

'Vanguards of Khurasan' Magazine Article Eulogizes Jihadist Killed in Afghanistan

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[Please note: Images may have been removed from this document. Page numbers have been added.]

On 26 February, a forum participant posts on a jihadist website a statement that contains various links to the 16th issue of "Vanguards of Khurasan" Magazine. The 68-page issue includes a eulogy of a "martyr" entitled "Venerable Staff Officer Khalid al-Habib." The eulogy contains an introduction about "Al-Habib's" training and teaching on using weapons, in addition to the operations he carried out in Afghanistan. The eulogy also mentions the benevolence that "Al-Habib" showed toward his brothers. OSC processed the table of contents of the 16th issue of the "Vanguards of Khurasan" magazine as GMP20100227569002. The magazine was produced and disseminated by the Al-Fajr Media Center.

A translation of the article follows:

"In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate "First Phase in Afghanistan
"'Al-Habib' reached the land of jihad by the end of 1988. He then went to train in Sada Camp before going to Al-Faruq Camp. This is where he, may God rest his soul, started his military studies. He always reminded us of the grace of this blessing, and of the need to thank God for allowing us to leave behind the miserable and humiliating life we used to have, when we used to think we were applying religion. However, now we have reached the peak of Islam.

"'Al-Habib' was diligent in his reception of the military classes. He insisted on understanding everything. He was honest with himself and his trainer. Whenever he could not understand something, he asked his trainer without embarrassment! This is why God granted him the knowledge of all the military issues he studied and granted him victory. Therefore, he became skillful in using weapons, before he became a trainer in the camps.

"'Al-Habib' moved from preliminary training to a special session that was very long and difficult. However, he finished it successfully and started to go to the first front line and apply what he had studied. All the trainers liked him, as did all the lines' chiefs. They did not spare anything during his the military studies and after approximately one year of moving between the camps and the fronts, he became ready to train and to be a front chief. He then was diligent in learning to use anti-aircraft weapons, such as the Stinger, Milan, Sam, and others. He became a talented trainer in using them and training (others) with them, according to the certificate of his teachers who trained him. He had great determination and loved the work that is rewarded by Almighty God.

"Among the humbleness of 'Al-Habib,' may God rest his soul, we mention that he was a servant to his brothers and an amir to the group, the camp, and the line. He helped to serve the food and arranged places for his brothers with pleasure. This is how the men who are chosen by Great and Almighty God are. Therefore, the blessing of this man was present everywhere in the camp, the line, and everywhere he went!

"Thus, may God have mercy upon you, O Habib. He participated during that period in many operations against the apostate government forces of Najibullah. His hand was slightly hurt in one of the operations. However, he was healed, praise be to God, and went back to the front line quickly, because he refused to leave the front line or the camp.

"We are the lions of the war, we defend the True Religion, and we are always proud everywhere.
(poem)

"This is how the life of 'Al-Habib' was in the first stage, until God granted victory to the mujahidin in Kabul. Then there was fighting between the Afghani jihadist parties and the Shaykh 'Abu-Abdallah,' may God protect him, was there. He gathered all the brothers and said: 'We are now in a situation where it is essential to leave the area because of the conflict between the parties and their disagreement over who will be their chief. We must not participate in this fight because it is a kind of sedition.' May God reward him, he advised and ordered us to spread out until we could gather together in another jihadist land.

"The decision of the brothers in charge advised those who could return to their countries to do so and those who could not to join the training camp inside Afghanistan. This was a camp they previously formed. 'Al-Habib,' may Almighty God rest his soul, joined it and benefited from reviewing all the military information he had already acquired. In cooperation with Abd-al-Wakil, may God rest his soul, he took part in creating a training methodology for Al-Qa'ida in Afghanistan. This methodology is the one that is taught nowadays. People learn a great deal from it. Thus, they will have a great reward, Almighty God willing.

"After he finished creating this methodology and used it in retraining, he started to prepare to leave for the other jihad battles, in the Horn of Africa in particular. During the entire preparation, they were gathered in Sudan and the first group moved from Afghanistan through the mediation countries. We moved to the same country and met there. We called ourselves 'the green group' and our amir was the martyr 'Abu-Islam' or 'Sayf al-Islam,' may God rest his soul, who was killed in Chechnya. We were seven people who had gathered together from various countries.

"We were very happy because the beloved people gathered. They are still making offers to this religion, and we ask God to accept their work. This is how a new trip began in a new country. It was crowned by success, praise be to God. The return trip to Afghanistan was next. It ended with the martyrdom of 'Al-Habib,' may God rest his soul.

"We will not go through his military and leading role so as to avoid a lengthy article; however, we will mention how his end came, in addition to the good tidings accompanying it. The good tidings were about the acceptance of God of his martyrdom. We consider him a martyr.

"Brother Abd-al-Malik al-Hijazi says that every time 'Al-Habib' remembered those who died in the Crusader campaign against Kandahar, particularly Shaykh Abu-Hafas, may God rest his soul, he started crying and supplicated God to grant him the quick martyrdom. He wished to follow them and be saved from the beauty of the world. He lived his life obeying the saying of Darar Bin-al-Azur, may God be pleased with him:

"All I want is God. I carry out jihad for the Day of Judgment (poem)

"God knows that every time I saw him, I remembered the saying of Almighty God: 'Among the Believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allah. Of them, some have completed their vow (to the extreme), and some (still) wait: but they have never changed (their determination) in the least.' (Koranic verse, Al-Ahzab, 33:23)

"After living with him and knowing him for a long time, I stand witness that he used to seek the doors of reward and virtue. He always raised the determination of the brothers and told them that the enemy is collapsing and is close to defeat. He added: 'Our phase is a phase of patience, after which comes relief and victory -- God willing, very soon!'

"He was very careful with regards to the public money. When he was hurt in Kandahar, he was moved on a litter to a safe place. The doctor wanted to start the treatment. He refused to start the treatment before Shaykh 'Sa'd al-Din al-Habib' came and took the money he had. He did not want to go into a coma when the money was left on him!

"He, may God rest his soul, asked forgiveness a lot and frequently mentioned God. He always used to give advice and never refused a request. He did not keep anything for himself, even if it was his personal weapon. If he saw anyone without a weapon who might be entering into an area of trouble, he would say 'Take my weapon.' This happened twice in my presence!

"He was a man of great determination, who was happy when the traveling tired him. He had a nomadic life full of travel because he had numerous responsibilities. He used to console himself by saying that the reward is equal to the amount of the hardship. He never felt relieved until he achieved the mission on which he went, following the saying of Asim Bin-Rawahah, may God rest his soul: 'He who comes to jihad does not seek comfort. He who gets a little bit tired in the world gets much comfort in the hereafter.' When we used to travel at night and the roads were similar, we used to get confused. He used to tell me: 'The heavy red tea opens eyes,' in order to know the roads!

"To conclude, I say that I am honored to have accompanied him in the last moments before we buried him, may God rest his soul. The shaykh's car was shelled around 1100. He was buried after sunset; however, blood was still coming from his wounds. He had very severe burns all over his body. We moved him in a small bus and it was too cold, so we closed the windows. Nevertheless, we did not smell any awful odor coming from his body. On the contrary, a beautiful odor was coming from him. When Shaykh Abu-Yahya al-Libi, may God protect him, visited us the next day, he told me: 'I smell a beautiful odor!' I answered: 'O shaykh, we did not put on any perfume today!' When I took him into the bus, he said: 'The smell is stronger here!' I said: 'O shaykh, this is the blood of "Al-Habib," may God rest his soul!'

"When I came back, I sat with some brothers in the same place where he was shelled, and everybody was feeling sorrow and sadness, as if we have become orphans now that we had lost our big brother and skillful military leader!

"O eye, cry for losing Al-Habib (poem)

"May God rest your soul! We ask Him to accept you among the martyrs and raise you to Heaven and gather us all with you in sublime Heaven... O God, amen.

"Praise be to God, Lord of all Creation"