



May 2014

The Phenomenon of Foreign Fighters from the Arab World in the Syrian Civil War, Most of Them Fighting in the Ranks of Organizations Affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the Global Jihad



A group of foreign fighters from North Africa photographed in the Latakia region of Syria (Magharebia.com, September 5, 2013).

Overview

1. This study examines the phenomenon of foreign fighters from the Arab world in the ranks of the rebels in Syria. **According to ITIC estimate, there are more than 5,000 foreign fighters from the Arab world among the 7,000-8,000** who have joined the ranks of the Syrian rebels.¹ Most of them belong to **the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State in Iraq and Greater Syria (ISIS)**, two rival organizations affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the global jihad. A minority of the Arab foreign fighters joined the ranks of the Free Syrian Army and other rebel organizations.

2. Some of the Arab foreign fighters are young and have no military training or experience. They joined the ranks of the rebels for ideological or religious-sectarian reasons (e.g., participating in jihad, fighting the Shi'ites). Others were motivated by the desire to raise their socio-economic status. Among other reasons were hostility to the

¹ There are higher estimates of the overall number of foreign fighters in Syria. For example, in December 2013 the British-based International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR) estimated that there were 11,000 foreign fighters in Syria from 74 countries, 2,800 of them from Western countries and the other from the Middle East (lcsr.info).

Assad regime, the desire for adventure, and identification with the suffering of the Syrian people. **Within the Arab foreign fighters there is a hard core of Salafist-jihadi, Al-Qaeda and global jihad operatives, some of them veterans of the fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and other Islamic combat zones.** Most of the Arab foreign fighters come from **towns and villages**, with only a few coming from the main cities.

3. **In our assessment, the Arab foreign fighters form the backbone of the forces fighting in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS.** They also have a high casualty rate and many are killed. In addition, among the foreign fighter suicide bombers in Syria from organizations affiliated Al-Qaeda and the global jihad, the number of Arabs is conspicuous, especially those from **Saudi Arabia**.²

4. Of the Arab countries from which the largest number of foreign fighters come, **Tunisia, Libya and Egypt experienced the regional upheaval.** Two other countries, **Saudi Arabia and Jordan**, are pro-West, and preserved their stability in the era of regional upheaval, with deeply-rooted radical Islamic elements. Initially those five countries did not attempt to stem the flow of their citizens leaving for Syria, regarding them as part of their support for the campaign to overthrow the Assad regime and to confront Iran and Shi'ite Islam. Only during the past year, when the dangers of terrorism and subversion from the Syrian veterans became apparent as they returned to their countries of origin, did some of the Arab regimes take preventive action. They took legislative steps (Saudi Arabia, for example) and prevented the foreign fighters from leaving for Syria, monitored those who returned, and dealt with the local radical organizations providing them with logistical support. **However, it is still unclear to what extent the steps taken have been effective.**

5. Some of the foreign fighters joined the fighting in Syria on an individual basis. However, in certain prominent instances **local Salafist-jihadi organizations and activists who preach joining the fighting have given the foreign fighters logistical support and dispatched them to Syria.** They include, for example, **Ansar al-Sharia** in Tunisia, **Ansar and Sharia and Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis** in Egypt, **Jam'iyya al-Asala al-Islamiyya** in Bahrain, **Fatah al-Islam** in Lebanon, the **Salafist movement** in

² In 2013 the ITIC counted **53 operatives** from the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS who carried out suicide bombing attacks against targets affiliated with the Syrian regime. The names of 30 were identified, **23 foreign fighters** and seven Syrians. Of the 23 foreigners, 13 were **Saudis**, four were **Jordanians**, and three were **Iraqis**. For further information see the February 11, 2014 bulletin "Using suicide bombers as weapons: The leading modus operandi in the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS' struggle against the Syrian regime and Hezbollah in Lebanon"

Jordan, **Jaish al-Ummah** and other Salafist-jihadi organizations and networks in the Gaza Strip.

6. The Arab foreign fighters in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front and other jihadist organizations **are a ticking bomb for their countries of origin, especially countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Iraq and the Persian Gulf states.** That is because in Syria the foreign fighters acquire operational experience and combat skills, are inculcated with the ideology of jihad and radical Islam, and form a network of contacts with Salafist-jihadi organizations and operatives throughout the Arab-Muslim world. They are expected to return to their countries of origin (as some of them already have), join local Salafist-jihadi networks or establish new networks for terrorism and subversion. In some cases, in our assessment, the networks will operate in coordination with or be directed by the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS through contacts made in Syria.

7. However, in our assessment, so far **the involvement of Syrian veterans in terrorism and subversion in the various Arab countries is still nascent.** However, there have been cases which indicate what the future may hold: in **Egypt** it was reported that jihadist veterans of the Syrian conflict were detained for their involvement in terrorist activities against the Egyptian regime, or were killed during a terrorist attack carried out by the **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis** (which is affiliated with the global jihad).³ In May 2014 the **Saudi Arabian** ministry of the interior recently announced the exposure of a terrorist network that was in contact with extremists in Syria and Yemen. In **Jordan** the ISIS encouraged demonstrations and riots in the southern city of Ma'an, a hotbed of anti-regime subversive activity. In **Israel**, two Israeli Arabs were asked by jihadist organizations to carry out terrorist attacks in Israeli territory after they had returned from Syria. In addition, in December 2013 a jihadist network was exposed in east Jerusalem that had been asked to send one of its operatives to Syria for military training and to coordinate terrorist attacks. In **Iraq** the ISIS, which is affiliated with the global jihad, holds trans-national military-terrorist-subversive activities. The activities do not distinguish between Iraq and Syria, and many expand to Arab countries, Jordan for example.

³ For further information see the May 5, 2014 bulletin "Involvement of Operatives Who Returned from Syria in the Terrorist Campaign against the Egyptian Regime"

Estimates of Arab Foreign Fighters in the Arab World

8. The countries from which the Arab foreign fighters left for Syria **can be divided into four categories**, according to the number of fighters from each one:

- 1) **Libya, Tunisia, Jordan, Saudi Arabia** – According to estimates, between several hundred and approximately one thousand fighters.
- 2) **Egypt and Iraq** – Hundreds of fighters.
- 3) **Morocco, Algeria, Bahrain, Kuwait Lebanon, the Gaza Strip, Qatar, Mauritania and Somalia** – Several dozen fighters.
- 4) **Sudan, Yemen and Oman** – A few fighters from each country.

9. The following table summarizes the estimates of Arab foreign fighters from the various countries of origin:⁴

No.	Country	Estimated number of foreign fighters	Notes
1	Libya	Several hundred to almost 1000	Libyan foreign fighters were joined by non-Libyans who had fought there in the revolution against Muammar Gaddafi.
2	Morocco	Several dozen	
3	Tunisia	More than 1000	Some of them fought in Libya against Muammar Gaddafi.
4	Algeria	A few dozen	
5	Mauritania	A few individuals	
6	Egypt	Several hundred	
7	Saudi Arabia	Almost 1000	

⁴ The estimates in this study relate to the overall number of foreign fighters from each country according to categories which cannot always be distinguished between: Arab fighters who are still fighting in Syria (the majority), those who returned to the countries of origin (the minority), and those who were killed in the fighting in Syria or who were taken captive by the Syrian regime.

8	Bahrain	Several dozen	
9	Kuwait	Several dozen	
10	Qatar	A few individuals	
11	Lebanon	Many score	Mostly Lebanese Sunnis and Lebanese of Palestinian origin
12	Iraq	Several hundred	
13	Jordan	More than 1000	
14	Somalia	Between one and a few individuals	
15	Gaza Strip ⁵	Approximately 30	
16	Palestinian Authority	A few individuals	

⁵ A report on Palestinian and Israeli Arab foreign fighters was issued on January 19, 2014, therefore Israeli Arabs and Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian Authority are not included in this study.

Arab Fighters According to Country of Origin

Libya

Overview

10. Estimates for the number of Libyan fighters in Syria vary **between hundreds and almost a thousand**. According to an officer who served in the Free Syrian Army and later deserted, in 2012, the year fighters began flooding Syria, there were about 300 Libyans. Since then the number has grown, and in our assessment is **close to a thousand**. That is reflected by the large number of Libyans killed, which stands at **145** (according to an Internet site that documents the fighters killed in Syria).

11. Some of the fighters who joined the ranks of the rebels in Syria are **Libyan nationals** and some are **foreign operatives who fought in Libya** and transferred their activities to Syria after the fall of the Gaddafi regime. Some of the Libyans joined the **Al-Nusra Front**, the **ISIS**, and other jihadist organizations. Some are fighting alongside the **Free Syrian Army** and other Islamist units, such as the **Liwaa' al-Ummah**.

12. Some of the Libyan fighters went to Syria **and use their combat experience to train and organize the rebels**. They gave them logistic support, teach them how to operate heavy weapons and manage communications. According to reports, the Libyan fighters operated training bases and taught the rebels military tactics (Trust.org, August 12, 2012). They also provided humanitarian support and were involved in transporting weapons into Syria throughout 2013.

13. The fighters come from both **eastern Libya (Benghazi)** and **western Libya (Tripoli)**. A significant number come from the city of Derna, located east of Benghazi, which Muammar Gaddafi called "an Islamic emirate" because it was a center for Islamic terrorism during his regime. A prominent district in Tripoli is **Souk al-Jum'aa**, the source of the jihadist Islamist operative **Abd al-Hakim Belhadj**, the leader of the **Islamic Jama'**, which participated in the fighting in Afghanistan and in the revolt that overthrew Gaddafi.

14. The Libyans arrive in Syria in much the same way as the other fighters, usually **by air to Turkey** (Libyans do not need visas for Turkey). From Istanbul they fly to Antakya in southern Turkey and from there they go overland to towns and villages near the

Turkish-Syrian border. **They usually receive support from Islamic networks and sometimes the trip to Syria is paid for by them** (Der Spiegel, April 30, 2012).

15. In December 2012 a battalion was formed of Libyan foreign fighter which exists to this day. It is called the **Katibat al-Battar (The Battalion of the Slicing Sword)**. It is affiliated with the ISIS and fights mainly in the regions of Latakia, Deir ez-Zor and Idlib.



**Battalion of the Slicing Sword
fighters near Latakia (Syrianow.sy)**

**The insignia of the Battalion of the
Slicing Sword. The bottom
inscription reads "ISIS"
(Syrianow.sy)**

Libyan Fighters⁶

Mahdi al-Kharati – Lives in Ireland and is married to an Irish woman. Was an activist for the Palestinians. In the fighting against Gaddafi commanded a unit of Libyan rebels. In 2012 it was reported that he was in Syria and commanded an Islamic military formation called the Ummah Brigade (Trust.org, August 12, 2012).

⁶ This list, like the other that follow below, are partial. In most cases their nicknames appear, not their real names. In some instances the names are not full names or have been corrupted.



Left: A group of Libyan fighters (Shaghor.com). Right: Mahdi al- Kharati with a group of Libyan fighters (Globalresearch.ca)

Husam Najjar – Lives in Dublin, 33 years old, building contractor, Libyan father and Irish mother, brother-in-law of Mahdi al-Kharati. Belonged to the rebel unit that reached Muammar Gaddafi's home in Tripoli. Sniper, called "the sniper from Dublin" by some of his comrades (Foreignpolicy.com, August 9, 2013). (See the section on Ireland in the ITIC study on Western fighters, February 3, 2014).

Abu Sa'ad al-Libi – On February 8, 2013 reported killed in the fighting in Syria. Before Syria fought in **Afghanistan** with a jihadist group. Was later imprisoned in **Iran**. After his release he attempted to enter Yemen to join Al-Qaeda but was captured and detained in Oman. According to friends of his in Syria, he was sent from Oman to Dubai where the Americans interrogated him before his release (Flash-intelligence.com, June 2013).

Foreign fighter aka "Muhammad" – 23 years old. Fought in several anti-Gaddafi battles in Libya. Hid his name to keep his family from knowing he went to Syria (CNN, July 28, 2013).

Mas'ud Buazir – Businessman and musician, wrote one of the unofficial anthems of the Libyan revolution. Fought against Gaddafi, then went to Syria.

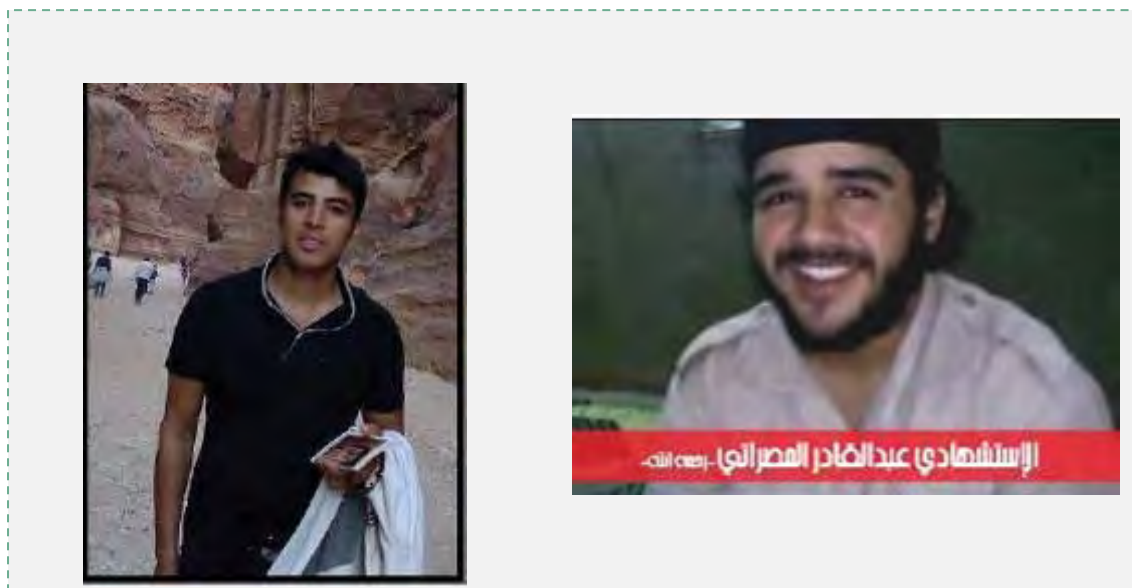
Abu Yusuf – Member of an Islamic military formation called the Ummah Brigade. Located in the Aleppo region. Said that the Libyan fighters went to Syria to help Syria in its battles because they could not sit idly by and watch the killing.

Abu Abd al-Razzaq – Libyan, fought in the Al-Nusra Front in Aleppo. Wounded by rocket fire and lost a leg. Went to Turkey for treatment but remained in contact with

fighters in Syria and helped them cross the border through Turkey (Thedailybeast.com, August 4, 2013).

Hasan Muhammad Yunis Ishtawi – Killed on April 17, 2013. From Benghazi, fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Medical school graduate. Wounded during participation in the Libyan revolution and received treatment in Jordan. Upon recovery spent time in Tunisia and then returned to Syria (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013).

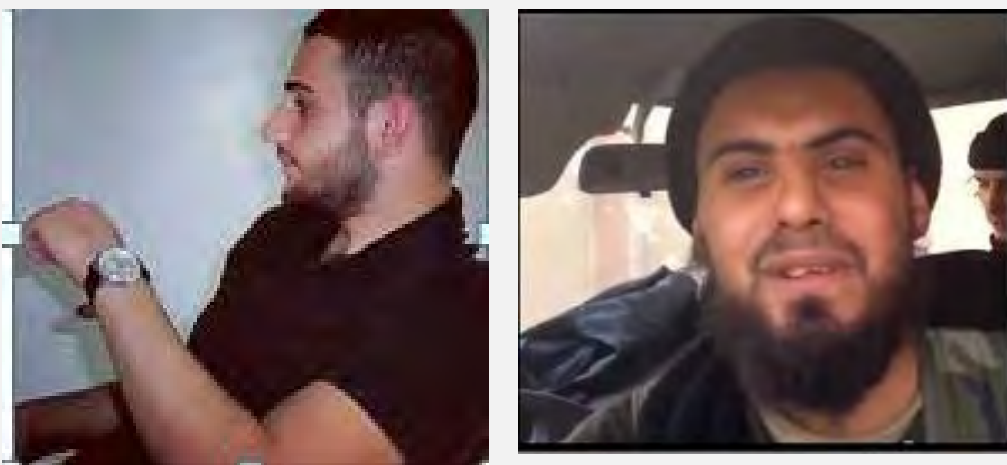
Abd al-Qadir al-Misrati – Al-Nusra Front suicide bomber, blew himself up September 16, 2012 (lct.org.il)



Left: Hasan Muhammad Yunis Ishtawi (Flash-intel.com, June 2013). Right: Abd al-Qadir al-Misrati, the Al-Nusra Front suicide bomber (lct.org.il).

Muhammad Abu Karaa' aka Al-Zaytunah – Killed in Aleppo on April 2, 2013. Dropped out of school in the United States and joined the Free Syrian Army (Syrianarmyfree.com).

Khalid al-Mansuri al-Ubaydi – Killed on January 11, 2013. Attempted to join the fighting in Iraq but detained en route from Libya and imprisoned until 2009. During the Libyan revolution joined the rebels and fought against the regime (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013).



Left: Muhammad Abu Karaa' aka Al-Zaytunah (Syrianarmyfree.com). Right: Khalid al-Mansuri al-'Ubaydi (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013)

Muhammad al-Urfali – Joined the Al-Nusra Front; killed by Syrian army fire in the region of Deir ez-Zor, on May 17, 2013.

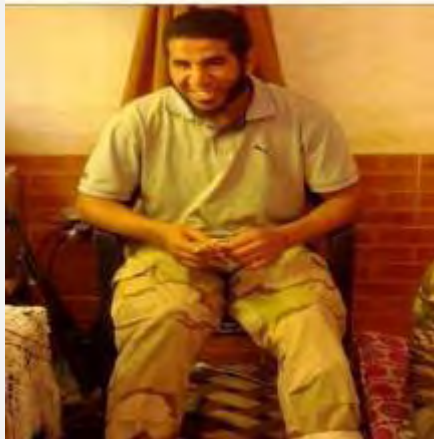
Ahmad Khalifa Zawi – From Tripoli. Killed while fighting in the ranks of the Free Syrian Army in Aleppo on April 13, 2013 (Syrianarmyfree.com).



Left: Muhammad al-'Urfali (Vdc-sy.info). Right: Ahmad Khalifa Zawi (Syrianarmyfree.com)

Milad Muhammad al-Shaykh – Joined the Al-Nusra Front in Syria. Killed when a bridge was bombed in the region of Deir ez-Zor on May 2, 2013 (Vdc-sy.info).

Abu Rahma al-Libi – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Jabal al-Akrad in the Latakia district on August 4, 2013 (Vdc-sy.info).



Left: Abu Rahma al-Libi. Right: Milad Muhammad al-Shaykh (Vdc-sy.info).

Radhwan al-Zaytuni – From Tripoli, born in 1992. Studied in the department of agriculture of the University of Tripoli. Killed by Syrian army fire on the outskirts of Damascus on March 22, 2013 (Vdc-sy.info).

Mustafa al-Rifa'ai – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed by Syrian army fire on the outskirts of Latakia on March 22, 2013 (Vdc-sy.info).



Left: Radhwan al-Zaytuni. Right: Mustafa al-Rifa'ai (Vdc-sy.info).

Abd al-Aziz al-Nuqrut – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed by Syrian army fire in Aleppo in February 2013 (Vdc-sy.info).



Abd al-Aziz al-Nuqrut (Vdc-sy.info)

Salih Hamad Arqiq (Abu Al-Asud al-Libi) – Killed in Homs on October 2, 2013.

Sanad Zuhayr al-Zawi – Killed on November 12, 2013.

Nassim Muhammad Idris (Abu Basir al-Libi) – Killed in the Al-Qalamoun region on November 20, 2013.

Riyadh Kikban (Abu Dhar al-Libi) – Fought in the ranks of the ISIS. Killed in an exchange of fire with Assad regime forces in the region of Homs on October 20, 2013.

Ramadan al-Amami (Khattab al-Libi) – From Benghazi. Killed in Aleppo on September 18, 2013.

Musa Milad al-Ukashi (Abu Anas al-Hamsi) – Fought during the Libyan revolution in Sirte. Fought in the ranks of an Al-Qaeda organization in Syria. Killed in Hama on October 21, 2013.



Left: Ramadan al-Amami (Khattab al-Libi). Right: Musa Milad al-Ukashi (Abu Anas al-Hamsi) (Documents.sy).

Muhammad Salaam al-Tajuri (Abu al-Harith) – From Benghazi, born in 1990. Apparently fought in the ranks of the ISIS. Killed in the region of Damascus on October 26, 2013.

Abu al-Khayr al-Libi – Killed in Aleppo on October 7, 2013.

Abu Anas al-Libi – Killed in Aleppo on October 7, 2013.

Issam Ahmad Faraj al-Shihani al-Ubaydi (Abu Uthman al-Libi) – Killed in Homs in October 2013.

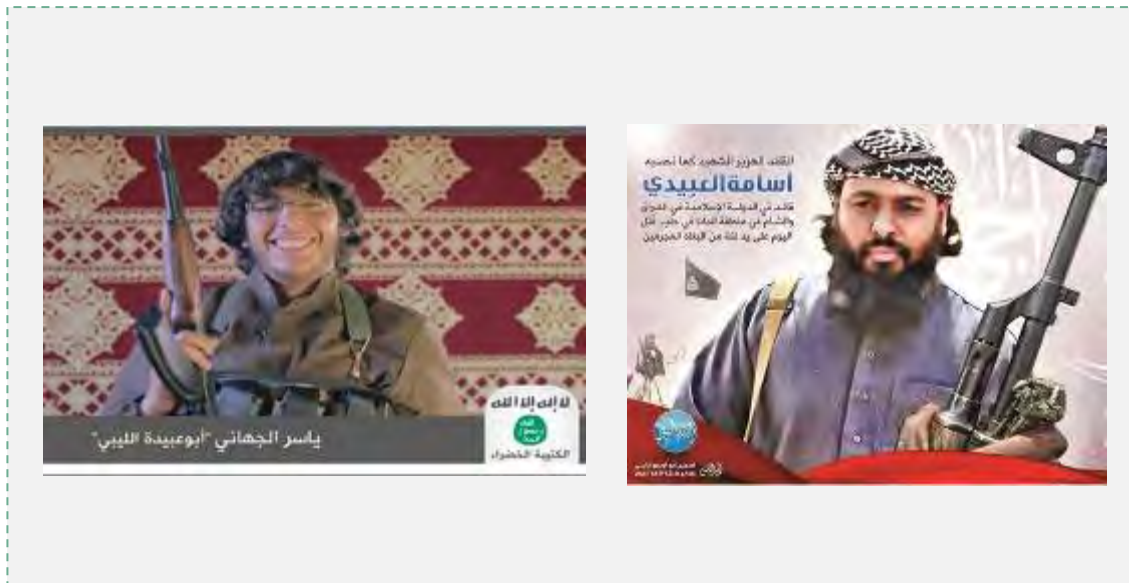
Muhammad Jamal Ramadan Abd al-Salaam – From Benghazi, born in 1995. Killed in Latakia in September 2013.

Islam Abdallah al-Shahumi – Born in 1995. Killed in Aleppo on October 4, 2013.

Abd al-Hamid Muhammad Sawisi (Abu Wahid al-Libi) – Killed in Aleppo on October 7, 2013.

Yasir Faraj al-Juhani (Abu Ubaydah al-Libi) – Killed carrying out a suicide bombing attack in Damascus on August 29, 2013.

Usama al-Ubaydi (Abu Abdallah al-Libi) – Fought in the ranks of the ISIS. Killed in Aleppo on September 22, 2013. According to other information, killed in the Bab al-Hawa border crossing between Syria and Turkey. Previously fought in Iraq (Assafir.com).



Left: Yasir Faraj al-Juhani (Abu Ubaydah al-Libi) (Aslanewslib.com). Right: Usama al-Ubaydi (Abu Abdallah al-Libi) (Assafir.com)

Salih Amninah (Abu al-Walid) – Killed in Latakia in September 2013.

Hani Salaam Abdallah al-Khafifi (Abu Salaam al-Libi) – Killed in Hama on September 10, 2013.

Tariq Nuri Abu Sha'alah (al-Tashitah) – Killed in Hamas on September 19, 2013.

Al-Kuni Bashir al-Kuni al-Ajili – Killed in Hama on September 10, 2013.

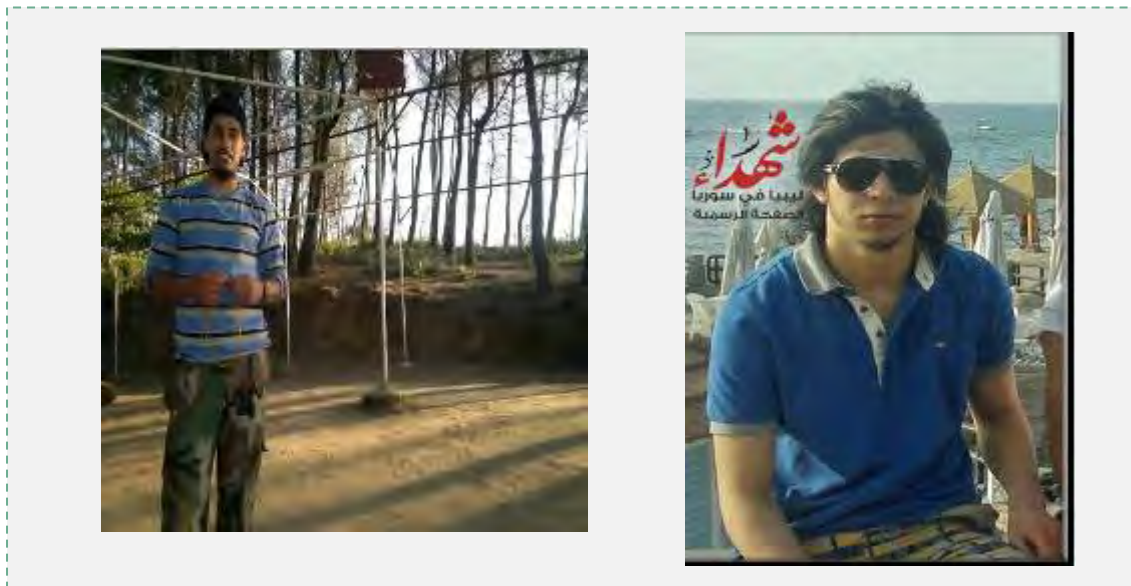
Usamah al-Raghidh (Abu al-Layth al-Libi) – From Misrata. Fought in the ranks of the "army of immigrants and supporters"⁷ in the regions of Latakia and Hama, where he was killed on August 28, 2013.

Ra'if al-Ghaythi (Abu Turab) – Killed in Latakia on August 15, 2013.

Abu Hilal al-Libi – From the city of Derna. Apparently fought in the ranks of the "army of immigrants and supporters." Killed in Latakia on August 14, 2013.

Hudhayfah Jamal al-Din al-Suwayh (Abu Umar al-Libi) – Killed in Latakia on August 17, 2013.

⁷ This unit was previously called the "immigrants battalion" and the "immigrants battalions." Its current name is "the army of immigrants and supporters."



Left: Abu Hilal al-Libi (Documents.sy). Right: Hudhayfah Jamal al-Din al-Suwayh (Abu Umar al-Libi) (Defense-Arab.com)

Ibrahim al-Sifti (Abu Yahya al-Misrati) – Killed in Hama on August 28, 2013.

Muhammad Miftah al-Barnawi – Killed in Homs on August 12, 2013.

Al-Sadiq Salih al-Shabbah (Abu al-Faruq al-Libi) – Killed in Latakia on August 14, 2013.

Muhammad Faraj Abu Shinah (Abu Mujhir) – Killed in Hama on August 6, 2013.

Murad Muhammad Abshis (Abu Talhah) – Killed in Hama on August 6, 2013.

Ibrahim Muhammad Zaltum (Abu al-Zubayr al-Libi) – Killed in Hama on August 6, 2013.

Muhammad Ali Aliwah Daraz (Abu Abd al-Rahman al-Misrati) – Killed in Latakia on August 4, 2013.

Muhammad al-Mabruk Abdallah Sultan (Abu Ahmad al-Subrati) – Killed in Aleppo on August 5, 2013.

Yusri al-Awkali (Abu al-Walid) – Killed in July, 2013.

Ibrahim al-Gharyani (Abu Urwah al-Libi) – Killed on July 31, 2013.

Muhammad Majdi bin Yazid (Abu Ibrahim) – Killed in Latakia on August 2, 2013.

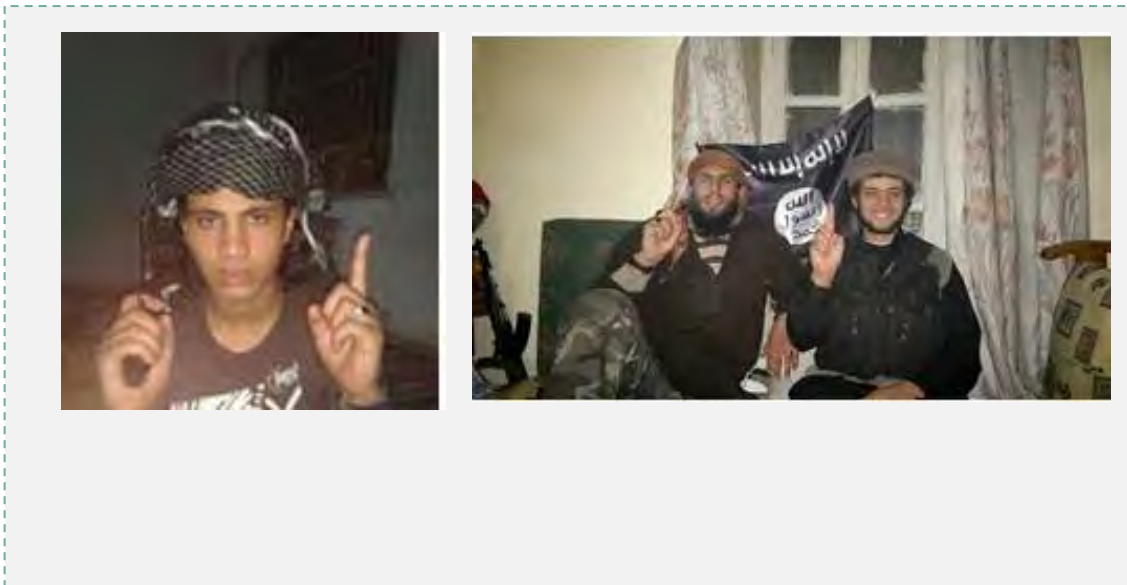
Fathallah al-Dhibani – Killed on July 30, 2013.

Muhammad bin Nasir – Killed on July 30, 2013.

Saqr al-Shwali – From Tobruk. Killed on July 30, 2013.

Abu Bakr al-Turjuman (Habib al-Libi) – Killed in Aleppo on July 27, 2013.

Ma Shaa' Allah Farhat al-Tirah (Abu Yahya) – From Tobruk, 22 years old. Fought in the ranks of the "army of immigrants and supporters." Was a unit commander in the Latakia region. Later fought in the ranks of the ISIS. Killed in Aleppo on July 27, 2013 (Syriasy.blogspot.com).



Left: Abu Bakr al-Turjuman (Habib al-Libi) (Facebook). Right: Ma Shaa' Allah Farhat al-Tirah (Abu Yahya) (Syriasy.blogspot.com).

Abd al-Muhaymin Ahmad al-Khajkhaj – Killed in Aleppo on July 27, 2013.

Muhammad Sa'ad al-Harir (Abu Mu'awiyah) – Killed in Hasakah on July 30, 2013.

Said Misbah al-Fasi – Killed in Aleppo on July 12, 2013.

Fathi Naji al-Gharibi – Killed in Damascus on July 19, 2013.

Umar Barurah (Abu al-Gharib al-Libi) – Killed in Aleppo on July 17, 2013.

Hisham al-Habbash (Abu Ahmad al-Filastini) – Lived in Ireland and moved to Libya during the revolution Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Al-Raqqa on May 21, 2013. May have been of Palestinian origin.

Ali Barurah (Abu al-Zubayr al-Libi) – Killed in Aleppo on June 22, 2013.

Abd al-Rahman al-Balazi – Born in 1993 and studied at the University of Tripoli (Facebook). Killed in in Deir ez-Zor on June 10, 2013.

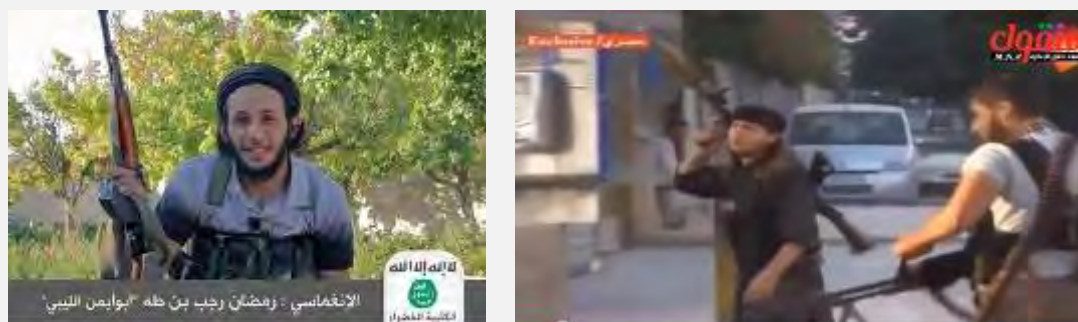
Mahmoud Salah al-Arawi – During the Libyan revolution fought in the region of Bani Walid. Killed in Idlib on June 10, 2013.



Left: Mahmoud Salah al-Arawi (Facebook) Right: Abd al-Rahman al-Balazi (Tarhuna1861915.blogspot.com)

Muhammad Ali Shuwaihi (Abu Qatadah al-Libi) – Killed in Aleppo on June 10, 2013.

Ramadan Rajab bin Taha (Abu Ayman al-Libi) – From Derna. Killed carrying out a suicide bombing attack in Damascus on August 29, 2013.



Left: Ramadan Rajab bin Taha (Abu Ayman al-Libi) Ahmad al-Naas (Abu Sayyif al-Libi) (Facebook). Right: (YouTube)

Hamzah al-Abidi – Killed in Latakia.

Ayman al-Busfi – From Benghazi. Killed in Al-Qusayr on June 1, 2013.



Left: Hamzah al-Abidi (Shaghor.com). Right: Ayman al-Busfi (Muamaralgadafi.net)

Muhammad Kushaym – Killed in Homs on June 10, 2013.

Imran Mahdi al-Farjani (Al-Shanabu) – Killed in Deir ez-Zor on May 30, 2012.

Ali al-Qadhafi (Abu Jandal al-Gharib) – Killed in May 2013.

Jihad Mabruk al-Khamsi – Killed in Aleppo on May 15, 2013.

Samu – Killed in Aleppo on May 15, 2013

Mustafa Umar al-Mu'awil al-Zintani – Killed in Aleppo on May 8, 2013.

Abd al-Jalil Ahmad al-Khajkhaj (Abu Ahmad) – Killed in Aleppo on May 21, 2013.



Left: Mustafa Umar al-Mu'awil al-Zintani (YouTube) Right: Abd al-Jalil Ahmad al-Khajkhaj (Abu Ahmad) (YouTube)

Ramadan Ali al-Mirghani – Killed in Deir ez-Zor on May 10, 2013.

Labib al-Sadiq Abd al-Qadir al-Sayyid– Killed in Aleppo on May 25, 2013.

Muhammad Sulayman al-Urfali – Killed in Deir ez-Zor on May 14, 2013.

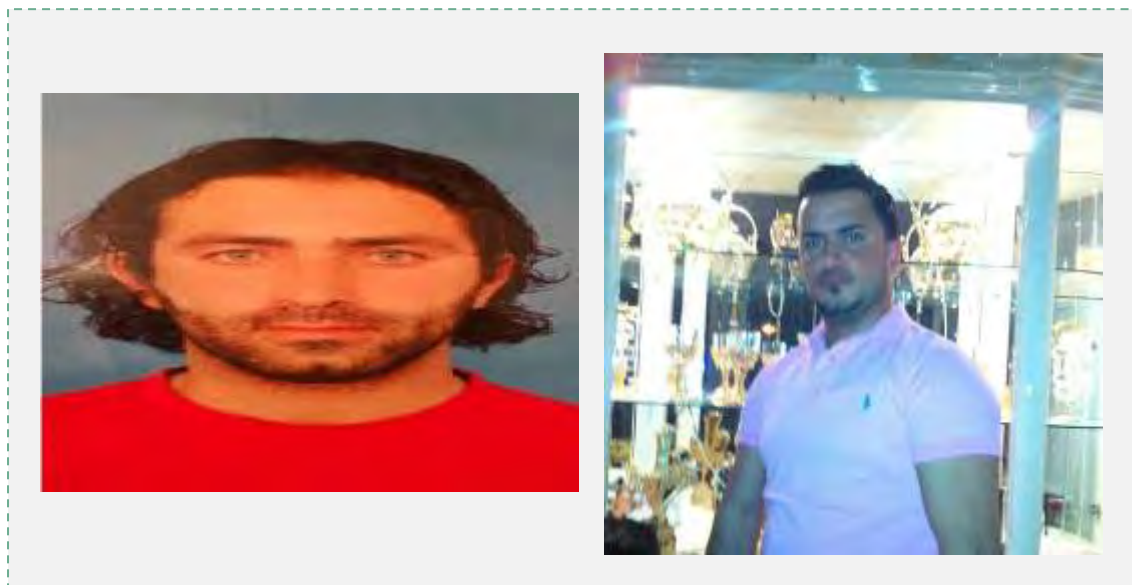
Muhammad Wali – Killed in Deir ez-Zor on May 6, 2013.

Abd al-Hafiz al-Rami – Killed in Deir ez-Zor on May 6, 2013.

Mu'taz Mahmoud al-Kaylani (Abu Qiyadah al-Libi) – Killed on May 5, 2013.

Islam Muhammad Ghafir – Killed on April 24, 2013.

Ramzi al-Bakshi – From Tripoli. Killed on May 5, 2013.



Left: Islam Muhammad Ghafir (Alkhabar-ts.com). Right: Ramzi al-Bakshi (Facebook)

Ibrahim al-Muslimani (Abu Abd al-Azia) – Killed in Aleppo some time in 2013.

Marwan al-Ba'izi – Killed on April 30, 2013.

Hassan Ahmidah al-Dalal – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed on April 22, 2013.

Imran al-Bazah – Killed on April 22, 2013.



Left: Hassan Ahmidah al-Dalal (Vdc.sy.info). Right: Imran al-Bazah (Facebook).

Ahmad Abdallah al-Mansuri (Abu al-Nasr) – Fought in the ranks of "the army of immigrants and supporters." Killed in Latakia on April 24, 2013.

Yahya Muhammad al-Tuhami – Killed in Damascus on April 19, 2013.

Samir Yasin Margham – Killed in Dara'a on April 14, 2013.

Marwan Hamid al-Raqi'i – From Tripoli. Fought in the ranks of "the army of immigrants and supporters." Killed in Aleppo on April 21, 2013.



Left: Samir Yasin Margham (Alkhabar-ts.com). Right: Marwan Hamid al-Raqi'i (Greenlibya.co).

Miftah al-Maghribi (Akkashah) – Killed on April 21, 2013.

Ahmad al-Naas (Abu Sayyif al-Libi) – From Derna. Apparently killed in May 2013.

Issam Karush – From Derna. Killed in Aleppo on April 16, 2013.



Left: Ahmad al-Naas (Abu Sayyif al-Libi) (Facebook). Right: Issam Karush (Facebook).

Hussam Muhammad Yunis al-Shatiwi (Abu Sayf Allah) – Killed on April 18, 2013.

Sami Barq al-Layl – Born in Tripoli. Killed in Aleppo on April 10, 2013.

Jihad Sulayman al-Ashti – Killed in Damascus on April 10, 2013.



Left: Sami Barq al-Layl (Csr-Syria.com) . Right: Jihad Sulayman al-Ashti (Alkhbar-ts.com).

Zakariyyah al-Amin – Killed in Dara'a in April 2013.

Ahmad Arjub al-Mismari – Killed in Idlib on April 8, 2013.



Left: Zakariyyah al-Amin (Alkhabar-ts.com). Right: Ahmad Arjub al-Mismari (Flickr.com).

Muhammad Abukaraa' (Al-Zaytunah) – Studied in Virginia, US. Returned to Libya when the revolution broke out and fought against the Gadaffi regime, after which he returned to the United States. From there he went to fight in Syria. Killed in Aleppo on April 2, 2013.

Hamdan al-Minqar – From Tripoli. Killed in Idlib on April 1, 2013.

Salah al-Kasih al-Zawi – Was a first lieutenant in the Libyan army engineering corps. Fought in Tripoli during the Libyan revolution, after which he went to Syria. Fought in Syria for nine months. Killed in Deir ez-Zor in March 2013 (Zangetna.com).



Left: Hamdan al-Minqar (Syriamore.com). Right: Salah al-Kasih al-Zawi (Jihadology.net)

Sulayman al-Ujayli – Killed in March 2013.

Salim Muhammad Arhumah – Killed on March 31, 2013.

Jamal al-Rutaymi – Married with one infant child. Killed in Damascus on March 30, 2013.

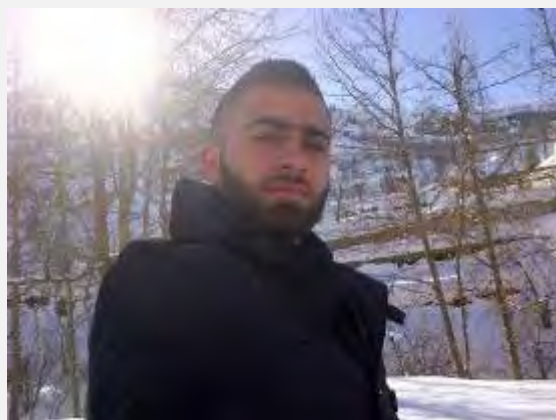
Abd al-Razzaq al-Mislati – From Tripoli. Libyan father, Bosnian mother. Killed in Aleppo in March 2013.



Left: Jamal al-Rutaymi (Twitter.com). Right: Abd al-Razzaq al-Mislati (Flickr.com)

Lutfi Zakariyyah al-Baruni – Killed on March 31, 2013.

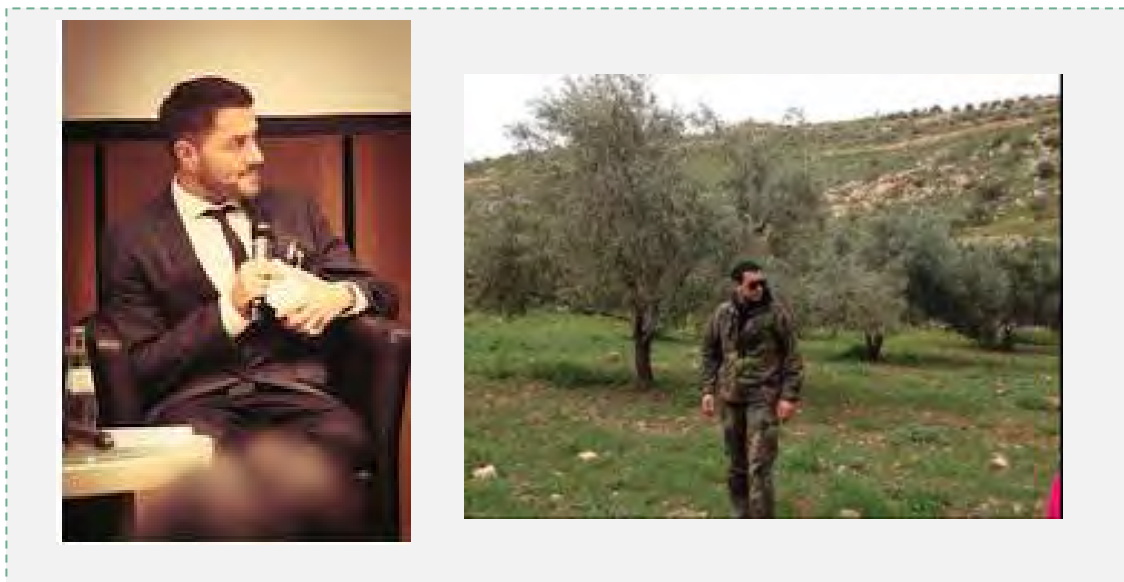
Adam Samir Wali – From Tripoli. Killed on March 30, 2013.



Left: Lutfi Zakariyyah al-Baruni (Syriasy.blogspot.com). Right: Adam Samir Wali (Flickr.com)

Imran al-Sharif – From Tripoli. Killed after being tortured in a Syrian prison on March 22, 2013.

Salaam Muhammad Suwidan – From Tripoli. Wounded in battle in Aleppo on March 24, 2013.



Left: Imran al-Sharif (Syriasy.blogspot.com). Right: Salaam Muhammad Suwidan (Flickr.com)

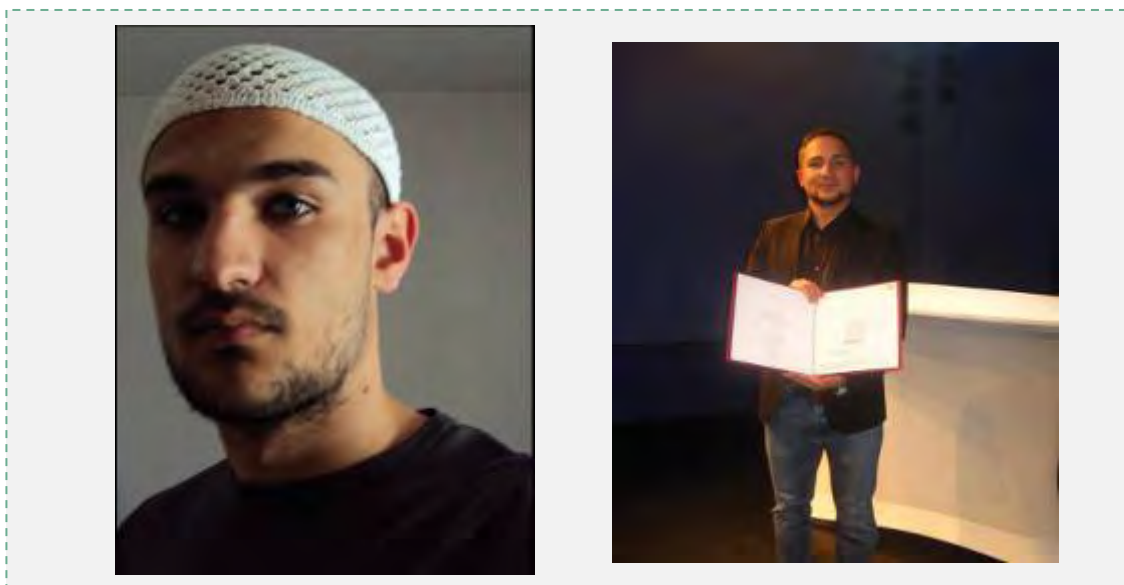
Adam al-Harithi (Zizu) – Killed on March 27, 2013.

Ziyad al-Tumi – Killed in Damascus on March 29, 2013, while in a building destroyed by the Syria army.

Alyan al-Fayturi – From Tripoli. Killed in Damascus on March 21, 2013.

Muhannad Wanis – Killed in Damascus on March 10, 2013.

Khalil Ahmad al-Ni'mi – From Tripoli. Studied in Stuttgart, Germany, where he received a prize for academic excellence. Immediately after graduating sold his possession and went to Syria. Killed in Dara'a on March 20, 2013.



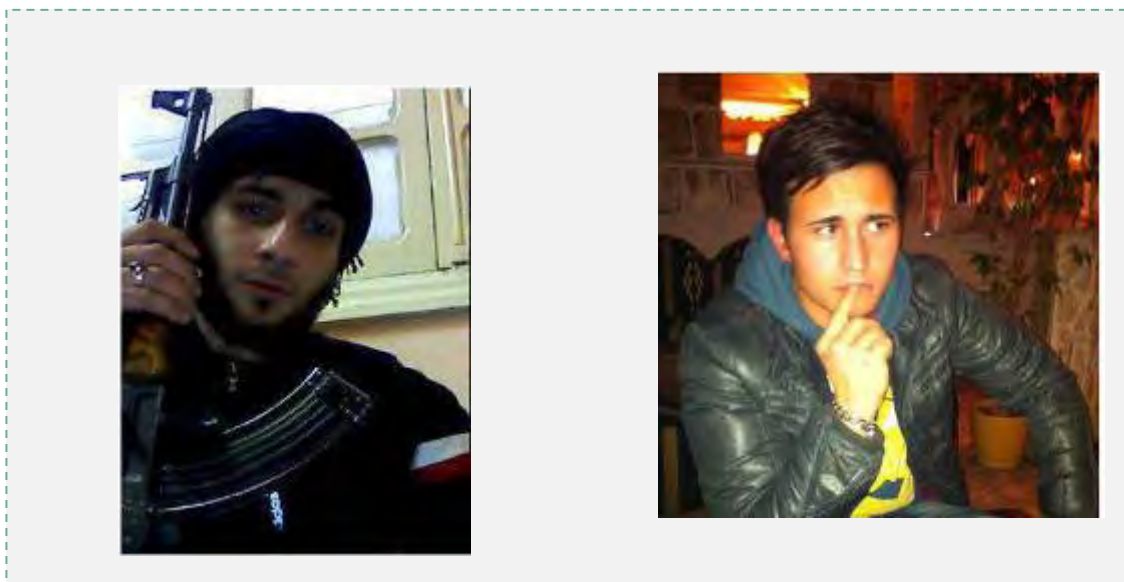
Left: Muhannad Wanis (Flickr.com). Right: Khalil Ahmad al-Ni'mi (Flickr.com)

Khalid Masud Bujaldin al-Mahjub – From Derna. Drove a tank during the Libyan revolution. Went to Syria, killed in Aleppo on March 20, 2013.

Muhammad Salaam al-Tajuri – Killed in Latakia on March 20, 2013.

Abd al-Rahman al-Urfali – From Benghazi. Killed in Homs on March 20, 2013.

Muhammad Juhaydar – Orphaned in childhood, raised by grandparents. Studied in Britain, left Britain for Syria. Killed in Damascus on March 19, 2013.

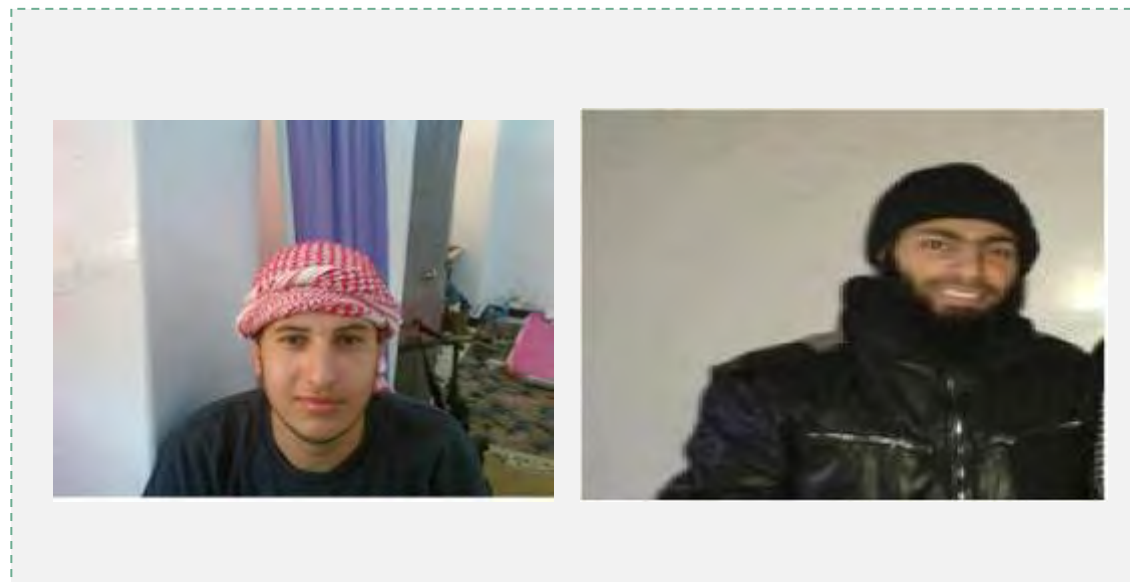


Left: Abd al-Rahman al-Urfali (Jihadology.net). Right: Muhammad Juhaydar (Syriasy.blogspot.com)

Ali al-Mirghani – Killed in Aleppo on March 5, 2013.

Ahmad Mahmud Bashir al-Ghazal al-Fakhri (Abu al-Baraa' al-Libi) – From Benghazi. Killed in Aleppo on February 13, 2013.

Mustafa Salah al-Ruqi' al-Maghribi – Killed in Aleppo on March 7, 2013.



Left: Ahmad Mahmud Bashir al-Ghazal al-Fakhri (Abu al-Baraa' al-Libi) (Syriasy.blogspot.com)
Right: Mustafa Salah al-Ruqi' al-Maghribi (Alkhabar-ts.com)

Jabir Atiyyah al-Bar'asi – Killed on March 9, 2013.

Abd al-Salaam Iyad al-Afi al-Maghribi (Abdallah al-Libi) – From Benghazi. Killed in Aleppo on February 11, 2013.

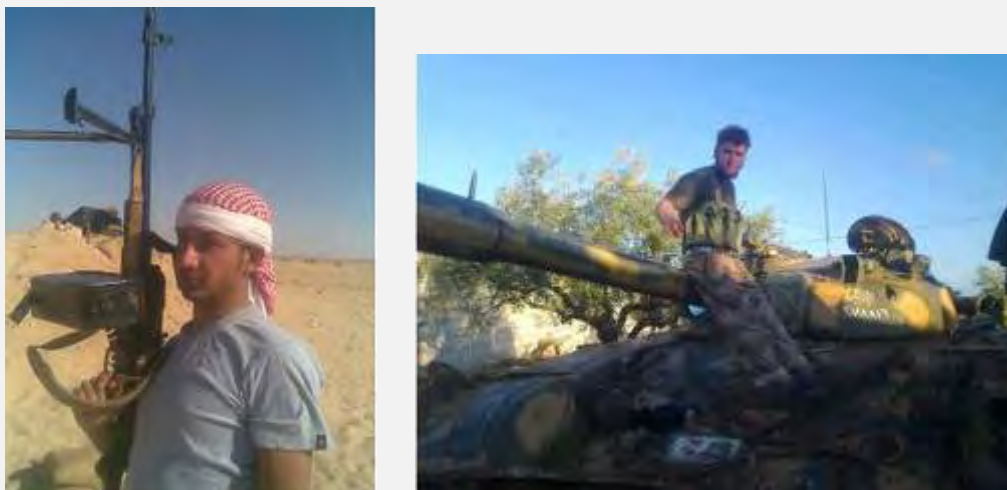
Abd al-Rahman al-Aquri – From Benghazi. Killed in February 2013.

Mahmud al-Tahir al-Ghulah – From Gharyan, born in 1978. Killed in Aleppo on January 24, 2013.

Ahmad al-Biyasi – Killed in Aleppo in January 2013.

Mazin Fawaz al-Talawi – From Derna. Father Syrian from Homs. Fought against Gaddafi in Libya. Went to Syria and fought in the ranks of the Free Syrian Army. Killed in Idlib on January 10, 2013.

Harun Issa al-Hashemi – From Misrata, born in 1994. Arrived in Syria in August 2012. Killed in Aleppo on February 4, 2013.



Left: Mazin Fawaz al-Talawi (Syriasy.blogspot.com). Right: Harun Issa al-Hashemi (Jihadology.net)

Khalid Sa'ad al-Harir (Khalid al-Tum al-Mansuri; Abu Maghdud) – Killed in Idlib on January 11, 2013.

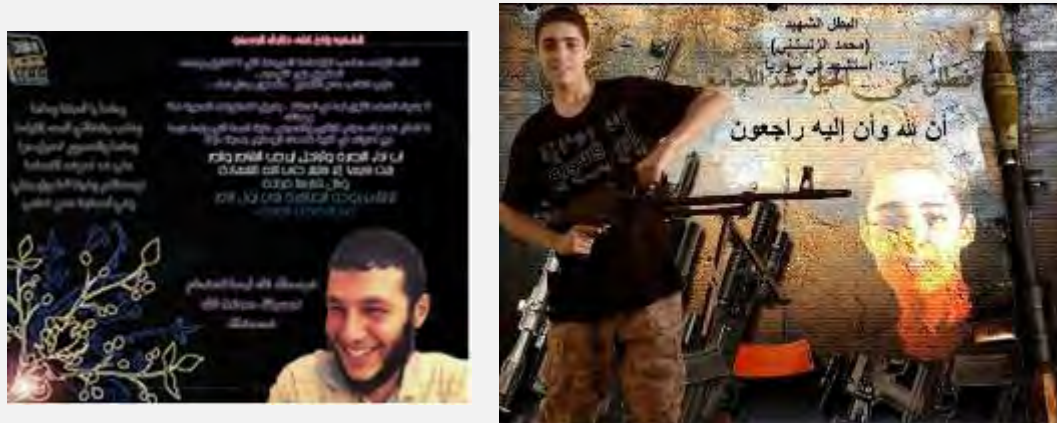
Ali al-Ulayqi (Abu al-Walid) – Killed in Aleppo on January 14, 2013.

Muhammad Ahmad Balkhayr al-Fatmani – Studied in the engineering department of one of Libya's universities. Killed in Aleppo on December 8, 2012.

Muhammad Ahmad Ibrahim Buqrin (Abu Musab al-Libi) – Killed in Aleppo on December 26, 2012.

Tariq Asjur al-Hasani – From Derna, born in 1987. Fought in the Libyan revolution and from there went to Syria. Killed carrying out a suicide bombing attack targeting the Syrian army in Damascus on October 26, 2012.

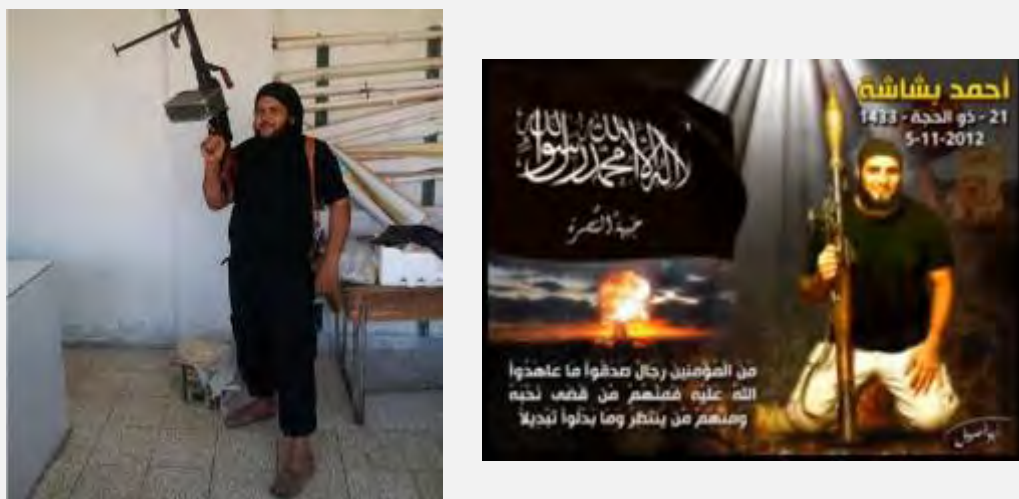
Muhammad al-Zaltini – From Benghazi, born in 1995. Apparently fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Damascus on January 4, 2013.



Left: Tariq Asjur al-Hasani (Syriasy.blogspot.com) Right: Muhammad al-Zaltini (Facebook page opened in his memory).

Umar (Abu Qays al-Libi) – Fought in the ranks of the ISIS. Killed in Idlib on October 7, 2012.

Ahmad Nuri Bashashah al-Awjali – From Benghazi, born in 1989. University art student. Killed carrying out a suicide bombing attack in Homs on February 5, 2012.



Left: Umar (Abu Qays al-Libi). Right: Ahmad Nuri Bashashah al-Awjali (YouTube)

Ashur Abu Khutwah (Abu Ubaydah al-Libi) – Killed in Latakia on November 20, 2012.

Anas Ahmad al-Miqrahi – From Benghazi. Killed in Latakia on September 3, 2012.

Hamad Kamal al-Misrati (Abu Kamal) – From Derna. Killed in Damascus on October 8, 2012.



Left: Anas Ahmad al-Miqrahi (Twitter). Right: Hamad Kamal al-Misrati (Abu Kamal). (Jihadology.net).

Mustafa Ramadan Abu Ayn – From Tripoli. Killed in Aleppo on October 25, 2012.

Hisham Abd al-Aziz al-Hasadi – From Derna. Killed in Aleppo on October 2, 2012.

Abd al-Qadir al-Misrati (Abu Ayman) – From Benghazi, born in 1993. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Idlib on September 12, 2012.

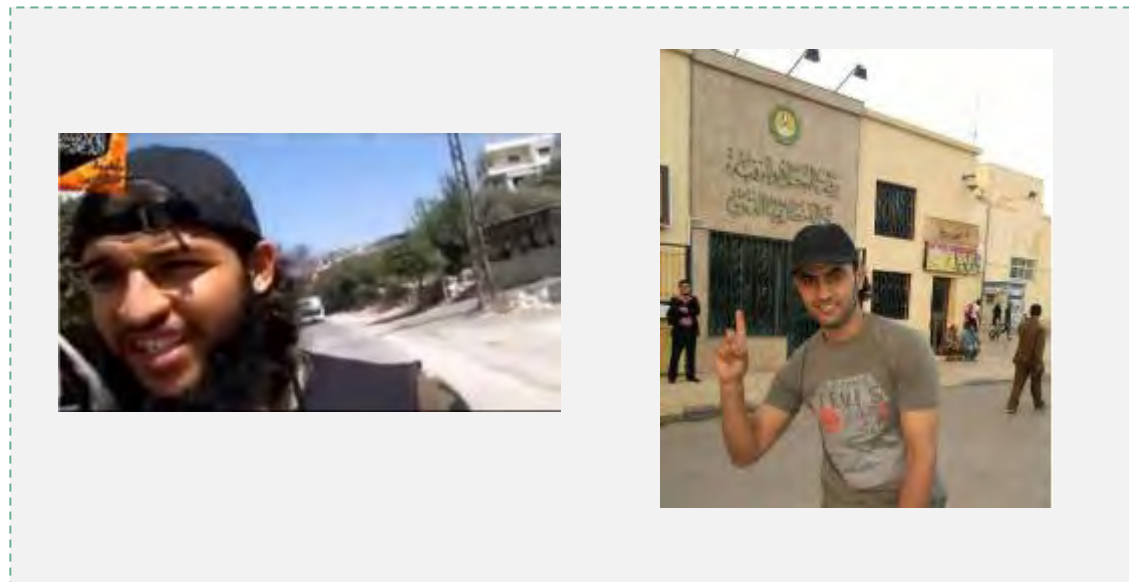


Left: Hisham Abd al-Aziz al-Hasadi (Facebook). Right: Abd al-Qadir al-Misrati (Abu Ayman) (Syriasy.blogspot.com).

Muhammad al-Wajli (Abu Nasir) – From Benghazi. Killed in Idlib on August 29, 2012.

Abdallah al-Habab (Abu al-Baraa') – From Misrata. Killed in Idlib in August 2012.

Abd al-Mun'im al-Tajuri – From Derna. Killed in Idlib in August 2012.



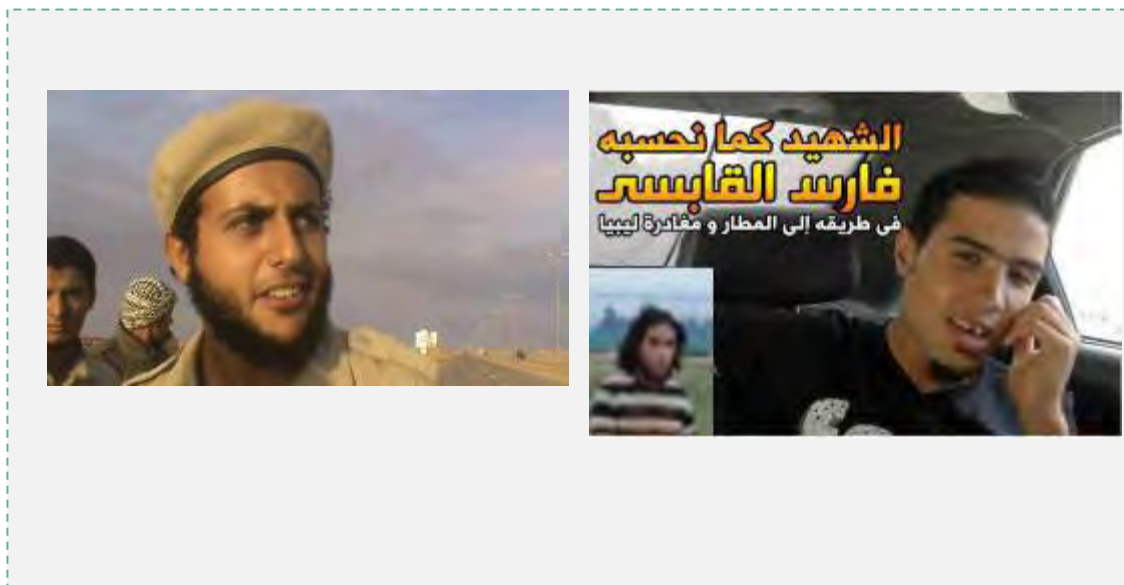
Left: Abdallah al-Habab (Abu al-Baraa') (YouTube). Right: Abd al-Mun'im al-Tajuri (Jihadology.net)

Khalifah Fathi Khalifah al-Fayturi – From Derna. Killed in Aleppo on August 17, 2012.

Muhannad Ali Asmi' al-Suway'i al-Tarabasi (Abu Musab) – From Tripoli. Killed in Aleppo on August 19, 2012.

Alaa' bin Muhammad bin Nadi – From Misrata. Killed in Aleppo on August 8, 2012.

Faris al-Qabisi al-Ubaydi – From Derna. Killed on August 25, 2012.



Left: Alaa' bin Muhammad bin Nadi (Flickr.com). Right: Faris al-Qabisi al-Ubaydi (Jihadology.net).

Muhammad Fawzi Farhan al-Tarhubi – From Tripoli. Killed in Aleppo on August 10, 2012.

Umar Adam Abdallah Bukhutwah – From Derna. Killed in Aleppo on August 10, 2012.

Mukhtar Muhammad Badi (Abu al-Abbas al-Libi) – From Misrata. Killed in Aleppo on August 6, 2012.

Abd al-Aziz al-Nuqrat (Abu Hamid) – From Benghazi. Killed in Idlib on July 26, 2012.

Umar Saqr al-Maghribi (Abu al-Zubayr al-Libi) – Killed in Idlib on July 11, 2012.

Abd al-Mun'im Ali al-Nufati – Killed in Idlib on July 30, 2012.



Left: Umar Saqr al-Maghribi (Abu al-Zubayr al-Libi) (Flickr.com). Right: Abd al-Mun'im Ali al-Nufati (Syriasy.blogspot.com)

16. The Facebook page devoted to the fighters in Syria documents several Libyans who **studied or lived in the West, joined the fighting in Syria and were killed there**. Three of them were **Ahmad Samir al-Taraiqi**, who dropped out of school in Canada; **Muhammad Abu Qara**, who dropped out of school in the United States and was killed in Aleppo; and **Muhammad Juhaydir**, who dropped out of school in Britain and was killed in the region of Damascus (Rightsidenews.com, April 23, 2013).

The Policy of the Local Authorities

17. During the second half of 2013 there was **a serious deterioration in security in Libya**, in which the various militias damaged the country's interests (for example., attacks on gas and oil facilities, the abduction of the prime minister, who was held for several hours). There are hundreds of local militias operating in Libya, some of the Islamist and some of them local-tribal. They seriously weaken the ability of the Libyan authorities to govern the country.

18. Libya, in the post-Qaddafi Libya era is a considered a "failed state" and **its government has neither the capability nor the political desire to prevent Libyans from going to Syria and joining the ranks of the rebels**. Rather, the Libyan government may find there are advantages to exporting jihadists who fought against Gaddafi to Syria, in that their strength in Libya will diminish, serving the ends of the tottering government in its struggle to survive.

19. In June 2013 a senior Libyan source told CNN that the government was aware there were Libyans fighting in Syria, but claimed that they were there as individuals and not under the aegis of the government (CNN, July 28, 2013). The Libyan minister of foreign affairs said that the interim government could not stop Libyans from joining the revolution in Syria (Ft.com, February 9, 2013). In addition the Libyan authorities did not stop shipments of weapons to Syria because, they claim, they know what is happening to the Syrian people (English.al-akhbar.com, July 18, 2013).

Tunisia

Overview

20. **Tunisians are prominent among the Arab fighters in the ranks of the rebels in Syria** (as opposed to the small number of Tunisians who fought in previous jihadist combat zones, such as Afghanistan and Iraq). **In our assessment there are more than 1,000 Tunisian fighters in Syria.** According to the Tunisian minister of the interior, at least 400 of the Tunisian fighters have already returned (Dailynewsegypt.com, February 25, 2014).⁸

21. One indication of the large number of Tunisians fighting in Syria is **the large number of casualties**. The origins of those killed may also reveal focal areas where fighters are recruited. According to the Tunisian media, in 2013 **132 Tunisians** were killed in Aleppo and its environs. Most of them came from the region of **Sidi Bouzid, where Mohamed Bouazizi was born**, who set himself on fire and began the Jasmine Revolution in Tunisia (Nsnbc.me, February 15 2013). According to the Tunisian newspaper Al-Chourouk, dozens of Tunisians have been killed in Syria, most of them from the city of **Ben Gardane in the Médenine district**, near the Libyan border (Al-Monitor, March 24, 2013). The city of **Zarat**, in the Gabès district in the eastern part of the country, has also been mentioned as a center for fighters leaving for Syria (Al-Hayat, October 18, 2013).

22. Most of the Tunisian fighters come from lower socio-economic backgrounds but some have come from the middle and upper classes. They are recruited in the mosques controlled (after the fall of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali) by Salafist imams who promote jihad. Others have been influenced by Internet videos urging participation in jihad (Magharebia, February 22, 2013).

23. According to the Tunisian newspaper Al-Chourouk, **Qatar** transfers funds to a network of Tunisian organizations that dispatch fighters to Syria. The network promises \$300 to every young Tunisian who joins the ranks of the rebels (Al-Monitor, March 27, 2013). The Tunisian fighters **make their way to Turkey**, some of them **after a short period of military training near the Libyan border**. Once in Turkey they go to the Syrian border and are sent to the combat zones in northern Syria by the Free Syrian

⁸ On April 4, 2014, the Tunisian minister of the interior, Rida Safar, said that close to 18,000 Tunisians were fighting in Syria (Tunisia-live.net, April 4, 2014). In our assessment the number is greatly exaggerated.

Army and the Al-Nusra Front. Fighters wanting to fight in the Damascus area also enter Syria through Lebanon (Al-Monitor, March 24, 2013).

24. The Tunisian media reported the atypical phenomenon of 13 young Tunisian women who went to northern Syria following a fatwa issued by **Sheikh Muhammad al-Arifi**. However, sources close to the sheikh denied that such a fatwa had been issued. The Tunisian minister of religious affairs called on Tunisian women not to be influenced by Islamic preachers outside of Tunisia (Dailymail.uk, April 4, 2013).

Involvement of the Ansar al-Sharia in Dispatching Tunisian Fighters to Syria

25. In the wake of Tunisia's Jasmine Revolution many prisoners were released, among them **Saif Allah bin Hussein, aka Abu lyad al-Tunisi**. He was formerly a member of a Tunisian jihadist network headed by **Tareq Maarufi, which maintained contacts with Al-Qaeda. At the end of April 2011 Abu lyad al-Tunisi set up a Salafist-jihadi organization affiliated with Al-Qaeda called Ansar al-Sharia**. Ansar al-Sharia activists participated in the protests held in Tunisia and were involved in violent events. The Tunisian minister of the interior accused the organization of being behind a wave of political murders in 2013. In August 2013 the Tunisian government outlawed the organization because of its terrorist activities in Tunisia and its connections to Al-Qaeda.

26. Ansar al-Sharia head Abu lyad al-Tunisi was asked by an interviewer about sending young men to fight in Syria and Mali. He claimed that the Tunisian Salafist fighters were needed in their own country and that the wars beyond Tunisia's borders "emptied" the country of its young people. However, an examination of the organization's Facebook page shows that there are often announcements of the deaths of Tunisians who fought in Syria (Longwarjournal.org, March 13, 2013). In the middle of 2013 the organization was also mentioned as recruiting fighters for Syria (Flash-Internet.com, June 2013).

27. On September 30, 2013, **a 21 year-old Tunisian blew himself up in the tourist city of Sousse**, south of the capital city of Tunis. An 18 year-old Tunisian who tried to blow himself up in the mausoleum of the first president of Tunisia, Habib Bourguiba (in the coastal city of Monastir) **had previously tried, unsuccessfully, to go to Syria. Both young men belonged to the Ansar al-Sharia** (English.al-akhbar.com, November 1, 2013).

28. In April 2014 an audio cassette was uploaded to the Ansar al-Sharia's website. It featured the organization's leader, **Abu Iyad al-Tunisi**, speaking in support of the Syrian rebels, whom he called jihad fighters. He called on them to close ranks, especially the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS, and to fight together under the flag of jihad (Ansar-ashariaa.com).



The Ansar al-Sharia Facebook page glorifies the Tunisians who were killed fighting in the Hamza bin Abd al-Mutlab Battalion in Deir ez-Zor (Longwarjournal.org, March 13, 2013).



Tunisian foreign fighter Hamza Jabir, aka Abu Shahd al-Tunisi, who joined the Al-Nusra Front (its flag appears in the upper left corner). He was killed in an attack on a Syrian roadblock on March 12, 2013. The announcement of his death was uploaded to Facebook by the Ansar al-Sharia (YouTube.com, March 14, 2013).



In February 2013 one of the Ansar al-Sharia's websites posted pictures of eight Tunisians, operatives in the organization, who died in Syria (Longwarjournal.org, March 13, 2013).



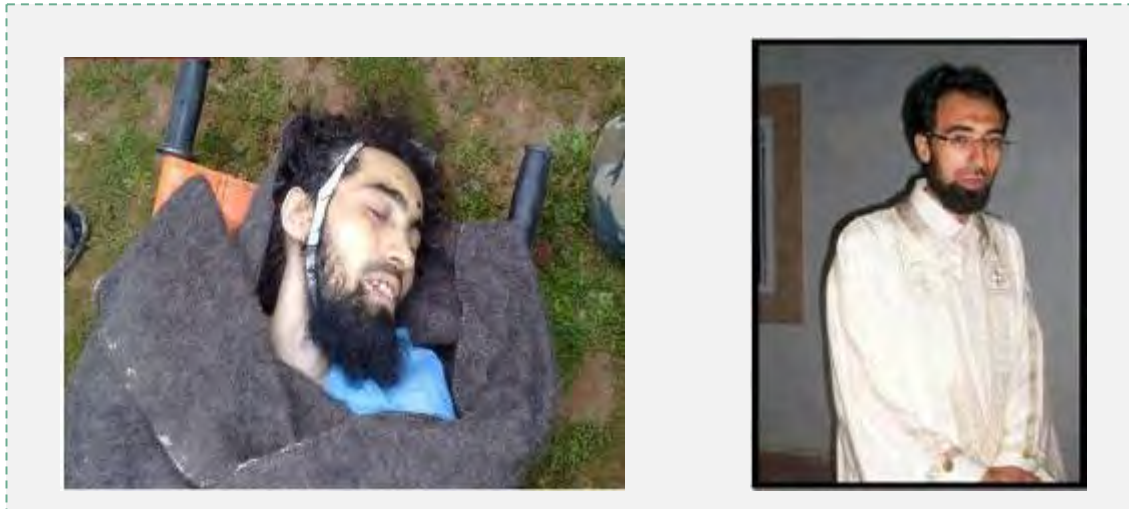
Audio cassette uploaded to the website of the Ansar al-Sharia in Tunisia in April 2014, containing praise from Abu Iyad al-Tunisi for the jihad fighters in Syria (Ansar-ashariaa.com).

Tunisian Fighters

Ayman al-Haqiri aka Abu Maryam al-Tunisi – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria. Appointed commander of Aleppo where he was killed on February 23, 2013. After his death pictures were posted of the ceremony held in his honor by Muslims somewhere in Europe, apparently France (MEMRI March 4, 2013).

Muhammad Amid Abd al-Hadi – Killed in Latakia on January 27, 2013, while fighting in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front in an attack against the Syrian army. Had previously

worked for ten years at the Tunisian Telecommunications Research and Studies Centre (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013).



Left: Ayman al-Haqiri aka Abu Maryam al-Tunisi (MEMRI, March 4, 2013). Right: Muhammad Amir Abd al-Hadi (Flash-Intel.com)

Ilyas bin Hamid bin Umrah aka Abu al-Hasan al Tunisi – From Mahdia, 25 years old, engineer. Killed in Syria on January 31, 2013, fighting in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. According to rebel sources, he arrived in Syria two months after graduating with a degree in engineering (Flash-intel.com).



Left: Marwan Ashuri, Tunisian foreign fighter, killed in Damascus fighting in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front (lct.org.il). Right: Bahaa' al-Tunisi, Tunisian foreign fighter, killed fighting in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front (lct.org.il)

Ahmad al-Tuhami – Killed in Syria. His sister told Al-Safir that after the Jasmine Revolution he began attending the local mosque. He later went to Libya to look for work in construction. His family had no information about him until Al-Dunia TV broadcast his announcement that he had gone to Syria via Turkey (Al-Monitor, March 24, 2013).

Ayman al-Nabili – Born in Taboulba, central Tunisia, in 1986. Joined the ISIS. Went to Libya and from there to Syria. In 2009 had already adopted religious behavior (Al-Hayat, October 18, 2013).

Husayn Mars – From Ben Gardane on the Tunisian-Libyan border, 34 years old. Killed in Syria. His brother, Muktar Mars, a teacher, received an anonymous telephone call telling him that Husayn had been killed fighting in the ranks of the Syrian rebels. He said his last conversation with Husayn was in February 2013, when he said he was studying in Libya. He had no further communications with him (Reuters, May 14, 2013).

Muhammad Lafi – 26 years old, killed in Syria. His name appeared on a list of fighters presented by Syria to the UN. Had been detained trying secretly to enter Iraq through Syria. Went to Algeria where he was detained and sent back to Tunisia where he spent three years in jail; released in 2010. Spoke to his relatives about his desire for jihad and to die as a martyr for the sake of Allah (Reuters, May 14, 2013).

Walid Hilal – 21 years old. Missing since February 24, 2013. His family received a telephone call from Syria informing them of his death on April 17, 2013. According to the family, he had not been politically involved but had gone to Syria in the wake of media information about the war (Reuters, May 14, 2013).

Abu Khalil, Abd al-Rahman and Abu Majidah al-Tunisi – Tunisians who were reported killed in Syria (Longwarjournal.org, September 10, 2012).

Abd al-Karim Jadirin – 25 years old, went to Syria and disappeared. According to his sister one day he went to the mosque and did not return. Several days later the family found a note on the door saying he had gone to Syria (Magharebia.com, February 22, 2013).

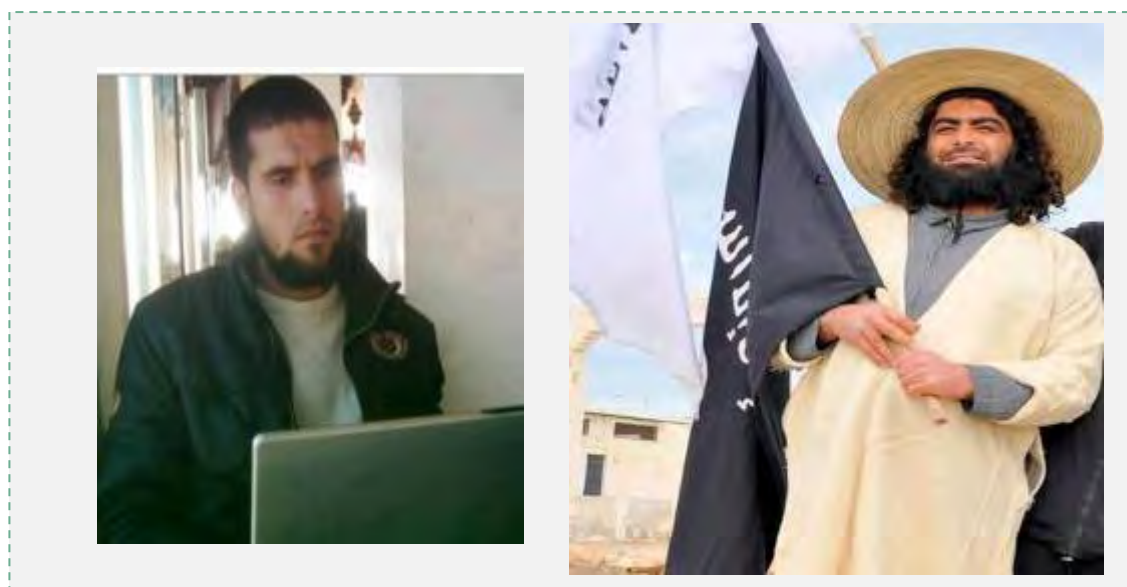
Umayyah bin Muhammad Nur al-Din – Student, 25 years old. On December 12, 2012, told his family he was going to sleep over at a friend's house to study for an examination and never returned home. Two days later a stranger called the family and told them that Abd al-Karim had gone to Turkey (Magharebia.com, February 22, 2013).

Ben Guridan and Muhammad al-Jiri – Fought in the ranks of the Free Syrian Army. Killed in April 2013. Entered Syria through Turkey and joined the opposition forces (Magharebia.com, April 22, 2013).

Abu Ziyad al-Tunisi – Warrant issued for his arrest after he told Tunisian TV that he had killed several men in Syria (Tunisienumerique.com, April 2, 2013).

Anis al-Najlawi – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in the outskirts of Aleppo on April 5, 2013 (Centerfordocumentation.com).

Qays al-Halumi – Spokesman for the Salafist movement on the island of Djerba (Magharebia.com, April 21, 2013). Operative in the ranks of the Army of Immigrants and Supporters, affiliated with the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in the outskirts of Aleppo near the military airport of Mena on April 18, 2013.



Left: Anis al-Najlawi. Right: Qays al-Halumi (Centerfordocumentation.com)

Hamdi al-Tuadi – Killed fighting in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front on February 19 , 2013. Had tried to reach Iraq to fight but was detained and imprisoned for five years. Later went to Turkey and Egypt and studied engineering. Tried to go to Syria in 2012 but got no further than Turkey and was forced to return to Tunisia. Returned to Turkey and crossed the border into Syria in February 2013 (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013).

Abu Sa'ad al-Libi – Killed on February 8, 2013. Had previously fought in Afghanistan; had previously been imprisoned in Iran. Tried to reach Yemen to join Al-Qaeda but was apprehended and detained in Oman. Remained in custody in Oman for a month and was then transferred to Dubai where he was interrogated by the American army. Returned to Tunisia and from there went to Syria (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013).



Left: Hamdi al-Tuadi. Right: Abu Sa'ad al-Libi (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013)

Aman Allah Thamin – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Syria on December 26, 2012 (Assabah.com.tn).

Hamad Adnan al-Farshishi – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed by the Syrian army in Idlib, date unknown (Documents.sy).



Aman Allah Thamin (Assabah.com.tn). Right: Hamad Adnan al-Farshishi (Documents.sy).

Assad Talib al-Sharqat – Killed in Abu Kamal on October 17, 2012. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front (Ar-ar.facebook.com).

Hamdi Ruwayd – Killed in Aleppo in March 2013. Fought in the ranks of the Free Syrian Army (Syrianarmyfree.com)



Left: Assad Talib al-Sharqat ([Ar-ar.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/Ar-ar)). Right: Hamdi Ruwayd ([Syrianarmyfree.com](https://www.Syrianarmyfree.com))

Nidal Mubarak – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Deir ez-Zor on March 12, 2013 ([Arabic.rt.com/forum](https://www.Arabic.rt.com/forum)).

Sabir al-Milawi aka **Abu Umar al-Tunisi** – Fought in the ranks of the Free Syrian Army. Killed on March 13, 2013 ([Syrianarmyfree.com](https://www.Syrianarmyfree.com)).



Left: Nidal Mubarak ([Arabic.rt.com/forum](https://www.Arabic.rt.com/forum)). Right: Sabir al-Milawi aka Abu Umar al-Tunisi ([Syrianarmyfree.com](https://www.Syrianarmyfree.com)).

Abu Abdallah al-Tunisi – Fought in the ranks of the Army of Immigrants and Supporters ([YouTube.com](https://www.YouTube.com)).



Abu Abdallah al-Tunisi (front row right) (YouTube.com)

Ahmad al-Minyawi – Killed in the outskirts of Latakia in August 2013. Fought in the ranks of the Army of Immigrants and Supporters (Centerfordocumentation.com).

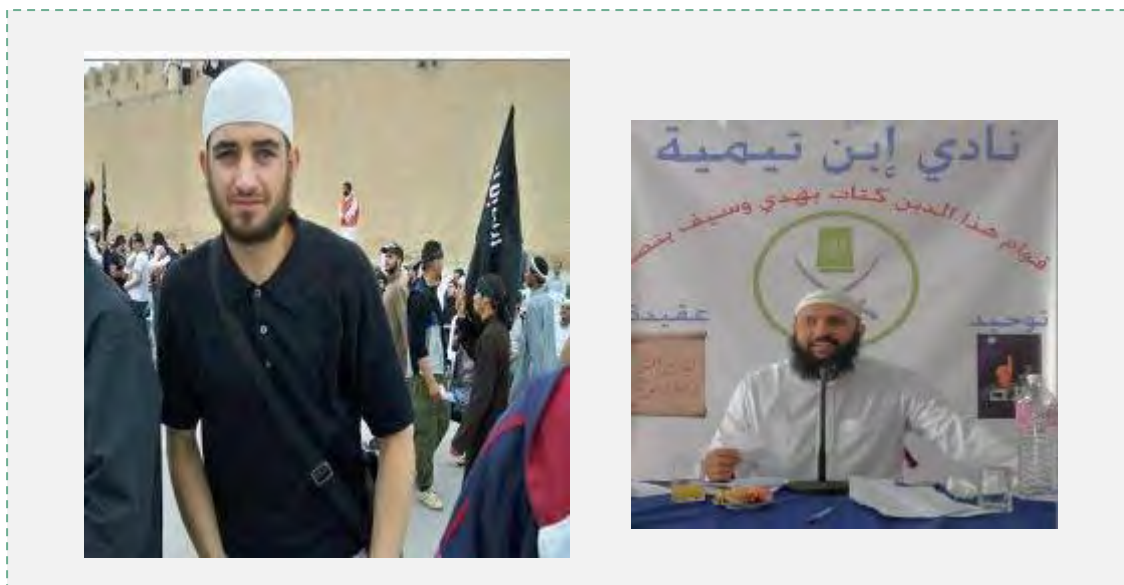
Muhammad Sharaf – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in the outskirts of Aleppo in March 2012 (Vdc-sy.info).



Left: Ahmad al-Minyawi. Right: Muhammad Sharaf (Vdc-sy.info)

Sayf al-Din Abu Musab al-Tunisi – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in the outskirts of Aleppo on February 15, 2013 in battle against the Syrian army (Vdc-sy.info).

Abu Ayyub al-Tunisi – Tunisian Salafist preacher. Killed by Syrian army fire in the outskirts of Latakia in August, 2013. Fought in the ranks of the Army of Immigrants and Supporters (Centerfordocumentation.com).



Left: Sayf al-Din Abu Musab al-Tunisi. Right: Abu Ayyub al-Tunisi (Vdc-sy.info).

Tijani Abu al-Wafaa – Killed in November 2013.

Sufyan al-Salami (Abu Abd al-Rahman al-Mufariq) – Killed in Hama on December 5, 2013.

Abu Usama al-Tunisi (Abu Sayyaf) – Killed in Deir ez-Zor on December 12, 2013.

Tariq Bakkari (Abu Qudamah al-Tunisi) – From Sidi Bouzid. Killed in Damascus on November 21, 2013.

Bilal Ka'bi (Abu Umar al-Tunisi) – Killed in Damascus on November 22, 2013.

Mahir Sharq al-Din (Abu al-Daraa' al-Tunisi) – From the El-Nasr district of Tunis. Killed in Idlib on November 28, 2013.

Ziyad al-Kharbash – From Zarat. Killed in Abu Kamal in eastern Syria on November 18, 2013.

Ibrahim al-Kharbash (Abu Abdallah al-Tunisi) – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Abu Kamal in eastern Syria on November 18, 2013.



Ibrahim al-Kharbash (Abu Abdallah al-Tunisi) (Facebook.com)

Najah Ghabiri – From Sidi Bouzid. Killed in Aleppo on November 18, 2013.

Kamal Bakkari – From Sidi Bouzid. Killed in Aleppo on November 18, 2013.

Salim al-Rabiti (Abu Ubaydah al-Qayrawani) – Killed on November 11, 2013.

Abd al-Qadir Hasani (Abu Muad al-Tunisi) – Killed in Aleppo on November 13, 2013.

The Policy of the Local Authorities

29. **The Islamic Tunisian government, set up after the fall of the regime of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali (the Jasmine Revolution), did not take effective steps to prevent Tunisians from joining the ranks of the rebels in Syria.** In our assessment, that was primarily because of the basic hostility to the Syrian regime of the (Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated) Ennahda party, which had just taken power and supported the uprising against Assad.

30. Somewhat later the reports in the Tunisian and Arab media of many jihad operatives leaving for Syria **began to worry the Tunisian public, especially those of the secular orientation.** They regarded the phenomenon as an intensifying of Islamism and blamed the government and the ruling Ennahda party. The Tunisian media often covered the topic of fighters and published information about the Tunisian fighters in Syria. **As in other countries, Tunisians began to be apprehensive that those who had gone to fight in Syria would return as ticking time bombs** (Magharebia.com, April 29, 2014).

31. The families of the fighters have also exerted pressure on the Tunisian authorities. In June 2013 the British media reported that a group of about 20 Tunisian parents had gone to Damascus to find their children, some of whom had been imprisoned (Guardianlv.com, June 18, 2013; BBC.uk, June 17, 2013). They asked that humanitarian organizations provide financial aid to return their sons. A senior figure in a Tunisian human rights organization said that it would be hard if not almost impossible to get them back, and even the government would find it hard to deal with the situation. He also called on the government to increase supervision of the borders and to carry out investigations to expose the identity of those behind enticing Tunisia's young men to participate in the fighting in Syria (Al-monitor.com, March 24, 2013).

32. In 2013 the Tunisian authorities started taking steps to stop young Tunisians from going to Syria, but apparently without much success. At the end of March 2013 the authorities detained, for the first time, a Salafist operative who, during an interview with a local TV channel, said he had returned to Tunisia after fighting in Syria for eight months. In addition, Tunisia's attorney general issued an order forbidding extremist groups from recruiting young Tunisians to fight in other countries, especially Syria. Several hundred Tunisian jihadists who had trained and dispatched young fighters to Syria were detained (Magharebia.com, March 19 and April 26, 2013). However, the Tunisian ministry of religious affairs claimed that it could not stop the recruitment of fighters in the mosques because it could not control all of Tunisia's 6,000 mosques (Magharebia.com, February 22, 2013).

33. In January 2014 Tunisia's new constitution was ratified. It preserves the country's secular, civilian character and does not consider the Sharia as a source of legislation, forbids religious incitement and secures the liberal values of human rights and gender equality. In February 2014 the Tunisia minister of the interior, **Lotfi Ben Jeddou**, expressed concern after 400 Tunisian fighters returned from Syria. He said trained fighters were liable to use their experience to carry out violent activities for radical Islamic movements in Tunisia. He claimed the government had succeeded in preventing 8,000 fighters from leaving for Syria [in our assessment, an exaggerated number]. He also admitted that the authorities had failed to detain those who had returned from Syria because of a legal loophole (Dailynewsegypt.com, February 25, 2014).

34. On April 4, 2014, Rida Safar, deputy minister of the interior, said that there were difficulties involved in preventing Tunisian citizens from going to Syria. He said that every Tunisian citizen who had not been responsible for the deaths of people in Syria

could return to Tunisia. He added that the fight against terrorism was the Tunisian regime's top priority (Tunisia-live.net, April 4, 2014).

Morocco

Overview

35. **The number of Moroccan fighters in Syria is estimated at several dozen. Relative to fighters from Tunisia and Libya, their number is small.** According to the Washington Institute in September 2013, the number fluctuates between 50 and 100. In September 2012 it was reported that eight Moroccans had been killed in Idlib fighting in the ranks of a military formation called the Al-Furqan Battalion (Longwarjournal.org, September 10, 2012). A total of 24 Moroccan fighters have been killed in Syria fighting in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front, the ISIS⁹ and other jihadist organizations.

36. **Ibrahim Benchekroun, aka Abu Ahmed al-Muhajir**, was a Moroccan who fought in the ranks of Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. He joined the fighting in Syria and announced the founding of a jihadist formation for Moroccan fighters called **Harakat Sham al-Islam** [the Syrian Islamic movement]. He was killed in battle in the region of Latakia at the beginning of April 2014. He exploited his presence in Syria and his connections with the heads of local terrorist organizations to promote himself as the leader of the Moroccan Salafist-jihadi movement (Washingtoninstitute.org, September 25, 2013). The Washington Institute quoted an expert named Abdallah Rami, who said that the objective of the Harakat Sham al-Islam was not to recruit fighters for Syria but **to establish a jihadist organization within Morocco itself**.

Moroccan Fighters

Shaykh Abu Adham al-Maghribi – From Spanish Morocco, 55 years old, businessman. Killed on April 7, 2013 during an attack on the international airport in the Aleppo (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013).

⁹ The Al-Qaeda-affiliated ISIS has operatives in **both Syria and Iraq**. At the beginning of April 2014 three Moroccans carried out suicide bombing attacks in Iraq while fighting in the ranks of the ISIS. During the past half year Moroccan fighters carried out other suicide bombing attacks for the ISIS in Iraq (Longwarjournal.org, April 10, 2014).



Shaykh Abu Adham al-Maghribi (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013).

Muhammad al-Alami al-Sulaymani (Abu Hamza al-Maghribi) – Pardoned and released from jail in 2011. Later joined Bencheikroun's group. Killed in the region of Latakia on August 10, 2013 (Article by Vish Sakthivel, washingtoninstitute.org, September 25, 2013).

Usama al-Sharah – 13 years old, went to Syria with his father and brother. Before Syria was in Tangier region with his father. His father is a drug dealer and entered Syria with the help of Salafist groups. He went to Syria by sea through Holland and from there to Turkey (Al-Alam, November 30, 2013).



13 year-old Usama al-Sharah (En.alalam.ir, November 30, 2013).

Muhammad al-Nabras – From Tangier. Killed in Latakia.

Al-Sadiq al-Sab' (Abu Adam al-Tanzi) – Moroccan with Dutch citizenship. Killed in Latakia.

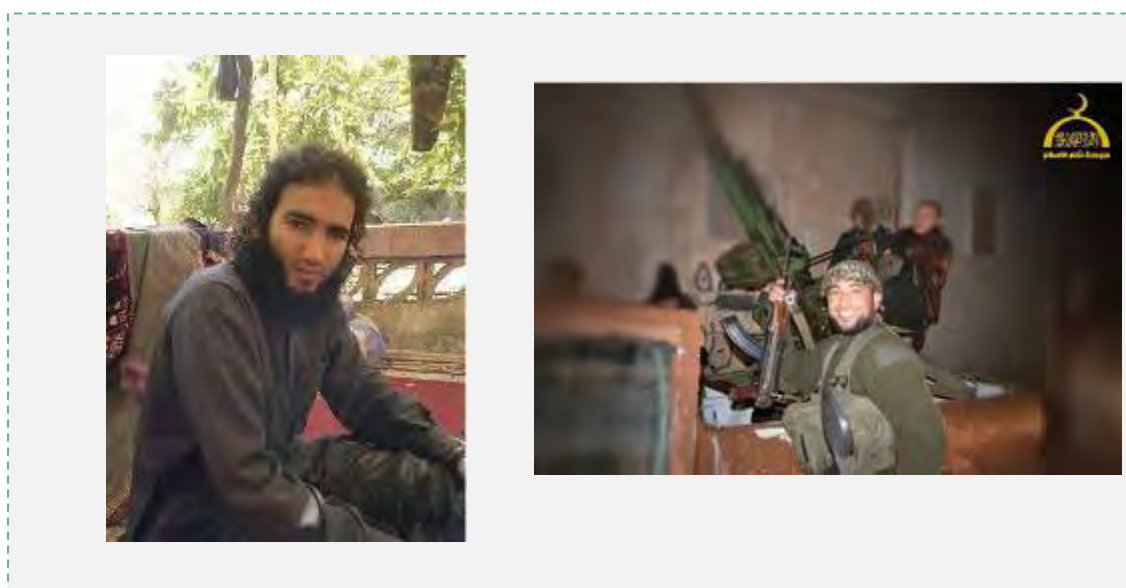
Husayn al-Asaas – Killed in Latakia on November 19, 2013.

Faysal Rahmi (Abu al-Baraa' al-Maghribi) – From Fez. Killed in Aleppo on November 24, 2013.

Abu Imran al-Maghribi – From Casablanca. Killed in prison in Aleppo on October 17, 2013.

Ibrahim al-Darawi al-Maghribi (Abu Imran) – From Casablanca. Married with children. Fought in the ranks of the Harakat Sham al-Islam. Killed in Aleppo on December 4, 2013.

Umar (Abu Ubaydah al-Maghribi) – From Tangier. Killed in Latakia on August 14, 2013.



Left: Abu Ubaydah al-Maghribi (Sadaalsham.net). Right: Ibrahim al-Darawi al-Maghribi (Abu Imran) (Syriasy.blogspot.com)

Ibrahim Abruk (Abu Eid al-(Sama News Agency, date, 2014) al-Maghribi) – From Salé. Killed in Aleppo on November 11, 2013.

Qasurah al-Maghribi – Killed in Aleppo on November 15, 2013.

Uthman al-Samoudi (Abu Sulayman al-Maghribi) – Killed in Latakia on September 20, 2013.

Abu Umar al-Maghribi – Location and date of his death unknown.

Issam al-Jamawi – From Salé. Location and date of his death unknown.

Murad Masali – Killed in Latakia in August 2013.

Tawfiq al-Jani – From Casablanca. Location and date of his death unknown.

Abu Sakhr al-Salawi – From Salé. Killed in Latakia on September 18, 2013.

Jawad Ashghaf al-Maghribi al Tanjawi – From Tangier. Killed in Latakia in August 2013.

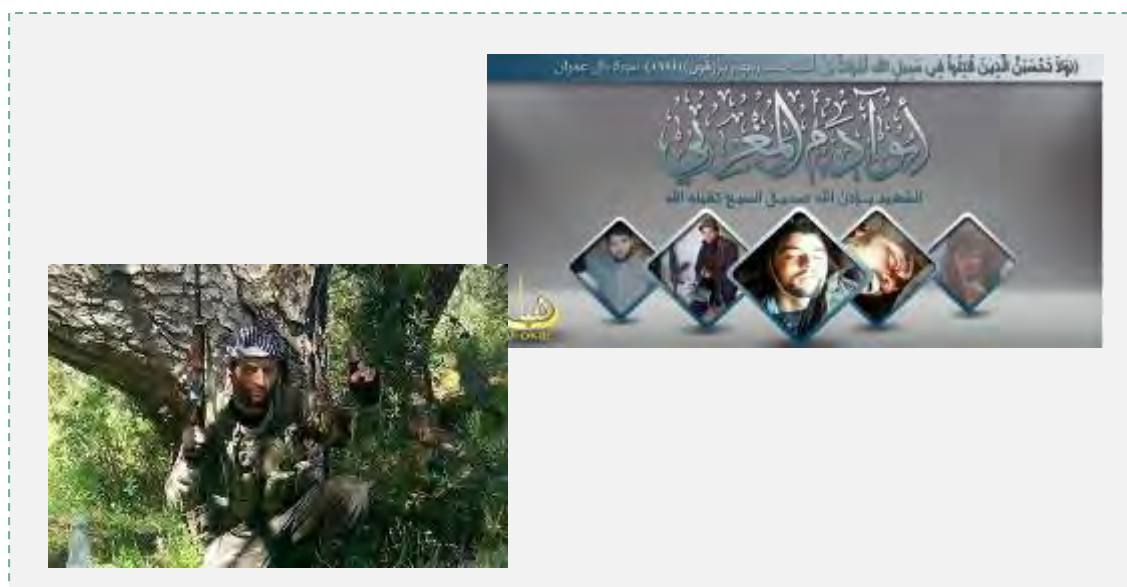
Abu al-Sa'ad al-Maghribi – Killed in Aleppo in 2013.

Muhammad al-Nibras (Nibras al-Muhajir) – From Tangier. Killed in Latakia on August 7, 2013.

Abd al-Ghani al-Salawi (Abu al-Khansaa') – From Salé. Killed in Latakia on August 8, 2013.

Karim Aayat al-Mamun (Abu al-Zubayr al-Maghribi) – From Salé. Killed in Latakia on August 4, 2013.

Al-Sadiq al-Sab' (Aadam al-Maghribi) – From Taza. Killed in Latakia on August 11, 2013.



Left: Karim Aayat al-Mamun (Abu al-Zubayr al-Maghribi) (Hespress.com). Right: Al-Sadiq al-Sab' (Aadam al-Maghribi) (Shaghor.com)

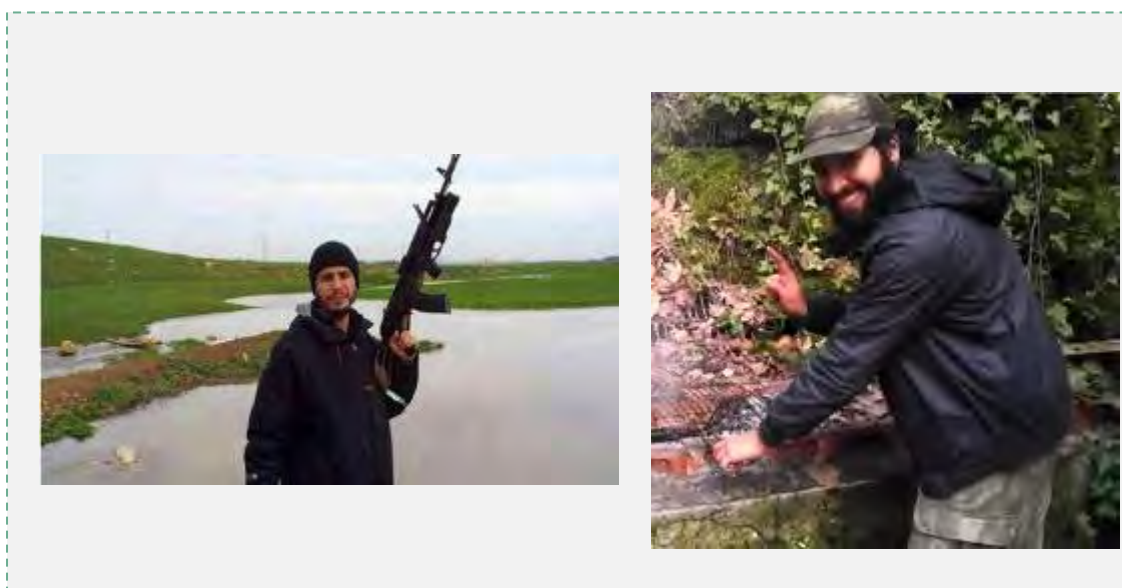
Muhammad Zakragh – From Taza. Killed in Latakia on July 22, 2013.

Muhammad al-'Ami al-Sulaymani (Abu Hamza al-Maghribi) – From Fez. Killed in Latakia on August 4, 2013.

Abu Usamah al-Maghribi – Military commander who fought in the ranks of the ISIS in Iraq. Umar the Chechen, a senior commander from Chechnya in the ISIS, issued a video in April 2014 in which he accused the Al-Nusra Front of killing Abu Usamah al-Maghribi (Longwarjournal.org, April 10, 2014).

Ahmad Burabab (Abu Azzam al-Maghribi) – From Tétouan. Fought in the ranks of the Abdallah Abu Mubarak Brigade. Killed in Raqqa in June 2012.

Yasin Buharfah (Abu Hajir al-Maghribi) – From Larache (Al-Araish). Was imprisoned in Morocco in Casablanca and Tangier. Married, one son. Fought in the ranks of the Harakat al-Sham al-Islam. Killed in Latakia on January 27, 2013.



Left: Ahmad Burabab (Abu Azzam al-Maghribi) (Elaloun24.com). Right: Yasin Buharfah (Abu Hajir al-Maghribi) (Syriasy.blogspot.coil)

Khattab al-Maghribi – From Tétouan. Killed on July 9, 2013.

The Policy of the Local Authorities

37. At the end of 2013 the Moroccan minister of the interior announced that 85 suspects had been detained who had contacts with recruiting networks sending fighters to Syria and Mali. Among those detained were **Moroccans who had returned from the fighting in Syria** (Magharebia.com, December 24, 2013).

38. In January 2014 the Moroccan authorities announced that they had disbanded terrorist networks that had sent fighters to Syria, and had detained 18 individuals. According to the announcement, one of them admitted **to having made an IED that could be detonated by remote control and was to have been used in a terrorist attack inside Morocco**. Weapons were found in the homes of the Moroccans who had been detained. Al-Qaeda videos were also found, as were letters written to their families by Moroccans who had gone to fight in Syria (Alarabia.net, January 2, 2014).

Algeria

Overview

39. The ITIC estimates the number of Algerian fighters at **a few dozen**. The Algerian security forces think there are fewer than 30 (as of September 2013). The number is lower in comparison with other North African countries (Libya, Tunisia). The number of casualties recorded so far is also relatively low (close to ten).

40. According to an Algerian intelligence source, one reason for the small number of Algerian fighters is the effective activity against the recruitment networks carried out by the Algerian security forces beginning in 2012. Another reason is the **refusal of Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb to join the rebels in Syria because it claims there are already open battle fronts in Algeria and Mali**, where the fighting should be taking place. In addition, Algerian preachers and religious figures have appealed to young Algerians not to obey the calls to go to Syria to fight (Magharebia.com, September 27, 2013).

41. According to researcher Muhammad Sa'adi, **the fighting in Syria reactivated dormant networks in Algeria that in the past had sent fighters to Iraq via Syria**. Those networks and middlemen who in the past dispatched fighters to Iraq via Syria were involved in sending Algerian and Tunisian fighters to Syria. For the most part, Algerians who went to Syria were recruited by Internet forums (Al- Al-Chourouk, Algeria, April 18, 2013). The networks that recruited fighters for Syria try to attract fighters with military experience. They use religious figures and monetary enticements (Al-Chourouk, April 18, 2013).

Information about Algerian Fighters

Abu Haythamah and **Abu Umar** – Two Algerians who joined the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Previously they had apparently fought in Iraq. It is known that two Algerians were killed in the region of Idlib while fighting in the ranks of a military formation called the Al-Furqan Battalion. One of them, called **Abu Haythamah** by the group, was killed in an air strike. An Algerian called **Bilal** was killed several months previously in Idlib (Longwarjournal.org, September 10, 2013; magharebia.com, February 13, 2013).

Abu Jihad al-Jaza'iri – Killed in Idlib on February 6, 2013, while fighting in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Was an active member of a jihadist forum (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013).



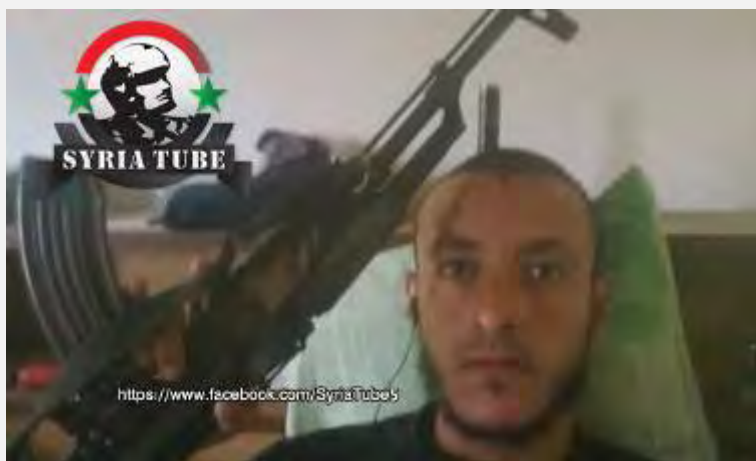
Abu Jihad al-Jaza'iri (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013)

Abu Musa al-Jaza'iri – Killed on October 2, 2013.

Abu Hafs al-Jaza'iri – Killed on November 10, 2013.

Abu Umar al-Jaza'iri – Killed in Idlib on June 4, 2013.

Walid Khams (Abu Rahil Simnuf) – 20 years old. Killed in Latakia on August 14, 2013.



Walid Khams (Abu Rahil Simnuf) (Syriantube.net)

Ibrahim al-Jaza'iri – Killed in February 2013.

Zuhayr Ghumri (Abu al-Zahraa' al-Jaza'iri) – From Sétif. Killed in Aleppo on April 24, 2013.

Khalid (Abu Jihad al-Jaza'iri) – Killed in Idlib in January 2013.

The Policy of the Local Authorities

42. **The Algerian security forces are worried by Algerian fighters going to Syria and have taken steps** against the elements involved in recruiting and dispatching them. Their investigation focuses on networks operating in eight provinces. At the time it was reported that the security forces had a list of ten Algerians who went to Syria through Turkey, and before that through Libya and Tunisia (Al-Chourouk, April 18, 2013).

43. In the middle of April 2013 the authorities detained four Algerians **connected to the Islamic Rescue Front**, an outlawed organization in the province of Chlef. The four were detained for having contacts with jihadist organizations in Syria. They were accused of recruiting Algerians to fight in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. The leader of the Islamic Rescue Front was one of the Algerians detained. He was also suspected of having contacts with jihadist networks in Libya and Tunisia to convince young men to go to Syria (Al-Chourouk April 18, 2013; magharebia.com, March 24, 2013).

Mauritania

44. There is very little information available about the recruitment of fighters in Mauritania. At the beginning of 2013 a Mauritanian journalist reported he had witnessed efforts to recruit a young man of low socio-economic status for "work in Libya." In the journalist's opinion there was good reason to believe that anyone who accepted the offer found himself fighting in Syria (Empirestrikesblack.com, March 23, 2013).

45. The names of two Al-Nusra Front fighters from Mauritania killed in the fighting in Syria were reported: **Umar al-Shanqiti** and **Abu Abbas al-Tahiri** (Longwarjournal.org, September 10, 2013).

Egypt

Overview

46. The number of Egyptian fighters who went to Syria is estimated by the ITIC at **several hundred**. Most of them have apparently joined Islamic organizations affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the global jihad and a minority have joined other organizations (such as the Free Syrian Army).

47. According to the Shaghor.com website, which documents the casualties of the war, **40 Egyptian citizens** have been killed in battle in Syria. An examination of their names indicates that **most of them came from outlying towns** and villages and only a few from Cairo and Alexandria. According to a website of Salafist groups in Egypt that help foreign fighters reach Syria, **several dozen Egyptian citizens have been killed in the fighting in Syria in the past two years** (News.yahoo.com, July 13, 2013).

48. According to reports in the Egyptian and Arab media, **several Egyptian operatives belong to a Salafist jihadi organization called Ansar al-Sharia**. The organization was founded by **Sheikh Ahmed Ashoush**, who participated in various battles in Afghanistan and was close to senior members of Al-Qaeda. In 1991 he returned to Egypt, was detained in 1993 and released in 2011. In December 2012 he was arrested again for involvement in terrorist activities in Egypt. In addition, some of the operatives belong to **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis**, an organization leading the terrorist campaign against the Egyptian regime (See below).



Sheikh Ahmed Ashoush, leader of Ansar al-Sharia, currently incarcerated (Islamion.com).

49. According to **Abu Rami**, an Egyptian operative who was in Syria several times, most Egyptian fighters in Syria are part of the Islamic movement in Egypt. He claims they are **independent and educated, without financial or social problems, motivated by the desire for jihad**. He said the cost of traveling to Syria does not exceed \$250 per person, including a visa and airfare. **Most of them have apparently joined Islamic organizations affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the global jihad**. A minority (a few dozen) have joined the Free Syrian Army and other rebel organizations.

50. **Hashem al-Ashri** (?), an English-speaking Egyptian who lived in the United States for 15 years, said in June 2013 that he helped Egyptians get to Syria. He said most of the passengers were middle class and could afford to purchase airfare and a rifle, two key requirements for every foreign fighter. He said that he instructed them to fly to one of Syria's neighbors and from there rebel groups would pick them up and take them into Syria (Yalibnan.com, June 22, 2013).

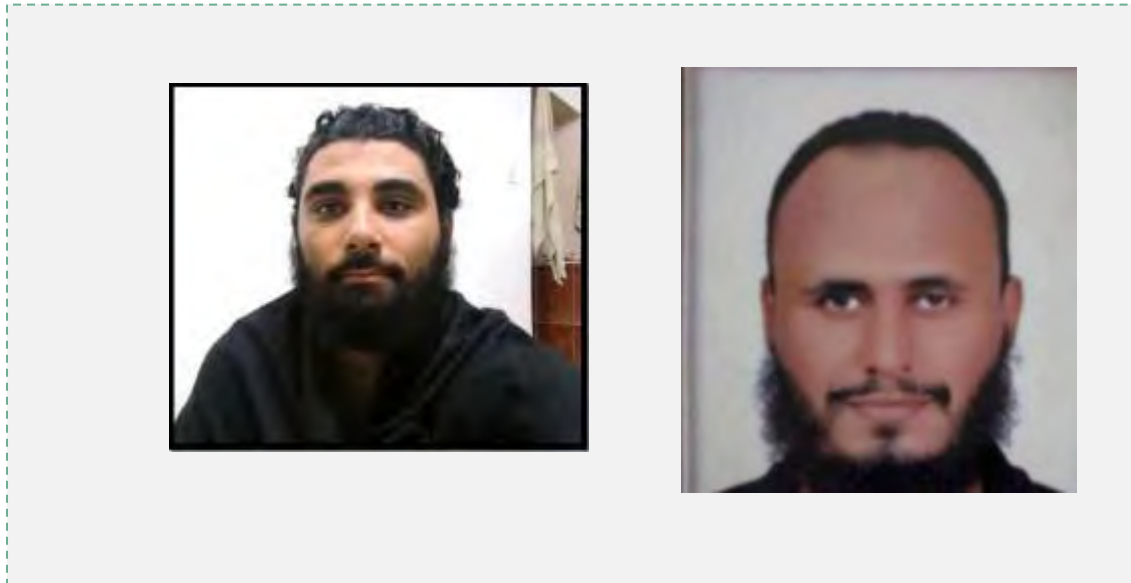
Egyptian Fighters

Abu Ahmed –Egyptian college student, 34 years old. Left his wife and son in Britain and joined the Free Syrian Army. Before he left, he was in contact with members of the Free Syrian Army, who smuggled him from Turkey via the Bab al-Hawa crossing (January 2013). Affiliated with **the Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyya group** in Egypt but traveled independently and fought for five weeks before being shot in the leg. He said that he participated in the coup in Egypt, and after the Mubarak regime was overthrown he went to Syria to take part in the jihad of the Syrians (Al-Monitor, April 17, 2013).

Abu Bakr Musa – Killed in battle in Syria. From a secular family in good neighborhood in Cairo. Graduated from a Cairene English school. At university grew a beard and began attending a mosque. After graduation refused an arranged marriage and married a Chechen woman whose brother he met at the mosque. Despite having a family, decided to go and fight. He flew to Russia, where he hoped to join the Chechen rebels. He failed and was sent back by the Russians. Shortly after he was arrested by the Egyptian police and imprisoned for six months. Upon his release, his wife left him. He married a religious Egyptian woman and moved to Fayoum. He joined the anti-Mubarak demonstrations and later decided to join the fighting of other Muslims (BBC, September 25, 2012). In March 2013, he went to Syria via Lebanon, where he joined the Free Syrian Army. He was killed in Idlib on September 1, 2012 (BBC, September 25, 2012).

Essam Sarraj al-Nusra – From the area of Al-Ameriya, Alexandria. Killed fighting in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front (Youtube.com)

Anas al-Masri, aka **Abu Malek** –Killed by rocket fire in Idlib on September 8, 2012. Before arriving in Syria fought alongside Al-Qaeda in Yemen in the ranks of **Ansar al-Sharia** (Flash-intel.com, June 2013).



Left: **Anas al-Masri (Abu Malek)** (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013)
Right: **Essam Sarraj al-Nusra** (Youtube.com)

Ahmed – 22 years old, Salafist with a part-time job at a startup company. Went to Syria, stayed for six weeks and fought alongside the rebel forces. Claimed to have traveled at his own expense. After several days of training, was made responsible for his unit's communications and was in charge of the photographic documentation of the fighting (Acus.org, November 15, 2012).

Bilal Faraj – According to reports, a brilliant young man, attended one of the leading schools for Islamic studies and had a job guaranteed in the Gulf States. However, he volunteered to fight in Syria and was killed (Washington Post, June 21, 2013).

Muhammad Abd al-Khaleq, aka **Yahya al-Masri** – Engineer, killed in rural Aleppo on March 29, 2013. Reportedly played a key role in several battles alongside the Al-Nusra Front and its supporters in northwestern Syria (Flash-intel.com, June 2013).



Muhammad Abd al-Khaleq (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013; centerfordocumentation.com)

Abu Rami – 37 years old. The father of two. Studied Islamic law (Sharia). Went from Egypt to Syria and back four times. Entered Syria via Turkey (Al-Monitor, April 17, 2013).

Hudhaifa Abd al-Basset – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed fighting the Syrian Army on the outskirts of Hama on December 28, 2012 (Centerfordocumentation.com).



Hudhaifa Abd al-Basset (Centerfordocumentation.com)

Sahib Muhammad Abd al-Rizag (Abu Yahya al-Masri) – From Sohag. Killed in Aleppo on October 17, 2013.

Abu al-Qaqaa al-Masri – Killed in prison in Aleppo on October 17, 2013.

Ahmed al-Koumi (Abu Muslim al-Masri) – Killed in Damascus on November 22, 2013.

Ahmed al-Hushi (Abu al-Baraa al-Masri) – From Damanhur. Killed in prison in Aleppo on October 15, 2013.

Abd al-Rahman (Abu Awf al-Masri) – Killed in prison in Aleppo on October 15, 2013.

Hassan Tantawi (Abu Hafsa al-Damanhuri) – From Damanhur. Killed in prison in Aleppo on October 16, 2013.

Fouad Mohammad Fouad (Abu Hamza al-Masri) – From Giza. Killed in Idlib on August 14, 2013.

Haz al-Qawasmi (Abu Dujana al-Masri) – From Sohag. Killed in Homs on August 11, 2013.



Left: Haz al-Qawasmi (Vdc-sy.inf)
Right: Fouad Mohammad Fouad (Facebook)

Muhammad Abd al-Rahim al-Sharqawi (Abu al-Baraa al-Masri) – Killed in Latakia in 2013.

Abu Abd al-Rahman al-Masri – From Qalyubia. Killed in Al-Hasakah on October 15, 2013.

Mohammad Ahmed Ibrahim Ismail (Abu Omar al-Azhari) – From Qalyubia. Killed on June 2013.

Abdullah Naji Hussein al-Adawi – From Qalyubia. Killed in Aleppo on August 10, 2013.

Bilal Nuaman al-Bayoumi (Abu Hudhaifa al-Masri) – From Damietta. Killed in Aleppo on June 2, 2013.

Mohammad Rajab (Abu al-Walid al-Masri) – From Abu Kabir. Killed in Aleppo on June 20, 2013.

Muhammad Hosni (Abu Harira al-Masri) – Killed in Hama on June 27, 2013.

Abu Ayyub al-Masri – Killed in Latakia on May 20, 2013.

Muhammad Abd al-Aziz Rashad al-Sharqawi (Abu Mus'ab) – Killed on May 20, 2013.

Mahmoud Abd al-Rahim (Abu Hamza al-Iskandarani) – From Alexandria. Killed on May 28, 2013.

Mahmoud Abd al-Montaqem al-Askari (Abu Ayyub) – Killed in Damascus on April 28, 2013.

Abd al-Rahman al-Husseini (Abu Hamza) – From Cairo. Killed in Aleppo on April 29, 2013.



Left: Abd al-Rahman al-Husseini (Abu Hamza) (alkhabar-ts.com)
Right: Abd al-Montaqem al-Askari (Abu Ayyub) (alplatformmedia.com)

Reza Mahmoud (Abu Habib) – From Cairo. Killed on April 29, 2013.

Bilad Frajallah (Abu Mujahed al-Masri) – From Cairo. Killed in Aleppo on April 23, 2013.

Walid Ahmed Abd al-Salaam al-Sarsawi (Abu Osama al-Masri) – 35, married, father of two. BA in English from the University of Alexandria. Fought in Libya against Muammar Gaddafi. Fought in Syria in global jihad organizations. Killed in Aleppo on April 27, 2013.



Left: Walid Ahmed Abd al-Salaam al-Sarsawi (mho12abdo.blogspot.com)
Right: Bilad Farajallah (www.alkhabar-ts.com)

Sheikh Ahmed Lutfi (Abu Yahya al-Masri) – From Alexandria. Killed in Aleppo on April 26, 2013.

Muhammad Abd al-Khaleq (Abu Yahya al-Masri) – From Al-Obour. Married, father of four. Had an undergraduate degree in quality control. Worked for an air conditioner company. Active in Egypt in the ranks of the Salafists. Spent six months in Syria fighting in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in by sniper fire in Hama while on his way to prayers on March 29, 2013.

Majdi Bader Sa'dallah (Abu Abd al-Rahman) – Killed in Aleppo in battle in March 2013.



Left: Majdi Bader Sa'dallah (www.alkhabar-ts.com)
Right: Muhammad Abd al-Khaleq (syriasy.blogspot.com)

Ahmed Abdullah – Killed in Idlib in 2013.

Muhammad Abd al-Majid Muhammad Ali Makhraz – From Cairo. 26, married and the father of a daughter. Held undergraduate degree in law. Worked as a lawyer in private practice in Cairo. Killed by a sniper in Aleppo two weeks after he arrived, on February 12, 2013. A picture of him kissing his mother's hand at the airport before flying to Syria appeared in the Egyptian media. Shown on a YouTube video holding a rocket launcher.



Left: Muhammad Abd al-Majid Muhammad Ali Makhraz, saying goodbye to his mother (syriasy.blogspot.com). Right: Ahmed Abdullah (Alkhabar-ts.com)

Muhammad Zakaria Ismail – From Dakahlia. Killed on February 10, 2013.

Muhammad Ibrahim Madkur – From Alexandria. Fought in the ranks of one of the jihadist organizations. Killed in Idlib on February 15, 2013.



Muhammad Ibrahim Madkur (Alplatformmedia.com)

Abu Dujana al-Masri – Fought in the ranks of one of the global jihad organizations. Killed in Idlib on December 10, 2012.

Essam Saruj (Abu Mujahed al-Masri) – From Alexandria. Killed on January 27, 2013.

Salah Khalifa (Anwar al-Masri) – From Ain Shams. Killed in January 2013.

Mustafa Mahmoud Fuda (Abu Aisha) – FROM a village in the Damietta Governorate. 35-year-old father of two daughters. imprisoned in Egypt (2007), killed in Idlib on August 22, 2012.



Left: Mustafa Mahmoud Fuda (Abu Aisha) (syriasy.blogspot.com)
Right: Salah Khalifa (Anwar al-Masri) (alplatformmedia.com).

Abu Maryam (Abu Bakr Ibrahim Moussi) – From Fayoum. Killed in Aleppo on September 10, 2012.



Abu Maryam (Abu Bakr Ibrahim Moussi) (Facebook)

Ahmed Rifaat (Abu al-Baraa al-Masri) – From the village of Al-Sheikh. Killed in Idlib on July 6, 2012.

Yasser Abd al-Razeq Kamel Ibrahim – From Alexandria. Killed on July 22, 2012.

Muhammad Ibrahim al-Sheikh – From Al-Said. Killed on July 24, 2012.

Eid Salah Eid – Killed in March 2012.

The Policy of the Local Authorities

51. Egypt has not responded officially to reports published in September 2012 about Egyptian citizens joining in the fighting in Syria. However, some leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood have objected to a call by Muslim groups to send Egyptian fighters to Syria (Al-Masri al-Youm, September 11, 2012).

52. In July 2013, in response to a question by an AP reporter about state policy on civilians traveling to Syria to fight alongside the rebels, a senior Egyptian official said that **Egyptian citizens were free to join the fighting in Syria and would not be put on trial on their return.** He said that the Egyptians did not consider them a threat. He could not estimate how many Egyptians there were in Syria (News.yahoo.com, July 13, 2013).

53. However, after Mohamed Morsi was ousted and after the persecution of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Egyptian government apparently changed its position. In early February 2014 Egyptian officials expressed concern over the return of Egyptian jihadists from Syria who might take part in the terrorist campaign against the Egyptian authorities (The Long War Journal, April 13, 2014).

Involvement of Syria Veterans In Terrorist Attacks in Egypt

54. In the first months of 2014, there was mounting evidence that a few veterans of the fighting in Syria were taking part in a terrorist campaign waged against the current regime, some in the ranks of the terrorist organization Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis.

55. On April 13, 2014, the Egyptian Middle East News Agency reported that Egyptian authorities had arrested an **operative named Wael Ahmed Abd al-Fattah, who returned from Syria. He had formerly worked the [Egyptian] oil company and fought in Syria in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front**, Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria. He was arrested on suspicion of planning terrorist attacks inside Egypt. According to the Egyptian media, he went to Syria around two years ago, via Turkey (Longwarjournal.org, April 13, 2014; Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, April 13, 2014)

56. On March 10, 2014, the Egyptian ministry of the interior announced the arrest of **Mohammed Durri Ahmad al-Taliawi**, who fought in Syria and returned to Egypt. According to the announcement, in January 2014 he was involved in an attack on the Cairo Security Directorate (Longwarjournal.org, April 13, 2014). On March 10, 2014, a video tape was uploaded to YouTube in which Mohammed Durri al-Taliawi spoke about his experiences in Egypt after returning from Syria. He said that he returned to Egypt in March 2013 to carry out "something" (i.e., a terrorist attack). He said that initially he wanted to carry out an attack against Israel on the Egyptian-Israeli border in the Sinai Peninsula, but it did not work out. He then made contact with a man named "Said," who ordered him to obtain weapons and gave him money which came from the Moslem Brotherhood. "Said" introduced him to a man who belonged to **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis**, who had also returned from Syria, and another man, who provided him with an IED. Al-Taliawi added that his intention had been to attack Egyptian policemen. He shot at the Egyptian security forces trying to arrest him, and they shot and wounded him.



Mohammed Durri Ahmad Al-Taliawi alongside weapons that he obtained for carrying out a terrorist attack against Israel in Sinai (YouTube)



Mohammed Durri Ahmad Al-Taliawi tells his story to the camera (YouTube)

57. **Said al-Shehat Muhammad Abdullah (Abu Arsalan)** participated in the demonstrations against the Mubarak regime. He then fled to Syria and took part in fighting against the Syrian regime, probably in the ranks of one of the jihadi organizations. He stayed in Syria until Mohamed Morsi was ousted and returned to Egypt to fight against the new regime. He was killed on December 19, 2013, when Egyptian security officials tried to arrest him and he detonated an explosive belt. The resulting explosion killed an Egyptian security guard (Dawaalhaq.com; copts-united.com; ict.org.il).



Syria veteran Said al-Shehat Muhammad Abdullah (copt-united.com)

Syria Veterans in the Service of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis

58. **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis**, affiliated with the global jihad and mentioned in Al-Taliawi's statement, **is the leading organization in the terrorist activity now taking place against the Egyptian regime** in the Sinai Peninsula and elsewhere in Egypt. The organization also carried out a number of terrorist attacks against Israel from the Sinai Peninsula. On September 23, 2013, the organization issued a communiqué confirming that two of its operatives who were killed **had fought in Syria before returning to Egypt**. The two men were **Fahmi Abd al-Rauf Muhammad (Abu Dujana) and Samir Abd al-Hakim (Abu al-Baraa)**. There were also reports of two other operatives of the organization who fought in Syria (See below).



Syria veteran Fahmi Abd al-Rauf Muhammad (Aviation-arab.net)



Syria veteran Samir Abd al-Hakim (Aviation-arab.net)

59. There were also reports of two other Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis operatives who fought in Syria and returned to Egypt: **Wael Abd al-Fattah**, who was arrested in Egypt on suspicion of planning terrorist acts (noted above); and **Walid Badr**, a suicide bomber who carried out an attempt on the life of Egyptian Interior Minister Mohammad Ibrahim in Nasr City (September 5, 2013).

60. **Walid Badr** served as an officer in the Egyptian Army with the rank of captain. He fought in Afghanistan and Iraq. He was arrested and spent a year in jail in Iran. He then returned to Egypt (YouTube). According to an Egyptian security source, Badr was dismissed from the Egyptian Army in 2005, following frequent absences from work. According to another version, he was dismissed from the Army due to his close relations with Islamic elements (YouTube). He had a mental breakdown, after which he turned to religion. Badr traveled to Syria to participate in jihad. From Syria he returned to Egypt and was involved in the (unsuccessful) attempt on the life of the Egyptian interior minister.



Suicide bomber Walid Badr, in an Egyptian army uniform
Top left: The insignia of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (YouTube)



Attempted suicide bombing attack on the convoy of the Egyptian interior minister (September 5, 2013). Top left: The insignia of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (YouTube)

Saudi Arabia

Overview

61. There is a **large group of Saudi fighters** in Syria, whose number is estimated by the ITIC at **nearly a thousand**. Various reports estimate their number at several thousand, but that is apparently an exaggeration.¹⁰ In early February 2014, Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz issued an order prohibiting Saudi citizens from taking part in foreign wars and conflicts. He also called on all those fighting outside Saudi Arabia to return immediately to their country. At that time, the Saudi Arabian minister of the interior estimated that 1,000 Saudis were fighting in Syria (www.ft.com, February 4, 2014). In our assessment, most of the Saudi fighters in Syria serve in the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS.

62. In June 2013, **the bodies of seventy Saudi fighters who were killed in Syria, including three women, were returned to Saudi Arabia**. The bodies reached Saudi Arabia via Turkey. Saudi Arabia sent a number of diplomats to Turkey to help transfer the bodies (Press TV, June 16, 2013). However, the total number of Saudi casualties is apparently much higher: according to a website documenting those killed in the civil war, **223 Saudis have been killed during the fighting**, indicative of the large number of Saudi fighters.

63. Most of the Saudi fighters come to Syria via **Turkey**, flying in from Riyadh Airport. A few of them make their way overland to Syria via **Jordan** (mainly those who are afraid to leave Saudi Arabia openly by air).

64. Saudi fighters leaving for Syria come from all parts of the kingdom. Fighters from the **Sunni Al-Qassim Region** in central Saudi Arabia and especially from its capital, **Buraidah**, are among the most prominent. In the past, protests against the Saudi regime were held in this region. Another prominent area in terms of the number of the jihadist fighters is the **Al-Jawf Region**, near the border with Jordan. We believe **that most of the Saudi fighters join the Al-Nusra Front and other Salafist-jihadi groups**. Most of them have no combat experience, but there are also those with military-terrorist experience (veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq). **A significant number of Saudi fighters**

¹⁰ A number of reports estimated the number of Saudi foreign fighters at approximately 15% of all Arab foreign fighters (Flash-intel.com, June 2013; Al-Ahed, Hezbollah's news website, December 1, 2013). "Saudi sources" estimated the number of Saudi fighters in Syria at between 1,500 and 2,000 (Al-Quds al-Arabi, April 19, 2014).

were utilized by the **Al-Nusra Front** and the **ISIS** to carry out suicide bombing attacks against the **Syrian regime** (See below).

65. **Suleiman Saud Subai'i** is a 25 year-old Saudi who fought in the ranks of the **ISIS**. He was detained upon his return to Saudi Arabia, released and interviewed in a program aired on Saudi TV on March 5, 2014. He said that most of the leaders of the **ISIS** were **Iraqis and Saudis** and that they were working to recruit young Saudis to fight in Syria. He said he was asked many times to record a video calling on young people from Saudi Arabia to come and fight in Syria, but claimed he had refused. He also said that young Saudis in Syria were involved in the fighting, often on the front lines (Al-Monitor, March 6, 2014).

Saudi Fighters

Saudi Fighters Who Carried Out Suicide Bombing Attacks¹¹

Yousef Mohammad al-Nasser – Carried out a suicide bombing attack in An-Nabk, on the outskirts of Damascus, on August 29, 2013.

Yousef Madallah al-Ruwaili – Carried out a suicide bombing attack in Aleppo on August 7, 2013.

Mu'ad Abd al-Rahim – From Buraidah, carried out a suicide bombing attack during the occupation of Menagh military airfield on the outskirts of Aleppo, August 5, 2013.

Mansour al-Khaledi, aka **Abdullah Umar Farhan** – From **Al-Jawf**, carried out a suicide bombing attack on the outskirts of Idlib, July 30, 2013.

Al-Moatassem Billah Aa'idh al-Qatim al-Qahtani – Fought in the ranks of the **Al-Nusra Front**. Carried out a suicide bombing attack using a truck bomb in an attack on a Syrian Army checkpoint in Dara'a, June 27, 2013.

Ali al-Maneghi (?), aka **Abu Hamza Al-Qarshi** – From Dammam, carried out a suicide bombing attack while in the ranks of the **Al-Nusra Front** against the Syrian Army checkpoint in Hama, June 18, 2013.

11 For details about the suicide bombings carried out by jihadi organizations, and the role of foreign fighters in them, see our Information Bulletin from February 11, 2014: "Using suicide bombers as weapons."

Ibrahim Muhammad al-Fa'im – From Buraidah, carried out a suicide bombing attack using a truck bomb on June 13, 2013, in an attack on a Syrian Army checkpoint in Homs.

Abd al-Wahhab bin Attaf al-Zahrani, aka **Abu Mahjoub al-Azdif** – Carried out a suicide bombing attack while in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front in Homs, in February 2013.

Suleiman bin Ibrahim al-Hajeri, aka **Abu Abd al-Jabbar al-Najdi** – Carried out a suicide bombing attack in Homs in January 2013.

Khadr al-Sud - Reported killed on March 13, 2013, in a suicide bombing attack in Damascus that killed over 50 Syrian soldiers. He had military experience, having previously fought in Iraq in the ranks of Al-Qaeda against US forces (Flash-intel.com, June 2013).

Khaled al-Suadi – Killed on March 21, 2013, in Damascus. Previously fought in the ranks of Al-Qaeda in Iraq. Fought in eastern Syria and from there went to Damascus. His last activity was taking part in a suicide bombing attack that killed 50-60 Syrian soldiers (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013)

Other Saudi Fighters

Abd al-Aziz al-Jaghiman (?), aka **Abd al-Malek al-Ahsani** – On November 24, 2012, rebel sources in Syria announced his death in Idlib while fighting in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. He was professor of Sharia studies at King Faisal University. He escaped after September 11. In 2002 he was captured by the Syrians and jailed for three years. According to his friends, he fought in at least three Islamic combat zones in the ranks of jihadist organizations: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kashmir, and Afghanistan (Flash-intel.com).



Left: Khaled al-Suadi (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013). Right: Abd al-Aziz al-Jaghiman

Muhammad al-Talaq – 22 years old. Arrested and found guilty of participation in a demonstration in Buraidah with a group of 19 young people. According to his father, after the judge postponed the reading of the verdict he called the defendants into his chambers and gave them a long lecture about the need to fight the Shiites in Syria. Within a few weeks, 11 of the 19 young men had left Saudi Arabia and joined the rebels. The group flew to Syria via Jordan because they were unable to obtain regular visas to fly via Turkey as tourists. In December 2012, he was killed, shortly after his arrival in Syria. His father filed a formal complaint against the judge, but says it was rejected (www.npr.org, March 13, 2013; Al-Safir, December 3, 2013).

Abd al-Aziz al-Sabi'i, aka **Abd al-Hakim al-Muwahid** – Joined the Al-Nusra Front. Went to Syria, even though the Saudi authorities forbade him to leave due to his incitement to demonstrate in Buraidah. On arrival in Syria, **became the coordinator** for recruiting Saudis for jihad operations in Syria (Al-Safir, December 3, 2013). Killed in September 2013 in Damascus. His brother, **Suleiman al-Sabi'i**, joined the jihad fighters in Syria after his brother's death.

Mu'adh al-Ma'ataq (?) - 17 (Al-Safir, December 3, 2013).

Aql Abdullah Aql – Al-Nusra Front operative. Killed by the Syrian Army on June 14, 2013, in combat on the outskirts of Aleppo (Documents.sy).

Aa'idh al-Qatim al-Qahtani – Al-Nusra Front operative (Documents.sy).



Left: Aa'idh al-Qatim al-Qahtani against the background of the flag of the Al-Nusra Front (Documents.sy). Right: Aql Abdullah Aql (Documents.sy)

Mufaq al-Amrani - killed in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front by the Syrian army in the region of Homs on July 20, 2013 (Centerfordocumentation.com).

Arman al-Shaibani - Al-Nusra Front operative. Killed in the suburbs of Damascus during clashes with the Syrian Army on June 17, 2013 (Centerfordocumentation.com).

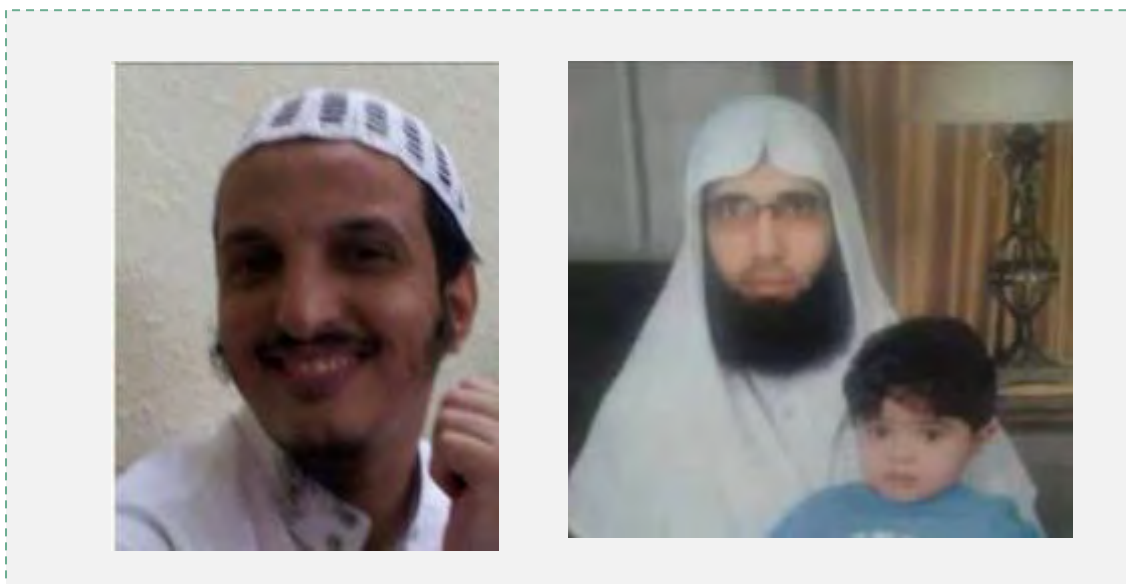


Left: Arman al-Shaibani. Right: Mufaq al-Amrani ((centerfordocumentation.com)

Amjad al-Utaibi – Al-Nusra Front operative. Killed in Al-Qusayr on April 22, 2013 (Centerfordocumentation.com).

Fahd Thamer al-Mutairi – Al-Nusra Front operative, killed in April 2012 (Youtube).

Issa al-Qarshi – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Syria in August 2012 (alplatformmedia.com).

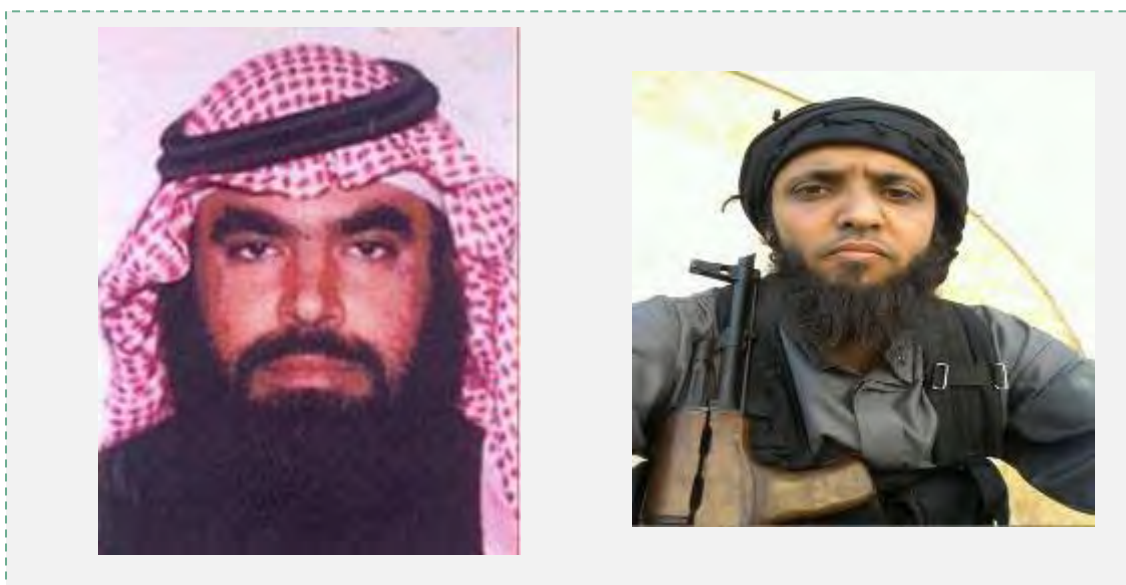


Left: Issa al-Qarshi (Alplatformmedia.communication)
Right: Fahd Thamer al-Mutairi (YouTube)

Muhammad Duas al-Rahil al-Shamri, aka Abu Duas – Killed in combat on March 13, 2013, in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front (Saqeralasad2.wordpress.com)

Muhammad Saad al-Zuwain (Abu Hatem al-Jazrawi) – Killed in Deir ez-Zor on December 12, 2013.

Abdullah Suleiman al-Sabah (Abu Ali al-Qassimi) – From Al-Qassim. Apparently fought in the ranks of the ISIS. Was wanted by Interpol and the Saudi authorities. Killed at Aleppo Airport of on January 19, 2014.



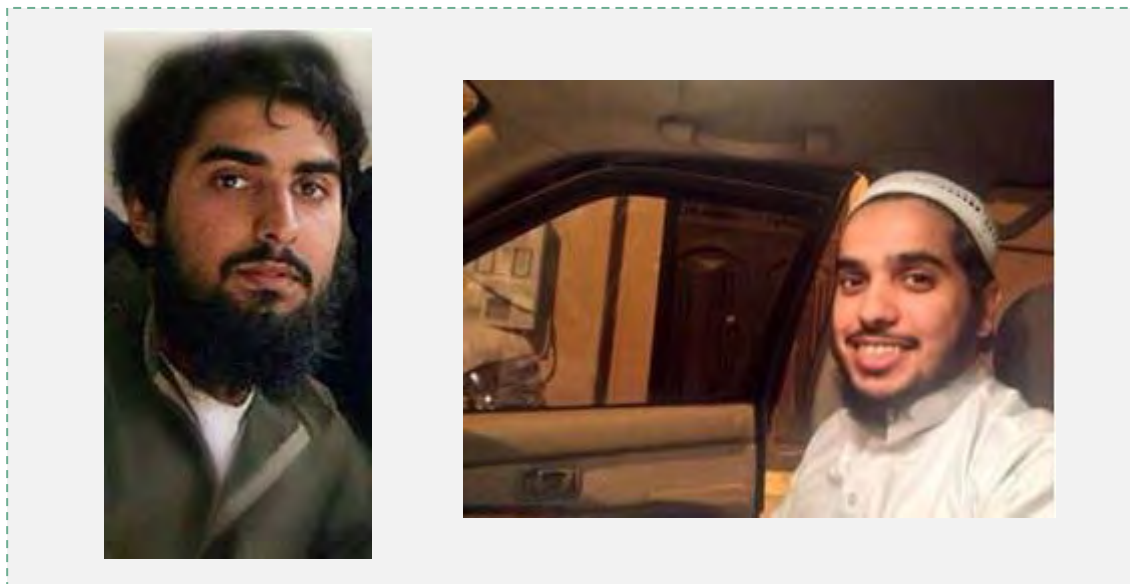
Left: Abdullah Suleiman al-Sabah (Slabnews.com)
Right: Muhammad Saad al-Zuwain (documents.sy).

Ahmed al-Saigh (Abu al-Izz al-Jazrawi) – From Buraidah. Killed in Aleppo on December 2, 2013.

Atiya Mafadi al-Anzi (Salam al-Rimi) – From Hafar al-Batin. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed during clashes between the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS in Al-Raqqah on December 5, 2013.

Ahmed al-Mune'i (Abu Salah al-Qassimi) - From Al-Qassim. Fought in the ranks of the ISIS. Killed in Al-Qamishli in northeastern Syria on December 6, 2013.

Azzam al-Ghamedi (Abu al-Walid al-Ghamedi) – Born in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, in 1967. Went to Afghanistan in 1988, where he fought until 1993. From there went to Tajikistan and in 1995 went to Chechnya, where he held a command position. He married a woman in Chechnya and they had two children. Killed in Aleppo on November 24, 2013.



Left: Azzam al- Ghamedi (Alplatformmedia.com)
Right: Ahmed al-Mune'i (Lebanon-daily.com)

Malek al-Hussein (Abu Salama) – From Al-Qassim. Killed in Aleppo on November 28, 2013.

Khaled Abdullah Nasser al-Qarni (Abu Abdullah al-Muhajir) – From Taif. Killed in Aleppo on November 28, 2013.

Muhammad Mat'ab al-Jarad al-Hariri al-Shamri (Abu Hafs al-Muhajir) – From Riyadh. Killed in Damascus on November 30, 2013.

Fahd Hassan Faraj al-Siari (Abu Hassan) – From Al-Shuwara. Killed on November 27, 2013

Eid Manaur al-Shamri (Abu Azzam) – From Ha'il. Killed in Deir Atiyah in the area of Damascus on November 27, 2013.

Hani Awad al-Shamri (Abu al-Baraa) – From Ha'il. Killed in Deir Atiyah in the area of Damascus on November 27, 2013.

Muhammad bin Dib al-Qahtani (Abu Dib al-Qahtani) – From Riyadh. Killed in Aleppo on November 24, 2013.

Badr Fahd Badr al-Fahid (Abu Jihad al-Najdi) – From Buraidah. Killed in Aleppo on November 24, 2013.

Abdullah Sami al-Fantouj (Abu Ja'far al-Najdi) – From Riyadh. Killed in Deir Atiyah in the area of Damascus on November 24, 2013.

Ibrahim al-Sahli (Abu Fahd) – From Al-Shamsia. Killed in Aleppo on November 24, 2013.

Ismail al-Mohsen (Abu Khaled al-Qassimi) – From Al-Qassim. Killed in Aleppo on November 24, 2013.

Hamoud al-Habishi (Abu Sufyan al-Madani) – From Medina. Killed in Al-Hasakah on November 23, 2013.

Abd al-Hakim Mohammad al-Khudairi (Hamza al-Najdi) – From Al-Qassim. Killed in Deir Atiyah in the area of Damascus on November 23, 2013.

Aa'idh Mubarak al-Ghamri al-Shahrani (Abu Hanin) – From Al-Jawf. Killed in Aleppo on November 24, 2013.

Adel Nayef al-Shamri (Abu Osama) – From Ha'il. **Major in the Saudi border police.** Reportedly defected and joined jihadi groups in Syria, although he did not admit it (Al-Safir, December 3, 2013). Fought in the ranks of the ISIS. Killed in Damascus on November 20, 2013.

Mutlaq bin Abdullah al-Mutlaq (Abu Abdullah) – From Riyadh. It was reported that he is the son of an important religious leader and university lecturer in Saudi Arabia. Killed in Damascus on November 20, 2013.



Left: Mutlaq bin Abdullah al-Mutlaq (shaghor.com)
Right: Adel Nayef al-Shamri (Rafha-news.com)

Abd al-Rahman Eid al-Adiani al-Atini (Abu Samia al-Atini) – From Riyadh. Killed in Damascus on November 20, 2013.

Abd al-Rahim al-Khatemi (Abu Osama) – From Jeddah. Killed in Aleppo on November 19, 2013.

Abdullah Amir Zafer al-Shahri – Al-Nusra Front operative. Killed in Idlib on January 14, 2013.



Left: Muhammad Duas al-Rahil al-Shamri (Abu Duas) (Saqeralasad2.wordpress.com)
Right: Abdullah Amir Zafer al-Shahri (Alkhabar-ts.com)

Abd al-Aziz al-Uthman – Senior Al-Nusra Front operative. Killed in the outskirts of Deir ez-Zor on April 25, 2013, in battle against the Syrian Army

(Centerfordocumentation.com). The most veteran Saudi foreign fighter in Syria (arrived in early 2012).

Ahmed bin Mufadi al-Saqri – Al-Nusra Front operative. Killed in February 2013 on the outskirts of Idlib ((centerfordocumentation.com).



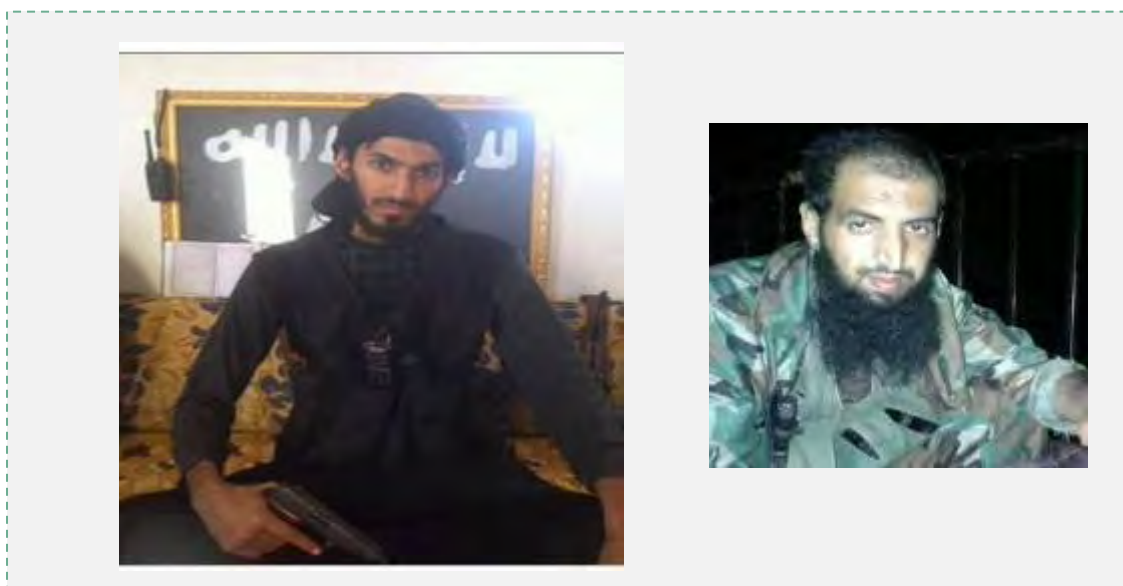
Left: Ahmed bin Mufadi al-Saqri. Right: Abd al-Aziz al-Uthman (centerfordocumentation.com)

Abu Malek al-Shahri, aka **the Syrian bin Laden** due to his similarity to Osama bin Laden. Al-Qaeda operative, fought in Afghanistan before joining the fighting in Syria in the ranks of the ISIS. Killed on the outskirts of Latakia on August 9, 2013 (www.alfwasel-sy.com).



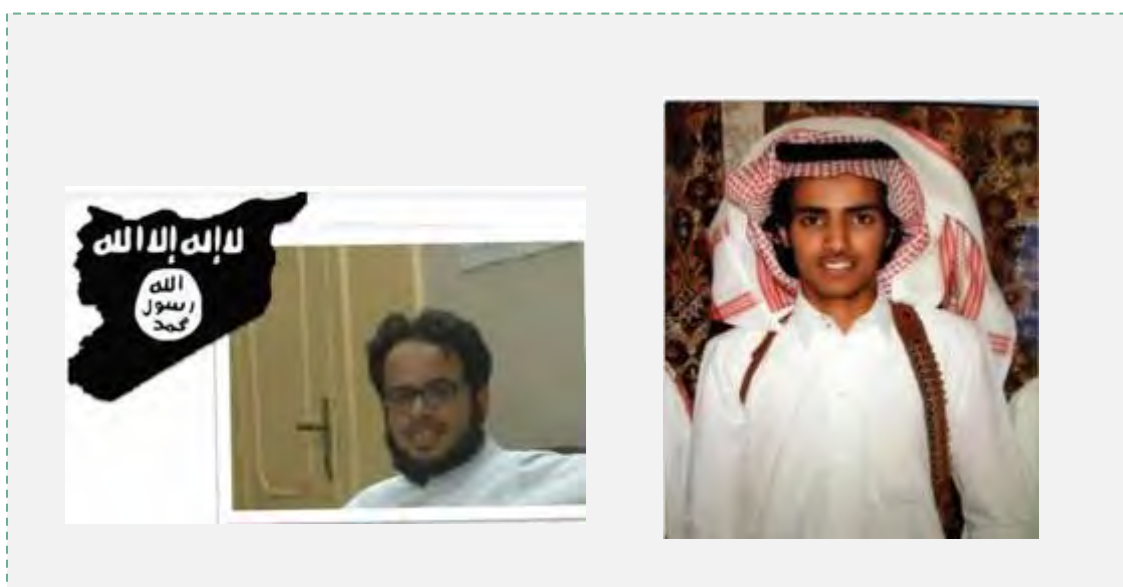
Abu Malek al-Shahri (Alfwasel-sy.com)

Ayid bin Mutab al-Utaibi – Al-Nusra Front operative. Previously fought in the ranks of Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. Killed by the Syrian Army in an unknown location in February 2013 (centerfordocumentation.com).



Left: Ayid bin Mutab al-Utaibi (Centerfordocumentation.com). Right: Abu Malek al-Shahri (Centerfordocumentation.com).

Abd al-Ilah al-Hadib – From Riyadh. Al-Nusra Front operative. Killed in Syria on January 1, 2013 (youtube.com)



Left: Abd al-Ilah al-Hadib in front of the Al-Qaeda insignia (YouTube) Right: Amjad al-Utaibi (Centerfordocumentation.com)

Sheikh Abdullah al-Mohaisany – Islamist preacher, joined the ranks of the rebels in late 2013 (Al-Safir, December 3, 2013).

Mutlaq al-Mutlaq – Killed in the fighting in Syria. Son of a Saudi major general (*liwa*). Self-proclaimed supporter of jihad fighters in Syria since 2012 (Al-Safir, December 3, 2013).

The Policy of the Local Authorities

66. Saudi Arabia maintains close ties with the Free Syrian Army and Islamic organizations among the rebel groups. It actively provides the rebels with money, weapons, foreign fighters and political support. Saudi policy is rooted in **a wide range of considerations and interests**. The Saudis are hostile to the Syrian Alawite regime and see the civil war in Syria as an important manifestation of the battle between Sunna and Shia in the Muslim world. They also see Syria as an important arena for curbing the ambitions of Iran (the main supporter of the Assad regime) for regional hegemony. However, the Saudi fighters may **pose a security threat for the Saudi regime as well, and may challenge the royal family upon their return (as happened in the 1990s following the return of Saudi fighters who took part in the fighting in Afghanistan)**.

67. An indication can be found in a statement by the Saudi Interior Ministry spokesman about the exposure of a terrorist network in Saudi Arabia, which was in contact with extremists in Syria and Yemen. The network was planning terrorist attacks against government facilities, Saudi government officials and foreign targets (Saudi Interior Ministry website, May 7, 2014). The spokesman for the Saudi Foreign Ministry reported that the network maintained contact with the ISIS and other rebel organizations (Theguardian.com, May 6, 2014).

68. Consequently, the Saudis aid the rebels, but do not want their aid to fall into the hands of organizations affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the global jihad. However, **in practice it is not always possible to make a clear distinction between the various Islamic groups**. In many cases, young people from Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries who joined the fighting in Syria found their way to **organizations affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the global jihad**, even if that was not the initial intention of the Saudi authorities.

69. Thus Saudi Arabia has often been accused of encouraging its citizens to go to fight in Syria. Saudi Arabia has denied the accusations and its religious and political leadership has often called on young Saudis to refrain from joining the global jihad fighters in Syria. For example, in March 2013 the Saudi minister of the interior said in an announcement that anyone returning from Syria would be penalized because

involvement in Syria was against Saudi law (Digitaljournal.com; arabnews.com, March 26, 2013).¹² However, such statements have not curbed the flow of Saudi fighters who have joined the fighting in Syria.

70. Late 2013 and the first half of 2014 **saw an increase in Saudi awareness of the need to fight against radical Islam affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the global jihad.** The fear of the possible negative consequences, both regional and domestic, from the establishment of Al-Qaeda and the global jihad in Syria has also increased. In December 2013 the Saudi government approved a new anti-terrorism law designed to regulate enforcement activities in order to thwart terrorism and subversion. The **Saudi authorities also began to take practical steps to prevent Saudi citizens from joining the fighters in Syria. The effect of the steps is not yet clear.**

71. On February 3, 2014, Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz **issued a royal decree prohibiting Saudi citizens from taking part in foreign wars and conflicts, under the new anti-terrorism law.** He also called on all those fighting outside Saudi Arabia to return immediately (www.ft.com, February 4, 2014). On February 5, 2014, two days after the publication of the decree, **it was reported that senior Saudi officials had instructed the Saudi Embassy in Ankara to facilitate the return of fighters from Syria** (Al-Hayat, February 5, 2014). It was subsequently reported that Saudi embassies in Amman, Beirut and Ankara had been instructed to offer every possible assistance to any Saudi who wanted to leave the armed groups in Syria (Al-Quds al-Arabi, April 19, 2014).

¹² Other examples: in response to the call for jihad in online forums, **Ali al-Hakimi**, a senior member of the Supreme Judicial Council (a religious body appointed by the government), said that it was forbidden unless authorized by the authorities. He said that even actions by individuals were liable to place the government in an awkward position. Another cleric, **Siraj al-Zahrani**, was quoted in the Saudi newspaper Okaz saying that he regretted that he volunteered to fight in Afghanistan in the 1980s and urged the families of the foreign fighters to prevent their sons from leaving for Syria (Al-Qabas, June 11, 2012, Reuters, September 12, 2012). In April 2013, the Grand Mufti **Abdul Aziz al-Sheikh**, said there was no religious justification for jihad in Syria (cnsnews.com, June 25, 2013).

Bahrain

Overview

72. The number of Bahraini fighters in Syria is estimated by the ITIC at **several dozen**. A number of Bahrainis have been killed in the war. Bahraini clerics and the Salafist party **Jam'iyyat al-Asalah al-Islamiyya** are involved in recruiting foreign fighters, arming them, financing them and sending them to Syria.¹³ The Bahraini fighters reach Syria via **Turkey**. Apparently **most of them join the Al-Nusra Front** and a small number join the Free Syrian Army and Islamist organizations.

73. Since mid-2012 there have been indications about fighters from Bahrain traveling to Syria. Speeches in praise of fighting in Syria have become common among Salafist preachers. For example, jihadi preacher **Adel al-Hamad**, whose son was killed in Syria while in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front, called on young people to join the jihad in Syria during their summer vacation (Al-Monitor, July 2, 2013). It was reported that Jam'iyyat al-Asalah al-Islamiyya party activists were running a project that combinee preparing fighters and sending weapons to Syria (Al-Monitor, July 2, 2013).

74. In August 2012, four Bahraini MPs from the al-Asalah Party entered Syria via Turkey. They met with fighters belonging to a military unit called **Suqur al-Sham** and provided financial support to 85 fighters. The Bahraini government claimed that the MPs' visit to Syria was made without its knowledge (Al-Monitor, July 2, 2013). In May 2013, it was reported that five Bahrainis were killed in Syria. All of them fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Two of them had previously served as officers in the Bahraini Army (abna.ir, June 5, 2013; Al-Monitor, July 18, 2013).

¹³ Jam'iyyat al-Asalah al-Islamiyya is a Salafist party promoting original Islamic religious law and resisting modernization. It maintains close ties with Saudi Arabia and is represented by four members in the Bahraini parliament. The party previously rejected Osama bin Laden and his ideology. In 2012-2013, the Bahraini minister of the interior announced the exposure of Salafist cells, who were accused of raising money for Al-Qaeda and gathering intelligence about targets in Bahrain (al-Monitor July 2, 2103).



Video dedicated to the Bahraini people in recognition of its assistance to the rebels in Syria (BH-mirror.no-ip.org, July 5, 2013).

75. In May 2013, an armed group from Deir ez-Zor announced the establishment of a military unit by the name of the Honorable Bahrain Battalion. The group announced that the name was given to the battalion because of the support they received from the government of Bahrain and the Bahraini people. In October 2012, a video was uploaded to the Internet showing Muslim fighters in Syria thanking a Bahraini who, they said, provided them with anti-aircraft weapons that changed the balance of power (Bh-mirror.no-ip.org, July 5, 2013). In addition, on June 14, 2013 **Faisal al-Ghurair**, a Salafist preacher in Bahrain, announced to his supporters in a speech that he had sent weapons and ammunition to fighters in Syria (Al-Monitor, July 2, 2013).



Delegation of Bahraini MPs meeting with the leaders of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria in August 2012 (bh-mirror.no-ip.org, July 5, 2013).

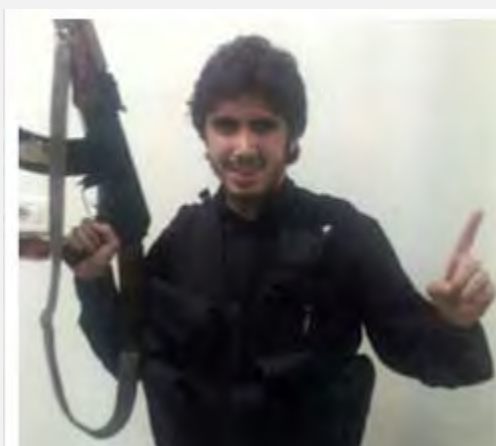
Bahraini Fighters

Bakr bin Abd al-Aziz, aka **Abu Hamam al-Athri** – Salafist-jihadi preacher and mufti. One of the leaders of the ISIS. Fought in Aleppo. Has published numerous fatwas on online jihadi forums, especially **Minbar al-Tawhid wal-Jihad**. At the end of November 2013 issued a call to pledge allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS, sparking criticism among supporters of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri (who supports the Al-Nusra Front). His mentor was **Mohammad Taher al-Barqawi**, aka **Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi**, a Jordanian Palestinian jihadist preacher with considerable influence on Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, who witnessed the killing of the Al-Qaeda representative in Iraq (although recently there have been confrontations between him and Al-Atari in light of the dispute between the ISIS and the Al-Nusra Front).

Abd al-Rahman Adel Hassan al-Hamad (Abu Awf al-Bahraini) – 19 years old, killed in the fighting in Syria on May 26, 2013. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front in Al-Qusayr. Went to fight in Syria twice. His father is **Adel Hassan al-Hamad**, a Salafist preacher and imam in Bahrain, who (as noted above) called on Bahraini young people to join in the jihad in Syria (Dailystar.com.lb, May 30, 2013).

Abd al-Rahman al-Uthman (Abu Turab al-Muhajir) – 21 years old. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed on October 9, 2012, during clashes with Syrian army in Idlib.

Ibrahim Muhi al-Din Khan (Abu Khalil al-Bahraini) – 22 years old, son of **Muhi al-Din Khan Abu al-Harith**, secretary general of the National Justice Movement. Went to Syria and returned to Bahrain a few months later. Went again and was killed in Idlib a month later, along with four of his friends, on September 4, 2013.



Left: Ibrahim Muhi al-Din Khan (Syriasy.blogspot.com). Right: Abd al-Rahman al-Uthman, aka Abu Turab al-Muhajir (Taaj-a-k-bh.com)

Abd al-Mun'em Ali – Bahraini of Syrian descent. Killed in Syria on June 3, 2013, during the fighting between the forces of the Assad regime and the Al-Nusra Front (Abna.ir, June 5, 2013).



Left: Abd al-Rahman Adel Hassan al-Hamad against the background of the Al-Qaeda flag (Almanar.com.lb). Right: Abd al-Mun'em Ali (Abna.ir, June 5, 2013)

The Policy of the Local Authorities

76. Upon learning of the death of Bahraini fighters in Syria, the Bahraini minister of the interior warned citizens not to travel to Syria to fight. He advised Bahraini youth to stay away from regional and international conflicts and to focus on self-fulfillment and the development of state and society. Bahraini law prohibits contact with armed groups and transferring funds or interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.

77. In February 2014 it was reported that the Bahraini authorities were taking steps to prevent Bahraini citizens from joining the fighting in Syria. To this end, a proposed amendment to the anti-terrorism law imposes a five-year prison sentence on anyone who fights outside the country. At the same time, the country's ministry of the interior ordered the monitoring of social networks that recruit fighters, as well as charitable contributions and money transfers related to extremist organizations (Al-Akhbar in English, February 26, 2014). The effect of these steps is yet unclear.

Kuwait

Overview

78. According to several reports, **there are a few dozen Kuwaiti fighters in Syria**. More than ten of them have been killed in battle. Most of the Kuwaiti fighters came to Syria via **Turkey**.

Kuwaiti Fighters

Abu Suleiman al-Kuwaiti – According to Syria Human Rights Watch, he was killed during a battle between the forces of the Assad regime and the Al-Nusra Front in Shadadi, near the northwestern border of Syria. The Free Syrian Army reported that he was killed during an attack on a Syrian Army security facility (Arabtimesonline.com, February 15, 2013).

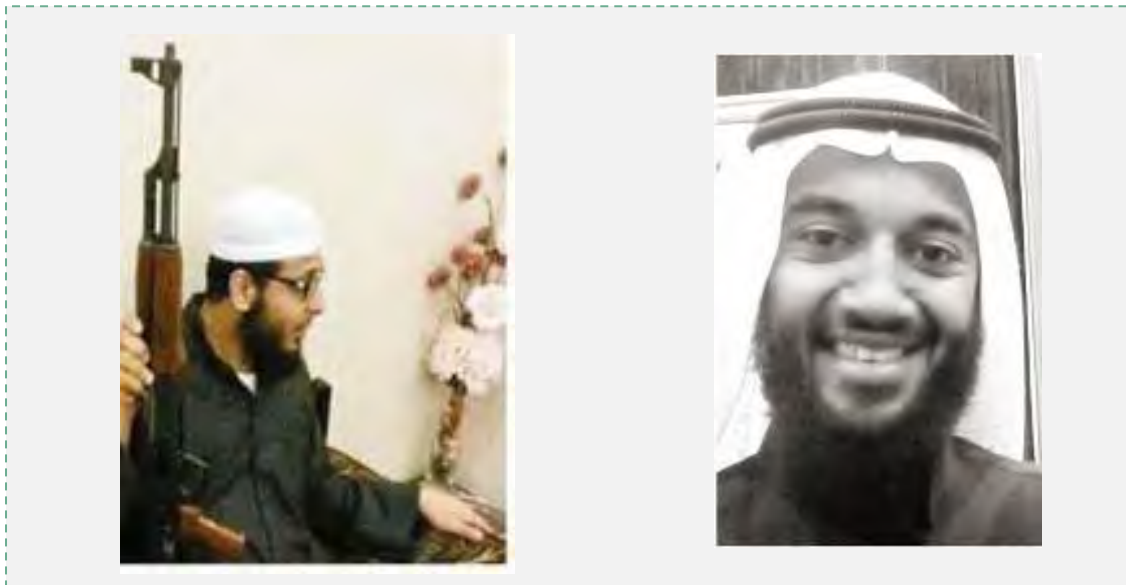
Khaled al-Diham – 23 years old, killed during a battle in Deir ez-Zor (Arabtimesonline.com, February 15, 2013).

Nasser Falah Ghadian al-Hilan al-Dosamri (?) – From the region of Fahd. Preacher, belonged to Syrian support forum of the Al-Dawasir tribe in Kuwait and for that reason persuaded to go to Syria. Killed on August 4, 2013 during a Syrian Army attack on the rebels in Latakia (News.kuwaittimes.net, October 30, 2013).

Mansour al-Afi al-Saqri al-Anzi (Abu Abd al-Rahman) – Killed in Latakia on August 10, 2013.

Badr Mahri al-Badali (Abu Ayyub al-Kuwaiti) – Born May 1980, accountant, studied in Egypt, returned to Kuwait, went to study in Britain, returned a radical Muslim. His brother Omar said he went to **Turkey** on January 19, 2013. A few days previously he told his family that he was planning to fight in Syria. They tried to convince him to donate money

but he insisted on going despite his being nearsighted (News.kuwaittimes.net, August 29, 2013). Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Hama on June 13, 2013.



Left: Badr Mahri al-Badali (kuwait.tt). Right: Salah al-Din Huraibi al-Anzi (Twitter).

Muhammad Abdullah Akshan al-Habini al-Fahdi al-Ajamai – Killed in Homs on September 24, 2013.

Abd al-Hadi bin Faisal al-Ubaidi al-Qahtani (Abu Faisal al-Kuwaiti) – Killed in Aleppo on November 24, 2013.

Salah al-Din Huraibi al-Anzi (Abu Assad) – Killed on July 14, 2013.

Nawaf Farhan Mahush (?) al-Ma'dani Lazfiri (?) – From Al-Jahra. Killed in Homs on May 31, 2013.

Muhammad Abdullah al-Dawsari (Abu Talha al-Kuwaiti) – from ABU al-Ghadia. Killed in prison in Damascus in 2013.

Said Maadi al-Qaraqaa al-Qahtani (Abu Hissa) – Killed in Al-Raqqah on November 12, 2012.

Khaled Hadi al-Dihani al-Mutairi (Abu Suleiman al-Kuwaiti) – 23 years old, college student. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Deir ez-Zor on February 17, 2013. His brother was killed in Iraq in 2004.



Khaled Hadi al-Dihani al-Mutairi (Alplatformmedia.com)

Faisal Hamad Ayad al-Khiyari al-Rashidi (Abu Talha al-Kuwaiti) – From Al-Jahra. Killed in Dara'a on March 23, 2013.

Saud Fayez al-Huwaila al-Azmi (Abu Muhammad) – Kuwaiti preacher who had previously fought in Bosnia and Chechnya. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Idlib on July 23, 2013 (Centerfordocumentation.com).



Saud Fayez al-Huwaila (Centerfordocumentation.com)

The Policy of the Local Authorities

79. Kuwait supports the rebels in Syria and allows sending foreign fighters and transferring funds. Salafist-jihadi charities, clerics and wealthy individuals from Kuwait are involved in sending aid to the rebels. In all probability some of the aid eventually

reaches organizations affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the global jihad, even if it was not originally intended for them.

80. One of the most prominent clerics helping the rebels is **Shafi al-Ajmi**, a Salafist sheikh who participated in the jihad fighter recruitment campaign held in Kuwait in the first half of 2013 and entitled “Campaign to Train 12,000 Jihad Fighters to Fight in Syria.” The sheikh announced that the objective of the campaign was to purchase of anti-aircraft missiles, IEDs, RPG launchers and other weapons for the jihad fighters. Another figure in Kuwait is involved purchasing weapons and raising funds for the rebels in Syria is a Salafist movement member and former MP, **Dr. Walid al-Tabatabai**.¹⁴

81. Kuwaiti Justice and Islamic Affairs Minister **Nayef al-Ajmi** strongly denied statements by senior officials at the United States Department of the Treasury who claim that he is financing terrorism and calling for jihad in Syria.¹⁵ According to him, unlike the other Gulf States, Kuwaiti government policy opposes arming the rebels in Syria and all the donations sent from Kuwait are donations for humanitarian purposes only (www.nation.com.pk, April 1, 2014).

82. Kuwait is the only country in the Gulf States where there is no anti-terrorism legislation. Inspired by the royal decree issued by the king of Saudi Arabia which imposes a penalty of three to twenty years in prison on any citizen who goes to fight outside the country, Kuwait is considering enacting a similar law. Nevertheless, it was reported that for the past year and a half Kuwait has been arresting preachers at mosques who call on citizens to go fight in Syria, but it has no legal means to deal with fundraising for the purchase of weapons (Al-Sharq al-Awsat, February 26, 2014).

Qatar

83. Qatar is one of the leading countries assisting the rebels, providing money, weapons and political aid. **A few Qatari citizens have apparently volunteered to fight in Syria.** It is unclear whether their departure for Syria is individual or organized. At least eight foreign fighters from Qatar are known to have died in the fighting in Syria.

¹⁴For additional information about Dr. Walid al-Tabatabai and fundraising in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, see ITIC study on the Al-Nusra Front, September 23, 2013.

¹⁵ In late March 2014, United States Undersecretary of the Treasury David Cohen issued a report stating that the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs of Kuwait and the minister who headed it were collecting money in mosques in order to finance terrorism. According to the report, Minister al-Ajmi “has a history of promoting jihad in Syria,” and “his image has been featured on fundraising posters for a prominent Al-Nusra Front financier” (www.examiner.com, March 31, 2014).

Most of them are fighting in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front and organizations affiliated with the global jihad.

Hamad bin Muqled al-Muraikhi – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front, killed in Damascus on June 11, 2013, apparently in a suicide bombing attack¹⁶.

Ilmi bin Aa'idh bin Hamad Suyan al-Jamih al-Hababi – Apparently had served as an intelligence officer in Qatar before departing for Syria. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Aleppo on June 15, 2013.



Left: Ilmi bin Aa'idh bin Hamad Suyan al-Jamih al-Hababi (www.shaghor.com)
Right: Hamad bin Muqled al-Muraikhi (centerfordocumentation.com)

Abdullah Mohsen al-Basis al-Mara (Abu al-Zubair al-Qatari) – There are claims that his real name is **al-Jalimar** (?) (Topnews-nasserkandil.com). Arrived in Syria approximately a year before he was killed. Fought in the ranks of the ISIS. Participated in several battles in the area of Aleppo. Killed at the airport in Aleppo on August 5, 2013.

¹⁶ On June 11, 2013, two suicide bombers carried out a suicide bombing attack near a police building in central Damascus. Fourteen people were killed and 30 injured (BBC, June 11, 2013).



Abdullah Mohsen al-Basis al-Mara ((www.alfwasel-sy.com))

Lebanon

Overview

84. The number of Lebanese Sunnis fighting in the ranks of the rebels in Syria is estimated by the ITIC at **many dozen**. **Some of them are Lebanese Sunnis and some are Lebanese Palestinians living in refugee camps in Lebanon**. The two main sources of foreign fighters are **the Ein al-Hilweh refugee camp** in southern Lebanon, **and Tripoli**, in the north, which has a Sunni Muslim population. About 35 have been killed in Syria fighting in the ranks of the rebels. On the other hand, there are Lebanese Shiites fighting in support of the Syrian regime (the vast majority belonging to Hezbollah), **whose number is estimated at several thousand**. Most of the Sunni Lebanese foreign fighters are sent to Syria by Salafist clerics or by networks affiliated with **Al-Qaeda and the global jihad**.

85. A few of the Lebanese who joined the ranks of the rebels were **Fath al-Islam** operatives. It is a Sunni jihadist organization established in 2006 and affiliated with the global jihad. Its main base was the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp in northern Lebanon. In 2007 its operatives in Nahr al-Bared clashed with Lebanese army forces and were defeated. The organization continues to operate in Lebanon, albeit on a limited scale. It was also reported that **Salafist sheikhs from Tripoli** were sending jihadi operatives to fight in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS (Al-Akhbar, December 11, 2013).

86. On November 28, 2012, a large group of young people from Tripoli were killed in battle in Homs. Their bodies were returned to Lebanon after efforts were made by the

leaders of the Lebanese government and high-ranking Lebanese Army officers. It also seems that the fighting in Al-Qusayr, led by Hezbollah, motivated a large number of Sunni Lebanese from Tripoli to leave for Syria to fight alongside the Sunni rebels against the forces of the Assad regime. It is estimated that around 30 Lebanese Sunnis from Tripoli were killed in the battle of Al-Qusayr. All the fighters apparently came at their own expense and purchased their own weapons. Those who were injured also had to cover the cost of medical treatment (Al-Jazeera TV, February 14, 2014).

Lebanese Fighters (Sunni)

Hussam al-Sham – Lebanese with French citizenship. On August 27, 2012 it was reported on a Facebook page that he was killed during shelling by the Assad regime forces near the Syrian-Lebanese border. He lived in France until the age of 11, when his family left France and moved to Lebanon, later Saudi Arabia and then the UAE. He went to Afghanistan and Chechnya, where he was injured. In the years before joining the fighting in Syria he lived in Lebanon. He went to Syria several times. He encouraged Syrian rebels to adhere to Islam and join the Free Syrian Army, in order not to leave Syria in the hands of the secular population (Rightsidenews.com, April 24, 2013).

Khaled Mahmoud – One of the leaders of Fath al-Islam in Lebanon. Went to Syria shortly after his release from prison in Lebanon in June 2012 and joined the rebel forces. He heads an armed group by the name of **Jihad al-Sham** and gave himself the title of Emir (English.al-akhbar.com, January 4, 2013).

Omar Izz al-Din (Abu Suleiman al-Tarabulsi) – From Tripoli. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Held the title of Emir (www.lebanondebate.com). Killed in Homs on May 24, 2013.



Left: Omar Izz al-Din (jalnosra.com)
 Right: Omar Izz al-Din (www.lebanondebate.com)

Abd Ghani Jawhar - Fath al-Islam leader. Killed in late April, 2012. Previously wanted in Lebanon (Agence France-Presse, July 26, 2013).

Abu Hussam al-Shami (Abd al-Aziz al-Karakli) – Killed in an ambush near Damascus according to an announcement issued by Fath al-Islam (www.longwarjournal.org, September 5, 2012).

87. **Hussein al-Sharif al-Darwish** – Killed in Homs. Belonged to Fath al-Islam. Came to Syria after residing in Yemen. Three of his brothers and a nephew were also killed (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013).

Hussein Srour – From Tripoli. Killed in an ambush in **Talkalah**, near the Syrian-Lebanese border on November 28, 2012. Apparently fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front or another organization affiliated with Al-Qaeda (Wap.sawtakonline.com).

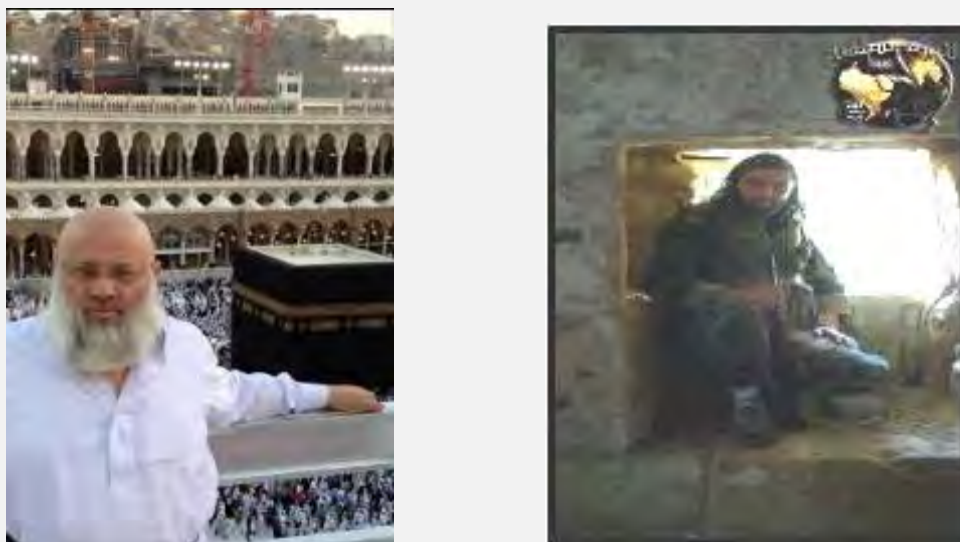
Yousef Abu Uraida – From Tripoli, fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed on November 28, 2012 (arabic.rt.com).



Left: Hussein Srour (wap.sawtakonline.com)
Right: Yousef Abu Uraida (arabic.rt.com)

Jamal al-Yafi – Killed on September 12, 2012. From Tripoli. Fought in Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation. Active in the forums of Al-Qaeda, advocated mobilization to jihadi groups (Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013).

Hussein al-Sharif al-Darwish – Senior Fath al-Islam operative in Lebanon. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Served as the Emir of the Tripoli area. Killed in Homs on March 10, 2013 (www.flickr.com).



Left: Jamal al-Yafi. Right: Hussein al-Sharif al-Darwish
(Convoy of Martyrs in the Levant, June 2013)

Moatassem Khaldun al-Hassan (Abu Muadh, Abu Moatassem) – From Tripoli. Belonged to Jund al-Sham. Killed in a suicide bombing attack on a Syrian Army checkpoint in rural Homs on August 2, 2013 (Centerfordocumentation.com). Previously

resided in Sweden for several years. Returned to Tripoli, Lebanon, in 2012. One of his relatives was killed in the ranks of Fath al-Islam in Nahr al-Bared in 2007. One of his relatives is imprisoned in Germany for terrorist activity (Gudmundson.blogpost.com, August 3, 2013).

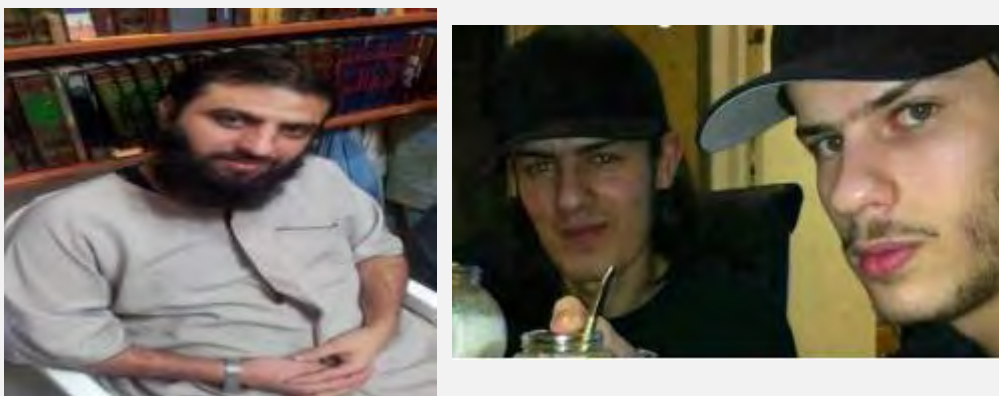


Left: the explosive belt worn by Moatassem Khaldun al-Hassan
Right: Moatassem Khaldun al-Hassan (www.alqabas-kw.com, August 4, 2013).



Left: Abu Abd al-Rahman and Moatassem Khaldun al-Hassan (Abu Moatassem) (Facebook page of Jund al-Sham)
Right: Moatassem Khaldun al-Hassan (Abu Muadh) (Facebook page of Jund al-Sham')

Hassan Khaldun al-Hassan (Abu Uthman) – From Tripoli. Moatassem's brother Killed on the same day in an onslaught on Homs.



Left: Hussein al-Sharif al-Darwish (www.flickr.com)
 Right: the two brothers from Tripoli, Hassan and Moatassem al-Hassan
 (Centerfordocumentation.com).

Aziz – College student from Tripoli. From a wealthy family; his father works in Saudi Arabia. Studied civil engineering. Was about to marry; his parents bought him a house and a car. He disappeared in 2013 shortly before he finished his studies, and went to fight in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. According to his family, he is probably in Homs. His mother received a phone call from someone who identified himself as the Emir of the military group that her son belonged to and asked for \$20,000 in exchange for the return of her son to Tripoli. The mother agreed to pay but the call was disconnected. Aziz sent a similarly worded text message to his relatives (Dailystar.com.lb, March 18, 2014).

Abu Hurriya – Salafist, 24, from Tripoli. Worked as a guard at a hospital. His father was a member of **Liwa al-Tawhid** and was killed by Syrian forces in the early 1990s. He crossed the Syrian-Lebanese border and along with 16 friends arrived in Al-Qusayr, where they fought against Hezbollah and the Syrian Army. Claimed that when Hezbollah announced that it was assisting the forces of the Assad regime, he felt it was his duty as a Sunni to fight against them. He came to Syria without combat experience. He later acquired assault skills and joined the fighters at the front. Only two members of the group with whom he came to Syria returned to Lebanon. The rest were killed in battle. Abu Hurriya himself returned to Lebanon after being wounded (Al-Jazeera, February 14, 2014).



Abu Hurriya (Al-Jazeera, February 14, 2014).

Abdullah Al-Hajj Ahmed (Abu Yahya al-Maqdisi) – From the Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp. Killed in Homs on October 31, 2013.

Baraa Ahmed Ghali (Abu al-Laith al-Maqdisi) – From Sidon. Killed in Deir al-Atiyah, Damascus, on November 20, 2013.

Mo'ataz Abbas – From Tripoli. Killed in Damascus on November 23, 2013.

Majd Salha (Abu Aisha al-Lubnani) – From Taalabaya. Killed in October 2013

Ali Jubairi (Abu Omar al-Tarabulsi) – From Tripoli. Killed in Homs on October 24, 2013.

Ahmed Mansour (Abu al-Baraa al-Muhajir) – From Tripoli. Killed in Homs on July 11, 2013.

Ammar Moussa (Abu Islam) – From Tripoli. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Homs on July 11, 2013.



Left: Ammar Moussa (Esgmarkets.com)
Right: Ahmed Mansour (Esgmarkets.com)

Muhammad Danawi – Killed in Al-Qusayr on May 28, 2013.

Hussein Dargham – From Baalbek. Killed in Damascus on June 1, 2013.

Samer Abd al-Rahim al-Rish (Abu Abd al-Rahim) – From Tripoli. Served a number of jail terms in Lebanon. Commander in Jund al-Sham. Killed in Homs on July 11, 2013.

Ibrahim Mubarak (Abu Sajed) – From the Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp. Killed in Al-Qusayr on May 24, 2013.



Left: Ibrahim Mubarak (almhajralaslami.blogspot.com)
Right: Samer Abd al-Rahim al-Rish (Facebook)

Hassan Mousawi Agha – from Tripoli. Killed in Al-Qusayr on May 27, 2013.

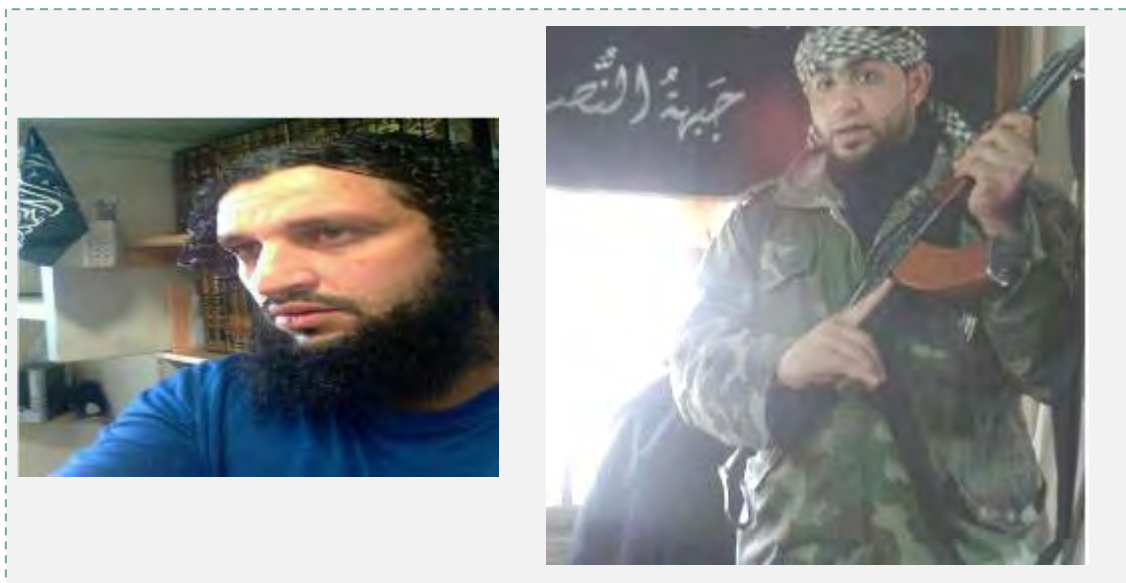
Hussam Mansour – From Tripoli. Killed in Al-Qusayr on May 8, 2013.



Left: Hussam Mansour (www.annahar.com)
Right: Hassan Mousawi Agha (www.vdc-sy.info)

Maher Muhammad Bahr Sukkar (Abu Abd al-Aziz al-Maqdisi) – Palestinian. 30 years old, from the Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp. Grew up in an orphanage. Was active for many years at the local Scouts troop. Was a member of a musical band. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Al-Qusayr on May 19, 2013.

Abd al-Nasser Sanjar (Abu Omar) – From Tripoli, killed in Homs on November 8, 2012.



Left: Abd al-Nasser Sanjar (Abu Omar) (www.alkhabar-ts.com)
Right: Maher Muhammad Bahr Sukkar (twitmail.com)

Ahmed Mustafa Shehab – From Akkar. Killed in Homs on May 20, 2013.

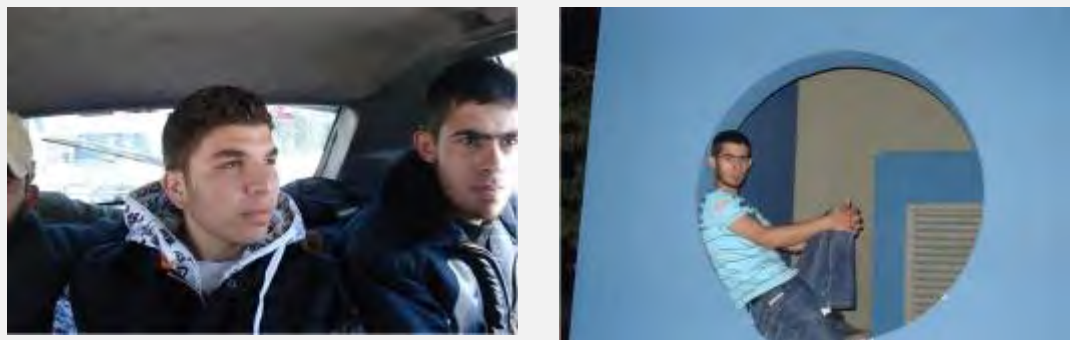
Mahmoud Abd al-Qader (Abu Obeida al-Maqdisi) – From the Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp. Killed in Al-Qusayr on January 21, 2013.

Abu Yahya – Killed on March 7, 2013.

Hussein Srour – From Tripoli. Killed in Homs on November 28, 2012.

Bilad al-Ghoul (Abu al-Baraa) – Killed in Homs on November 28, 2012.

Malek al-Hajj Dib – From Tripoli. Killed in Homs on November 28, 2012.



Left: Malek al-Hajj Dib (Now.mmedia.me/lb)
Right: Bilal al-Ghoul (Now.mmedia.me/lb)

Mahmoud Kamel Suleiman – From the Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp. Killed on January 17, 2013.

Mohammad Muslim al-Hajj – From Tripoli. Killed in Homs on November 28, 2012.

Mohammad al-Mir – From Tripoli. Killed in Homs on November 28, 2012.

Abd al-Wahed Ahmed al-Uthman al-Dandashi – Fought in the ranks of the Free Syrian Army. Was one of the first Lebanese killed in the fighting in Syria. Killed in Homs during an assault on a Syrian Army checkpoint, on August 7, 2012.



Left: Abd al-Wahed Ahmed al-Uthman al-Dandashi (Lebanon) (Facebook)
Right: Mohammad al-Mir (www.hawamer.com)

Muhammad al-Nabhan – From Tripoli. Killed in Homs on November 28, 2012.

Abu Handal – From Tripoli. Killed in Homs on November 28, 2012.

Khadr Mustafa Alam al-Din – Killed in Homs on November 28, 2012.

Abd al-Rahman al-Hassan – From Tripoli. Killed in Homs on November 28, 2012.

Abd al-Rahman al-Ayyubi – From Tripoli. Killed in Homs on November 28, 2012.

The Policy of the Lebanese Government

88. The Lebanese government denies the involvement of any Lebanese in the civil war in Syria, both in support of the regime and in the ranks of the rebels. However, in practice, the weak Lebanese government is unable to prevent Lebanese fighters from traveling to Syria, most of whom are Hezbollah operatives fighting in support of the Assad regime.

Iraq

Overview

89. The Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS, (rival) organizations affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the global jihad, **comprise a hard core of Al-Qaeda operatives in Iraq, who fought under the leadership of Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi.** The Iraqi operatives moved to Syria after the outbreak of the civil war, when the fighting against the United States in Iraq ended. **In our assessment, the hard core, which has joined forces with the Syrian Salafist-jihadi operatives, constitutes the chain of command of the organizations affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the global jihad.** Conversely, **there are also several thousand Shiite foreign fighters from Iraq fighting in Syria alongside the Syrian regime.** The number of Sunni Iraqi operatives in Syria has been estimated by us as **many hundreds** (the information about them is sparse).

90. Western Iraq is currently (June 2014) controlled by jihadist organizations, the most prominent of which is the ISIS. In January 2014, they organizations occupied **Fallujah**, the most important city in the region, and have controlled it since then. Their achievements created territorial contiguity between areas under the control of jihadist organizations in western Iraq and in eastern Syria and northward, facilitating the military activities of the ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

91. Thus the ISIS both threatens the stability of the Iraqi regime and conducts **extensive cross-border military operations**, especially in northern and eastern Syria. It is currently fighting successfully on three fronts: against the Syrian regime, against the Iraqi regime and against the Al-Nusra Front (Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, the adversary from within). At this point, the weak Iraqi regime has difficulty curbing its activity.

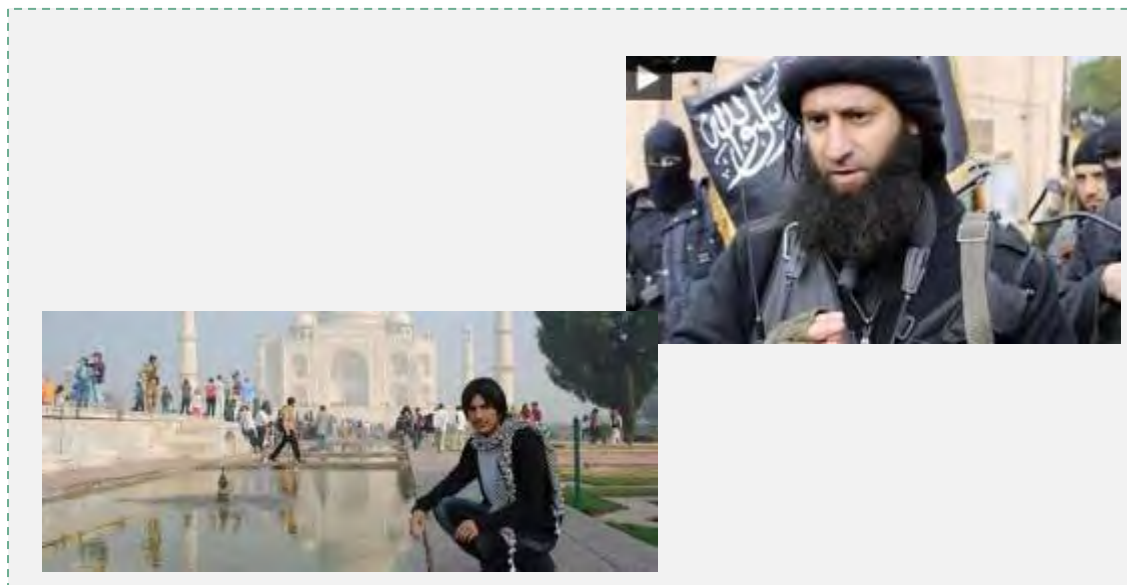
Iraqi Fighters

Kahiwan – From Kurdistan. Killed in October 2013

Qusari (Abu Khaled) – From Kurdistan. Killed in Aleppo on November 18, 2013.

Abu Bakr al-Iraqi – From Fallujah. Fought in the ranks of the ISIS. According to several reports, he was the second most important operative in the organization. Killed in Aleppo on April 8, 2013.

Haokar Muhammad al-Kurdi – 25 years old, Kurd, from Sulaymaniyah. Studied pharmacology in India. Left school and went to Syria. Killed in Aleppo on February 12, 2013.



Left: Haokar Muhammad al-Kurdi (Alkhabar-ts.com)
Right: Abu Bakr al-Iraqi (Alalam.ir).

Abu Othman al-Iraqi – Fought in the ranks of the ISIS. Killed in Homs on July 23, 2013.

Abu Salem al-Iraqi – Killed in Deir ez-Zor in March 2013.

Abu al-Laith al-Sunni – Killed in Damascus on November 5, 2012.

Abu Nawras al-Iraqi – Killed in 2012.

Jordan

Overview

92. The ITIC estimate of the number of Jordanian fighters in Syria is **more than 1,000**; many of them are Palestinian Jordanians. Some higher Jordanian estimates quote figures ranging between 1,200 and 1,800 (Amman Net, April 6, 2014; Al-Ghad, 5 May 2014). **The number of Jordanian fatalities ranges from 85 (end 2013) to 120 (April 2014).** (According to the higher estimate, the number of fatalities is 250). In addition, **hundreds of Jordanian fighters are reportedly waiting for an opportunity to leave for Syria** (Al-Ghad, May 5, 2014)¹⁷. Most of the Jordanian fighters joined the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS.

93. As in other Arab countries, most of the Jordanian fighters in Syria are from **outlying areas** and not from the capital, Amman. Most of the Jordanian fighters come from the regions of **Ma'an, Salt and Zarqa-Russeifa**. Ma'an and Salt are **centers of poverty and unemployment**. The city of Zarqa is the birthplace of Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, former head of the Al-Qaeda branch in Iraq, who was killed in a targeted killing by the United States.

94. **Mohammad al-Shalabi**, leader of the Salafist movement in Jordan, has openly supported **sending Jordanian fighters to fight in Syria** because, he said, it is the duty of every Muslim around the world to help the rebels. According to Islamic sources, most of the Jordanians who went to Syria **joined the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front**, where many of them occupy **senior leadership positions thanks to previous military experience acquired in Iraq, Afghanistan and Chechnya** (Jordantimes.com, July 13, 2013). According to reports, **Dr. Sami al-Uraydi**, graduate of the Faculty of Sharia at the University of Jordan, is a prominent figure in the religious ruling system of the Al-Nusra Front (Al-Ghad, 5 May 2014).

¹⁷ According to an American research institute, the number of fatalities (as at early May 2014) is estimated at 250. The leader of the Salafist movement in Jordan, **Muhammad al-Shalabi (Abu Sayyaf)**, claimed that hundreds of believers want to leave for Syria to protect their brothers and sisters (The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, article by David Schenker, May 5, 2014).

Involvement of Jordanians in Suicide Bombing Attacks

95. Jordanian fighters **who carried out suicide bombing attacks in Syria** on behalf of the **Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS** are prominent. Among the Jordanian suicide bombers, the number of **Palestinian Jordanians** is notable.

Jordanian Fighters Who Carried Out Suicide Bombing Attacks



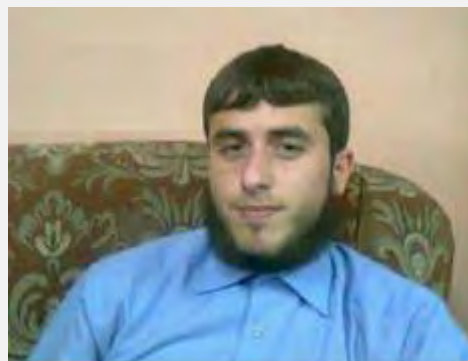
Abdullah Muhammad Afif al-Siddeh – Jordanian Palestinian, 17 years old, from Russaifa. Carried out a suicide bombing attack in a building of the Syrian regime security forces in Rukn al-Din neighborhood in Damascus on June 23, 2013 (Shaghor.com)



Amar Saadat al-Jamzawi (Abu Haitham) – Jordanian Palestinian, 20 years old, resident of Jabal al-Rahma, in Zarqa. Carried out a suicide bombing attack on September 4, 2013, at the Ma'loula Syrian Army checkpoint north of Damascus, using a car bomb. Belonged to the Al-Nusra Front (Hournews.com).



Imad al-Natour (Abu Hassan) – 35 (or 37) years old, from Irbid, Palestinian. Father of nine. Carried out a suicide bombing attack in a Syrian army building in Dara'a on November 10, 2012. Belonged to the Al-Nusra Front (Alsawt.com).



Amin Hassan al-Juyusi – 21 years old from Mafraq, possibly Palestinian. Carried out a suicide bombing attack against the Syrian Army in the suburbs of Damascus on May 21, 2013. Belonged to the Al-Nusra Front (Facebook)



Nasser al-Dalkamouni – From Irbid. Carried out a suicide bombing attack on October 12, 2012, together with Mahmoud Abd al-Aal, at the Syrian Army camp in Dara'a (Bellanews.net). In a videotape released by a jihadist website he called for the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate and expressed support for the Al-Nusra Front (Ctc.usma.edu, October 24, 2013).



Mahmoud Abd al-Aal – 33 years old, a Jordanian Palestinian, from the Al-Bakaa refugee camp, a mechanic, very religious and father of five. Was married to the daughter of Jordanian Salafist Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Tahawi. Carried out a suicide bombing attack on October 12, 2012, together with another Jordanian named Nasser al-Dalkamouni at the Syrian Army camp in f Dara'a. The two men blew themselves up, one after the other, with explosive belts (Muslm.org).

Other Jordanian Fighters

Muhammad Yassin Jarad – Killed on January 16, 2013, in As-Suwayda, while fighting in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. **The son-in-law of Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi**, a senior Jordanian Al-Qaeda operative who founded the organization's branch in Iraq. His father, Yassin, was responsible for the car bomb attack in Najaf, Iraq, in 2013, which killed Mohammad Baqer al-Hakim, a Shiite leader in Iraq (Flash-intel.com, June 2013).



Muhammad Yassin Jarad (openchannel.nbcnews.com, January 3, 2013)

Hamdan Ismail Aashur – 22 years old, from of Russaifa. Killed in March 2013 while fighting in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front in Dara'a. According to Musa Abdullah, a lawyer representing the operatives of the Salafist-jihadi movement in Jordan, he was the 35th Jordanian killed fighting in the ranks of Islamic organizations. He went to Syria in December 2012, joined the Al-Nusra Front and fought in southern Syria (Jordantimes.com, March 27, 2013).

Imad al-Natour (Abu Ihsan) – possibly Palestinian (al-Natour is a Palestinian name). Killed in combat in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front (ICT.org.il).

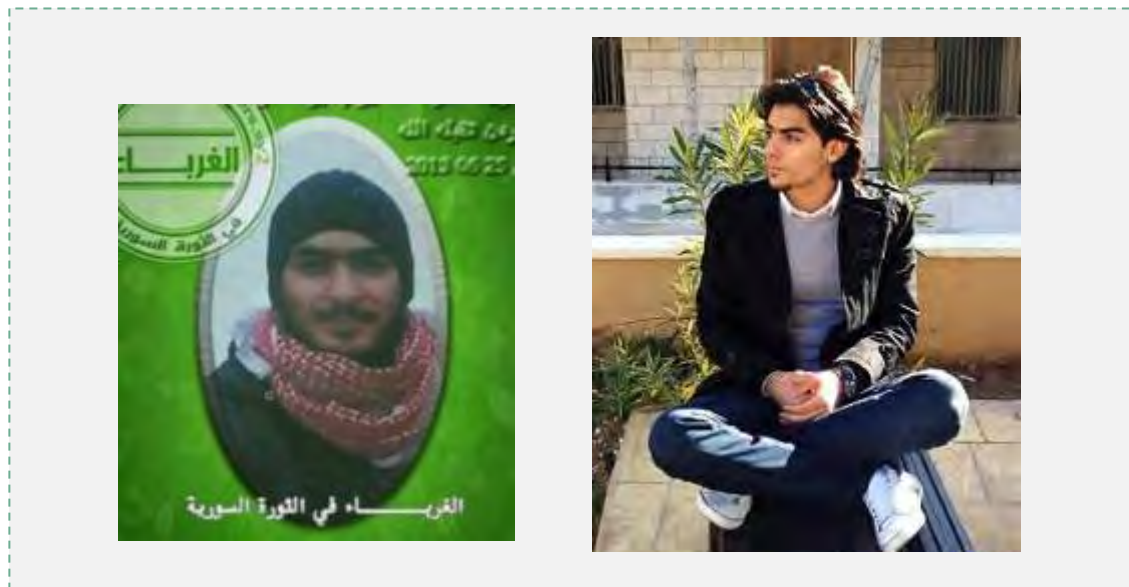
Anas Yasin Awjat – From Ma'an. Killed in a clash with the Syrian Army in Dara'a (En.ammonnews.net, June 1, 2013).

Amjad al-Zinati – Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed on July 31, 2013, fighting against the Syrian Army on the outskirts of Damascus (the (Facebook page of) age of For Mother Syria, August 7, 2013).

Abdullah Bassam Aref al-Khatib – Palestinian from Zarqa, fifth-year medical student in Germany. Went to fight in Syria. Killed on May 6, 2013, in Al-Qusayr. It is not known which organization he belonged to (Yahousein.com).

Omar Walid Othman – Engineering student, went to Syria to participate in jihad. Killed in Dara'a on April 5, 2013. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front (www.alfjrnews.com).

Omar Tareq Mahmoud al-Sughayer (Abu al-Hareth) – From Amman. Killed in Damascus on June 25, 2013 (Facebook).



Left: Omar Tareq Mahmoud al-Sughayer (Abu al-Hareth)
Right: Omar Walid Othman (www.alfjrnews.co)

Issa and Muhannad Abu Qatam – Brothers who fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed in Damascus from Syrian Army fire in July 2013

(Centerfordocumentation.com).

Omar Muhammad Najib Abu Qatam – Previously fought in the ranks of Al-Qaeda in Iraq and joined the Al-Nusra Front. Brother of Issa and Muhannad Abu Qatam. Killed on the outskirts of Damascus on April 11, 2013 (Centerfordocumentation.com).



Left: Omar Abu Qatam (Centerfordocumentation.com)
Right: Brothers Issa and Muhannad Abu Qatam

Riyadh Hudaib - served as the Sharia arbiter of the Al-Nusra Front in the outskirts of Dara'a. Killed on January 15, 2013 (centerfordocumentation.com).



Riyadh Hudaib (centerfordocumentation.com)

Tamir al-Mastraihi – Sentenced to two years in prison on September 16, 2013 for fighting in Syria, “which exposed the kingdom to danger.” Caught on the Jordanian-Syrian border in February 2013 when he tried to return from Syria. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front for three months. The first foreign fighter tried in Jordan for this type of offense (Jordan Times, September 17, 2013).

Mamun al-Atiyat – From Salt. Killed at the Al-Menagh military airfield.

Tareq Mohammad Ata al-Liftawi – Jordanian Palestinian. Killed on February 27, 2013.

Amjad al-Dabas – From Salt. The date and place of his death are unknown.

Ali al-Maani al-Sharjawi (Abu Mus'ab) – From Ma'an. Killed in July 2012.

Abu Hamza al-Zarqawi – Killed on an unknown date.

Wasim Ahmed Hassan al-Dagher – From Irbid. Killed on June 10, 2013.

Omar Muhammad al-Rashdan al-Kalub – Teacher from Salt. Killed on August 6, 2013.

Amjad Khalil Ali al-Zinati (Abu Khalil) – Probably from the northern Jordan Valley. Fought in the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front. Killed on July 31, 2013 fighting against the Syrian Army on the outskirts of Damascus (Facebook page of For Mother Syria, August 7, 2013).

Ahmed Jamil Shanikat – From the Abadi tribe in central Jordan. Killed on an unknown date.

Anas Yasin Amishan Awajan – From Ma'an. Killed on an unknown date.

Abdullah Bazbaz al-Hiari – From Salt. Killed in Damascus on June 1, 2013.

Muhammad Abd al-Rahman al-Ghalban – Palestinian Jordanian, from the Hittin refugee camp in Amman. Killed in Dara'a on March 6, 2013.

Nasser Muhammad Abd al-Karim al-Khalaila – From Russaifa. Killed on March 6, 2013.

Hamza Abd Rabbuh Salaher (?) – From Ma'an. Killed on an unknown date.

Salah Ali al-Wahan – From Ma'an. Killed on November 9, 2012

Muhammad Ali al-Maani – From Ma'an. Killed on an unknown date.

Abdullah Ibrahim Thabet Assal Hassan – From Ma'an. Killed on an unknown date.

Muhammad Bassam al-Kateb – From Ma'an. Killed on an unknown date.

Muhammad Ali Krishan – From Ma'an. Killed on an unknown date.

Shafe Ali al-Tulfah – From northern Jordan. Killed in Syria on July 30, 2013.

Jarrah Muhammad al-Wahidi – Bedouin from the area of Beersheba, Israel. Killed on July 30, 2013.

Ahmed Abd al-Karim Ayad (Abu Farouq al-Shami) – From Al-Ramtha. Killed on April 27, 2013.

Abdullah Bassam al-Khatib – From Zarqa. His family was originally from the village of Aqraba in Judea and Samaria. Lived in Germany for the past five years. Killed in Aleppo on June 6, 2013.

Muhammad Hamdan Ismail Aashur (Abu Rabia) – Palestinian from the Hittin refugee camp in Amman. Killed in rural Dara'a on March 27, 2012.

Ahmed Yousef Suleiman al-Aameri (Ahmed al-Dawa) – Palestinian Jordanian from the Irbid refugee camp. Killed on November 10, 2012

Mohammad al-Khatib (Abu Ali al-Urduni) – 25 years old, from the neighborhood of Abdoun, Amman. Killed at the Al-Menagh military airfield on April 14, 2013.

Ahmed Muhammad Abd al-Hamid Abu Muhayyes (Abu Wahid) – Palestinian Jordanian. Lived in Russaifa. Killed on July 8, 2013.

Muhammad Ahmed Sakik (Abu Hudhaifa al-Urduni) – Palestinian Jordanian. Lived in Amman. Killed on July 16, 2013.

Riyadh Hudaib (Abu Hamza) – Possibly Palestinian. Was an imam and preacher at the mosque in Jubeiha, Amman. Father of six. Was in charge of Sharia affairs in Dara'a. Killed in Dara'a on January 15, 2013.

Khaled Khayr al-Din Zarkhush (Abu al-Walid) – Possibly Circassian (according to his name). Killed on an unknown date in an unknown location.

Muntasser Muhammad al-Beiruti – Palestinian Jordanian from Ramallah. Was imprisoned in Israel. Studied at Al-Yarmouk University in Irbid. Killed on an unknown date.

Muhammad Ali Abu Hamur – From Salt. Killed on an unknown date.

Mus'ab Ahmed Mashhour al-Zuabi (Abu Jalibib al-Shami) – From Al-Ramtha. Killed at the airport in Aleppo on February 18, 2013.

Muhammad Abd al-Aal (Abu Hudhaifa) – Brother-in-law of Abu Muhammad al-Tahawi. Killed on October 12, 2012.

Ramzi al-Qarshi (Abu al-Majd) – Possibly Circassian. Lived in Zarqa. Killed on September 2, 2013

Abd al-Rahim al-Shawish (Abu Omar al-Dimashqi) – Apparently from Ma'an. 21 years old. Studied engineering at Mutah University. Killed in northern Syria on October 26, 2012.

Muhammad Hejazi – Killed in early September 2013.

Ramzi Fahd Qureish al-Awartani – Palestinian Jordanian. 27 years old. Lived in Russaifa. Killed in rural Damascus on September 1, 2013.

Fadi Abu Ibrahim – Killed on an unknown date.

Essam Abd al-Rahim al-Saudi al-Tafili (Abu Essam al-Urduni) – From Tafilah. Lived in Russaifa. 30 years old, worked as a clerk at the Jordanian Ministry of Religious Endowments. Killed on August 22, 2013.

Falah Muhammad Kamel Ouda al-Tamimi – Palestinian Jordanian from a family in Hebron. 34 years old. Killed on August 16, 2013. A mourning tent was erected in Hebron.

Muadh al-Zakarna (Abu Hamza al-Filastini) – Palestinian Jordanian from Qabatiya, engineer. Killed in Latakia on August 4, 2013.

Muhammad Fahd Qureish al-Awartani – Palestinian Jordanian, lived in Russaifa. Killed in Dara'a on May 16, 2013.

Muhammad Samir al-Ghazawi – Probably from the northern Jordan Valley. Lived in the al-Qadisiyyah neighborhood of Amman. Killed in Syria.

Yussuf al-Arkawi – Palestinian Jordanian. Lived in Russaifa. Killed in Syria on February 20, 2013.

Adam Hussein al-Madhoun – Palestinian Jordanian. Family from Gaza City. Studied engineering at Al-Balqa' University in Salt. Killed on December 17, 2012.

Kamal Muhammad Abd al-Aziz Katkat – Palestinian Jordanian. Lived in Irbid. 28 years old. Killed in Dara'a on June 11, 2013.

Amin Hassan al-Juyusi (Abu al-Hassan al-Urduni) – Palestinian Jordanian. 21 years old. Studied engineering at Al-Balqa' University in Salt. Killed in Harasta on May 21, 2013.

Ahmed Ziad Ahmed Humeida – Apparently Palestinian. 23 years old. Lived in a neighborhood of former residents of the village of Surif, in Salt. Graduated from Al-Balqa' University in 2012. Killed in Syria on June 10, 2013.

Ismail Munir Ar'ar – Palestinian, family is from the village of Surif. Resident of the Baka refugee camp in Amman. Was released from prison in Jordan in 2009 following the amnesty granted to the Islamists. Killed on December 12, 2012.

Manhad Tha'er Abu Maryam – Palestinian from Jenin. 17 years old. Lived in Russaifa. Killed on February 26, 2013. A mourning tent was erected in Jenin.

Hamdan Muhammad al-Ramah al-Sitri (Abu Muhammad) – Possibly from Syria. Killed on June 15, 2013.

Alaa al-Din Mahmoud Taher al-Batouni (Abu al-Sayid al-Burini) – Palestinian, from the village of Burin. Killed in Aleppo on June 24, 2013.

Muhammad Nahil Raakeb Daoud Nasser – Palestinian. Family originally from Lod. Lived in Russaifa. Killed in Syria on June 11, 2013.

Suleiman Yousef Abu Kardash (Abu Dujana) – Bedouin from Beersheba. Lived in Russaifa. Killed in Damascus on June 1, 2013.

Omar Tareq Mahmoud al-Sughayer – Palestinian Jordanian, third-year engineering student at the Hashemite University in Zarqa. Killed in the Jubar neighborhood of Damascus on June 25, 2013.

Muhammad Abu Ismail – From Zarqa. Killed in Syria on February 20, 2013.

Abdullah al-Ghanimat – Probably from Salt. Killed in Damascus on May 22, 2013.

Imran al-Tamimi (Abu al-Baraa al-Shami) – 20 years old, from Irbid, killed in Dara'a on November 10, 2013. Some claim that he was killed while trying to cross the Jordanian-Syrian border.

Ahmed Ibrahim Mustafa Abu Libda (Abu Hafs al-Urduni) – 25 years old, from Russaifa. Palestinian. Killed in Dara'a on November 30, 2013.



Left: Ahmed Ibrahim Mustafa Abu Libda (Hournews.net)
Right: Imran al-Tamimi (Documents.sy)

Ahmed al-Fakhouri – From Irbid. Killed in Dara'a on November 20, 2013.

Mohammad Fawzi al-Burini (Abu Sahib al-Urduni) – From Amman. Killed in Deir ez-Zor on October 16, 2013.

Muhammad Abd al-Latif Jibran al-Surifi (Abu Daoud) – From Salt. 43 years old, married, father of one. Fought in the ranks of jihad organizations. Killed in Aleppo on November 1, 2013.

Osama Talal Jibran al-Tamizi (Abu Abdullah al-Urduni) – Palestinian Jordanian from the village of Edna near Hebron. Lived in Amman due to his religious studies. Married, father of one. Fought in the ranks of the ISIS. Killed in Homs on September 30, 2013.



Left: Osama Talal Jibran al-Tamizi (Jordan) (Syriasy.blogspot.com)
 Right: Muhammad Abd al-Latif Jibran al-Surifi (Almadenahnews.com).

Jumaa Salam Nazzal al-Zuyud – 27 years old, from Salt. Undergraduate degree from a university in Jordan. Was close to the Salafist movement in his city. Went to Syria in March 2013 with a group of other Jordanians. Killed in Aleppo on November 5, 2013.

Amjad Kuweini (al-Attar) – From Zarqa. Killed in 2013.

Bashar Adnan Farah (Abu Hudhaifa al-Urduni) – From Amman. Killed in Deir ez-Zor on October 16, 2013.

Ziad Nasoud (Abu Hajer) – From Salt. Killed in Damascus on September 25, 2013.

Muhammad al-Balawi (Abu al-Ainaa al-Urduni) – From Zarqa. Killed in Damascus on September 30, 2013.

Ali Abdallah Salah (Abu Talhah al-Muhajer) – From Ma'an. Killed in Dara'a on September 25, 2013.

Ahmed Atallah Majali – Jordanian Air Force captain, defected and joined the ranks of the ISIS in September 2013. From one of the most prominent Bedouin tribes in the region of Karak, in the south of Jordan (The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, May 5, 2014).

The Policy of the Local Authorities

96. The Jordanian regime is hostile to the Assad regime and supports the rebels. However, it is aware of the security risks posed to the kingdom by the

entrenchment of Al-Qaeda in Syria in general and in Syria in particular. The Jordanian regime is also aware of the risks posed by Jordanian fighters returning from fighting in Syria. Therefore, it is opposed to Jordanians fighting in Syria, **let alone joining the ranks of Al-Qaeda and other jihadi organizations.**

97. The Jordanian concerns focus on the **military activities conducted by the Al-Nusra Front in the Dara'a region, bordering on Jordan.** Jordan's Minister for Media Affairs and Communications **Mohammad al-Momani** told a Jordanian reporter that Jordan was concerned by reports about the presence of terrorist organizations in Dara'a. He added that Jordan had taken the necessary security precautions to prevent its territory from being infiltrated and its security compromised (Al-Ghad, November 23, 2013). In another interview, Mohammad al-Momani admitted that Dara'a was a "Syrian-Jordanian problem," adding that Jordan was concerned by the presence of armed and extremist groups on its northern border near Dara'a. He also denied that Jordan permitted fighters to pass through Jordan on their way to Syria (al-Arab al-Yom, December 4, 2013).

98. **In light of these concerns, since the summer of 2013 the Jordanian security forces have increased their preventive security activities along the Syrian-Jordanian border.** They also arrested Jordanians who tried to sneak into Syria or returned from there, or were involved in making arrangements to go to Syria.¹⁸ In September 2013, Jordanian Border Police forces arrested five Jordanian Salafist-jihadis who tried to sneak into Syria. They were brought before the State Security Court and sentenced to five years in prison (NOW, October 2, 2013). According to another report, the Jordanian authorities arrested 68 Jordanian citizens, 47 of whom were tried (Ctc.usma.edu, October 24, 2013). The Jordanian media reported that in early April 2014, there was a wave of arrests of jihadi fighters in Jordan, including those affiliated with the Al-Nusra Front (The Jordan Times, April 7, 2014). In late April-early May 2014, ten Jordanian Islamists who were arrested while trying to join jihadi fighters in Syria, were sentenced by a Jordanian court to five years in prison with hard labor (The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, May 5, 2014).

99. **The concerns of the Jordanian regime are not unfounded. In our assessment, the jihadist organizations in Iraq and Syria pose an increasing risk to the Kingdom of Jordan.** Evidence of strong incitement against the

¹⁸ **Mohammad Shalabi**, head of the Salafist movement in Jordan, said that there were around 60 Jordanian operatives, **who returned from Syria**, in prison in Jordan, some of whom are awaiting trial (Al-Ghad, November 23, 2013).

Jordanian regime was manifested in a video uploaded to YouTube by **the ISIS** in late April, 2014. The video, entitled “**Letter to our people in Ma’an,**” was uploaded because of the anti-government rioting and demonstrations that took place there at the time. Ma’an is a center of unrest against the Jordanian regime (and an area from which many Jordanians joined organizations affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the global jihad, operating in Syria).

100. The video showed three operatives who represented themselves as operatives of the ISIS and addressed the residents of Ma’an and of Jordan in general. One of them, named **al-Gharib al-Urduni** (i.e., the Jordanian foreigner), **called on the residents of Ma’an to fight against the Jordanian regime and wage a jihad against it.** He called the regime “a regime that murders Muslims, attacks their holy places, arrests hundreds [of them] and puts them in prison, fights jihad and its fighters in every arena...” Al-Gharib told the residents of Ma’an that the ISIS operatives are not far from them, **and that they would help them by every possible means, including money and weapons.** Al-Gharib also called on the soldiers of the Jordanian Army, the police, the security forces and Jordanian intelligence to repent and return to Islam (as it is perceived by the Salafist-jihadis) (**Note:** The original video was removed from YouTube a few days after it was uploaded, but other users have reposted it).