi's killed in Iraq. The video begins with a message explaining that the film is in memorial to four translators for At-Tibyan who were arrested by "tyrants." The film is dedicated to "prisoners in the prisons of the Infidel." It is a full hour and 20 minutes long. All Arabic language speech on the film is subtitled in English.



The video begins with an animated, video game-like scene moving throughout a prison. It then features a speech discussing Muslim prisoners. Footage of a number of different suicide attacks in Iraq follows. After that, a subtitled speech railing against the war runs, interrupted by footage of an Iraqi woman describing her ordeal of being arrested in place of her husband and abused by the Iraqi National Guard. A report printed in the British paper *The Observer* then appears on screen that describes how Iraqi National Guard members may be using torture. The video is available from TRC upon request.

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