

Online Appendix 1 to *The Caravan: Abdallah Azzam and the Rise of Global Jihad*

Source data for foreign fighter number estimates in Chapter 10

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This appendix provides the sources and reasoning behind the numerical estimates of foreign fighters in 1980s Afghanistan provided on pp. 267-268 of *The Caravan*. These estimates were as follows:

Table 10.1 *Author's Best Estimate of the Number of Foreign Fighters in 1980s Afghanistan*

	1979–1989	1979–1992
Arabs only	4,000	7,000
All foreign fighters	5,000	10,000

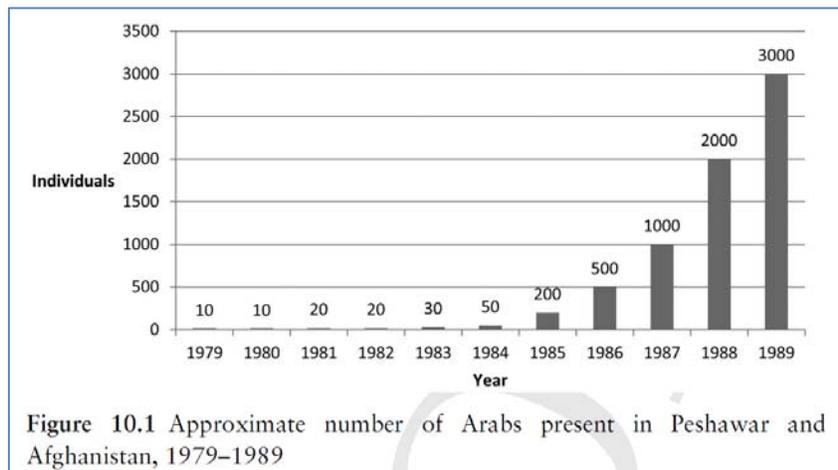


Figure 10.1 Approximate number of Arabs present in Peshawar and Afghanistan, 1979–1989

All these numbers are approximations. Estimating the number of foreign fighters in 1980s Afghanistan is very difficult, because there was no central record of foreign volunteers at the time, and relevant information is scattered across a multitude of sources.¹

Existing aggregate estimates (see Table 1 below) vary significantly, from 5,000 to 50,000. A closer look at the estimates suggests that almost everybody has been guessing. Both the lowest and the highest estimate come from two of the people who spent the longest time in Peshawar in the 1980s, namely Abdallah Anas and Jamal Isma'il (see estimates #9 and #13). Both should be among the best placed to judge, yet their estimates are an order of magnitude apart. Even estimates of specific national contingents vary enormously; for example, some Algerian sources put the Algerian contingent at 250 individuals, while other Algerian sources suggest 3,000.² Similarly, the Saudi contingent has been estimated by different Saudi analysts

at anything between 1,000 and 20,000.³ Moreover, there are examples of one and the same source offering different estimates at different times; for example, in 1989 the CIA's Islamabad station cabled headquarters saying there were probably about 4,000 Arabs in the AfPak region. Around 2002, Milt Bearden, who had been the station chief in 1989, told Peter Bergen in an interview that he now put the number of Afghan Arabs at 25,000. Two years later, Bearden wrote a book in which he put the number at 20,000. On reflection, this variation not surprising, because in the absence of a central record, there was really no good way for any one observer to know how many different individuals had been involved. At any one time, the volunteers would be spread out over many different locations, and the "liquidity" of the foreign fighter population – i.e. the rate by which volunteers were replaced by new ones – was anyone's guess.

Three pointers can help us narrow down the estimation range. The first is that up to 1986, estimates do not vary by much (see Table 2 below), presumably because the numbers were small enough – in the hundreds – for observers to estimate with some accuracy. Moreover, these early estimates are close to the number of names explicitly mentioned in the sources (see Table 3). The second pointer is that snapshot estimates from the late 1980s (as opposed to estimates provided years later) also do not differ much; informed sources all suggest that between two and four thousand Arabs were present in Peshawar or Afghanistan at any one point around 1988-89 (see estimates #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 13, 14, 15, and 16). The third pointer is the alleged existence of a Pakistani government database containing the names of some 6,000 Arabs who came to Pakistan to take part in the jihad from 1987 to 1993.⁴ While the existence of the database is hard to verify independently, the number is consistent with the snapshot estimates. Besides, the start date of the database is consistent with other evidence that Pakistani authorities started to worry about the influx of Arabs in 1986 (See chapter 14).

Together, these three pointers make me confident that the real number was on the lower end of the spectrum. The precise estimation depends on one's assumptions about the degree of circulation in the Afghan Arab community. How many of the 2,000 Arabs present in Peshawar in 1988 were also there in 1989, 1990, and so on? I have assumed that the annual circulation rate was about 50%, so that 500 of the 1000 people in 1987 went home, and that 1500 new people came in 1988; that 1000 of the 2000 people in 1988 went home, and that 2000 new people came in 1989, and so forth. Assuming a slight decrease in the Arab population in 1990 and 1991 and very few arrivals in 1992 (the Arabs were evicted in March), then 7,000 seems a reasonable overall estimate for the 1979-1992 period.

As for the chronological evolution, the estimates I have provided in figure 10.1 in the book are based on an overall assessment of the numerical estimates in Table 1 below plus contextual factors (such as our knowledge of the degree to which countries like Saudi Arabia approved of foreign fighter trips in the late 1980s and early 1990s). They are rough estimates, for this is an inexact science. I welcome critical views and supplementary information from readers regarding these estimates.

Table 1: Existing estimates of the total number of foreign fighters in 1980s Afghanistan

#	Estimate year	Estimator	Estimate
1	1988	Jamal Khashoggi	"As many as 1,000 youths are in Afghanistan" ⁵
2	1989	CIA	"probably about four thousand Arab volunteers in Afghanistan" ⁶
3	1990	Muhammad Siddiqui	"the number of Arab brothers now is approximately 1,000 inside and outside [Afghanistan]. Around 6,000 have come, trained, and gone back, and some of those still come here from time to time." ⁷
4	1993	Anthony Davis	"At the height of foreign involvement in the conflict (1989-91) [...] at any given time, 3000-4000 foreign fighters were training or fighting in Afghanistan, or resting in Peshawar. Over the years, well over 10 times that number spent time on the Afghan battlefield." ⁸
5	1994	Ali al-Nimla	"the thousand or more Arab Mujahidin who joined the Afghan jihad since the beginning of the jihad movement." ⁹
6	1994	Anthony Hyman	"informed estimates from Pakistan claim that between 3,000 and 4,000 Arab and foreign volunteers were at any one time training or serving on various fronts inside Afghanistan or resting in Peshawar. [...] 20,000 or even 25,000 Arab <i>mujahidin</i> may have seen service in the Afghanistan war" ¹⁰
7	1994	Le Point	"[Ben Laden avait] mis en place une filière d'infiltration de près de 1900 volontaires arabes en Afghanistan" ¹¹
8	1999	John Cooley	"During the peak period for foreign volunteers, 1990-91, ... there were from 4,000 to 5,000 non-Afghan fighters in the Peshawar area. Since the start of the jihad in 1980, easily ten times that amount had either trained or fought in Afghanistan." ¹²
9	2000	Gilles Kepel	"between 8,000 and 25,000" ¹³
10	2000	Ahmed Rashid	"between 1982 and 1992 35,000 Muslim radicals from 43 Islamic countries" ¹⁴
11	2002	Khalid al-Fawwaz	"25,000 Arabs came to fight" ¹⁵
12	2002	Jamal Isma'il	"50,000 Arabs came to Peshawar to fight" ¹⁶
13	2002	Milt Bearden	"25,000" ¹⁷
14	2002	Peter Bergen	"Low tens of thousands" ¹⁸
15	2004	Milt Bearden	"By the end of the war, we had estimated that as many as twenty thousand Arabs may have passed through Pakistan and Afghanistan." ¹⁹
16	2004	Abdallah Anas	"the peak came between '87 and '89. We're not more than 3,000 to 5,000. The people who were inside Afghanistan active permanently, no more than 10 percent, 300, 400, 500 people. But 90 percent were teachers, cooks, accountants, doctors [over the border in Pakistan]." ²⁰
17	2006	Milt Bearden	"we figured there were about two thousand Arab Afghans at any one time, plus a couple of thousand Arab Afghans who treated it as a Club Med" ²¹
18	2006	Jamal Khashoggi	"Altogether, I don't think the Arab mujahideen at one time ever exceeded two thousand, three thousand. But altogether, people who spent six years and people who spent six days, maybe the number will come up to ten thousand." ²²
19	2008	Ahmed Zaidan	"at its biggest in 1987-1988, the Arab community in Peshawar was a few thousand" ²³
20	2008	Kamal al-Helbawy	"at the peak, there were maybe 10,000 Arabs in Pakistan and Afghanistan at one time. The total may have been 15,000-17,000." ²⁴
21	2008	Abu Harith	"After 1986 there were around 800-1,000 Arabs in Peshawar at any one time." ²⁵
22	2009	Alastair Crooke	"No more than 2,000-3,000 passed through the Services Bureau up to 1989." ²⁶
23	2010	Brian Glyn Williams	"As many as 35,000 foreign jihadis, predominately Pakistanis, Egyptians, Saudis, Yemenis, Sudanese, and Algerians, partook in the 'Mother of all Jihadis' in the 1980s." ²⁷

Table 2: Numerical observations of Arabs in Afghanistan before 1985

#	Estimate date	Estimator	Estimate
1	November 1980	Jalaluddin Haqqani	“tens of volunteers” ²⁸
2	July 1981	Abdallah Abd al-Rahman	(On my coming to the Union under the chairmanship of Sheikh Sayyaf, there was only one guest house. [...] in that time the Arabs’ number was so small [...] some Syrian and Iraqi people came for jihad and participated with Sheikh Jalal in some battles and left. Plus some students from Peshawar University” ²⁹
3	October 1983	Abd Rabb Rasul Sayyaf	“If we considered that the participation of two or three persons yearly as participation, then [the Arabs] participated, but if not, then they did not participate.” ³⁰
4	1983	Abdallah Azzam	“Besides an insignificant number, not worth mentioning, no non-Afghanis have entered the battlefield. Those Muslims who have accompanied the Mujahideen on the field can be counted on one’s fingers.” ³¹
5	1983 (2001)	Abdallah Anas	“there were twelve Arabs in Peshawar when I arrived in late 1983.” ³²
6	Early 1984 (2016)	Abdallah Anas	“We were 15-16 people, in addition to the 14-15 people who had preceded us. This was the total number of Arabs in Afghanistan.” ³³
7	June 1984 (1990)	Usama bin Ladin	“The Jaji camp contained only a few tents. One of them was occupied by sheikh Sayyaf; around it were several tents for Mujahidin, and there was only one tent allocated for the Arab guests.” ³⁴
8	June 1984 (1989)	Abdallah Azzam	“There was not an office in those days to unite the Arab Mujahideen, for they were only a small group commanded by Sheikh Sayyaf in Jaji. They all inhabited a single tent, nicknamed the ‘Arab Tent’.” ³⁵
9	Mid-1984	Peregrine Hodson	“He had come from Algeria to join the jihad and had already been in Afghanistan for six months. He claimed there were several other volunteers like himself from different parts of the Islamic world including Turkey, Egypt and Iran.” ³⁶
10	End of 1984 (2011)	Jean-Christophe Notin	“At the end of 1984 [...] a hundred Arabs at most were in Peshawar” ³⁷
11	May 1985	“Shafiq”	“There were about 30 Arabs present [at Pabbi], most of them Algerians.” ³⁸
12	Mid-1985	Ahmed Shah Massoud	“It saddens me to see that Arabs and Muslims are not partaking as they should in this holy Jihad, and that they are relinquishing their brothers in Afghanistan. We do not have among us a great number of Arabs. There is only you now, after Abi Assem. Here is one of the young Kurdish Iraqis he was with a while ago, and he was teaching them the Quran”. Then Massoud said to me: “A Jordanian brother paid us a visit before you, but he did not stay. He went back to Pakistan. As to you, I hope you will stay with us here”.” ³⁹
13	July 1985	Afghan field commander	“the many Arabs in the area who had joined us in jihad.” ⁴⁰
14	1985	Aides of Ahmed Shah Massoud	“There is another Arab with us here too, but on another one of Massoud’s fronts. He has been with us for a while now and hasn’t met a single Arab.” ⁴¹

15	1985	Basil Muhammad	“At that time there were between five to ten Arab brethren in any of the regions. Among those who came before us were the Egyptian martyr Abdel Rahman (14), Abu Obaidah the Iraqi, Abul Izz the Syrian and Abu Bakr from Hama (Syria), as well as a few of those who got their training in Badr camp...” ⁴²
16	Late 1985	Abdallah Anas	“By the end of ’85, it was up to 90 or 100” ⁴³
17	1985 (2016)	Olivier Roy	“Les arabes ont dépassé 400 en 1985” ⁴⁴
18	1986 (1990)	Usama Azmaray	“Orders were issued that no Arab was to be present in the Bureau, and that those who wished to stay had to do so at the Bayt al-Maqdis camp in Pabbi. There were a few rooms there, each with an Emir in charge. There were around 35 of us in total.” ⁴⁵
19	1987 (2004)	Mustafa al-Badi	“by mid-1987 [...] the number of [Arab] brothers had reached approximately 350 to 500” ⁴⁶
20	1988	Afghan commander	[to al-Qandahari:] “Where were you before? We have only started seeing you two years ago while we have been fighting for ten years.” ⁴⁷
21	Early 1980s (1990)	Basil Muhammad	“in the battlefronts there was a very small number of Arabs who participated ... It included a small number of people that it did not exceed the two hands’ fingers!” ⁴⁸ “As for the military scene – of Jihad – the Arab newcomers did not have any part worth mentioning, although it occurred.” ⁴⁹
22	2008	Abu Harith	“In 1984-85 there were about 250-300 Arabs in Peshawar” ⁵⁰

Table 3: Individual Arab fighters reported as having arrived in Afghanistan before 1985

Name or description	Recorded arrival	Source
Member of “very small group of young men” 1	Mid-1979	Hamid, <i>Laylat</i>
Member of “very small group of young men” 2	Mid-1979	Hamid, <i>Laylat</i>
Member of “very small group of young men” 3	Mid-1979	Hamid, <i>Laylat</i>
Tunisian man	1979?	Qandahari, <i>Dhikrayat</i>
Mustafa Hamid (Egyptian)	June 1979	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Isma‘il (Egyptian)	June 1979	Hamid & Farrall
Friend of Mustafa Hamid (Egyptian)	June 1979	Hamid & Farrall
Hamdi (Egyptian)	Early 1980	Qandahari, <i>Dhikrayat</i>
Unidentified “Arab salafi” from London 1	1981	Hamid & Farrall
Unidentified “Arab salafi” from London 2	1981	Hamid & Farrall
Unidentified “Arab salafi” from London 3	1981	Hamid & Farrall
Unidentified “Arab salafi” from London 4	1981	Hamid & Farrall
Unidentified “Arab salafi” from London 5	1981	Hamid & Farrall
Unidentified “Arab salafi” from London 6	1981	Hamid & Farrall
Unidentified “Arab salafi” from London 7	1981	Hamid & Farrall
Unidentified “Arab salafi” from London 8	1981	Hamid & Farrall
Unidentified “Arab salafi” from London 9	1981	Hamid & Farrall
Unidentified “Arab salafi” from London 10	1981	Hamid & Farrall
Abdallah Abd al-Rahman (origin unknown)	July 1981	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Member of “some Syrian and Iraqi people” 1	1981	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Member of “some Syrian and Iraqi people” 2	1981	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Member of “some Syrian and Iraqi people” 3	1981	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Member of “some students from Peshawar University” 1	1981	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Member of “some students from Peshawar University” 2	1981	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Member of “some students from Peshawar University” 3	1981	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Rashid al-Rahman (Egyptian)	Before Oct 1981	Van Dyk, <i>In Afghanistan</i>
Abdallah Azzam (Palestinian)	November 1981	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Nur al-Din al-Jaza’iri (Algerian)	Mid-1982	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Issam al-Ridi (Egyptian)	1983	USA v UBL
Abu Dujana al-Masri (Egyptian)	1983	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abd al-Wahhab al-Ghamidi (Saudi)	1983	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Wadih al-Hage (Lebanese)	1983	USA v UBL
Rajab (Egyptian)	1983	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Hafs (Egyptian)	1983	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abdallah Anas (Algerian)	Late 1983	Anas, <i>Wiladat</i>
Abu Hafs al-Masri (Egyptian)	Late 1983	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Rajab (Egyptian)	Late 1983	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abd al-Rahman al-Masri (Egyptian)	Late 1983	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Hudhayfa	Before early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu al-Hassan al-Maqdisi	Before early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Mahir Shalbak (Abu Hamza)	Before early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Isam al-Din	Before early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Muhammad Sadiq	Before Feb 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Jihad	Before early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Uthman	Before Feb 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Anis/ Abu Anas	Before Feb 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Hussain Ba’isi	Before early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>

Bilal	Before early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Munqidh	Before early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Majid Abd al-Aziz al-Maghrabi / Abu Umar al-Madani	Before early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Amir	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Tariq	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Sayyaf	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Umran	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Hamza al-Iraqi	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Ubayda al-Iraqi	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu al-Jawd	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Usama	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Ziyad	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Muhammad Anwar al-Kurdi	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Bakr	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Astyaf	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu al-Izz	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Talha	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Shaahid	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abd al-Rahim	Early 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Salih	February 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Usama bin Ladin	March-April 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Nur al-Din al-Iraqi	Before mid-1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abd al-Qadir al-Jaza'iri	Before mid-1984?	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Ubayda al-Banshiri	Before mid-1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Adil Farahat	Before mid-1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Hisham al-Jilani	Before mid-1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abd al-Rahman al-Mikhlafl	Before mid-1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Salim al-Ghamidi	Before mid-1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
5-6 brothers	Before mid- 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
5-6 brothers	Before mid- 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
5-6 brothers	Before mid- 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
5-6 brothers	Before mid- 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
5-6 brothers	Before mid- 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abdallah Muhammad al-Muharib	July 1984	Al-Jihad Magazine
Umar Sayf	1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Muhammad Hasan Rabad	1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Ahmad Bouamra / Ahmad al-Pakistani	1984	Mokeddem, <i>Les afghans</i>
Abd al-Rahman al-Dawsary / Abu Abd al-Aziz / Barbaros	1984	<i>al-Sirat al-Mustaqeem</i>
Abu Akram	Before autumn 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Ammar	Before autumn 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Usman (Abdallah al-Falkawi)	Before autumn 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Mu'izz al-Sa'di	Before autumn 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Zayd	Before late 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Muhammad Amin	Before late 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Usayd Izzatyar	Before late 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Abu Uthman al-Kuwayti (Abdallah al-Faylakawi)	Before late 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Hussain	Before late 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>
Ahmed Sa'id	Before late 1984	Muhammad, <i>al-Ansar</i>

Note on Table 3: This fairly neat table belies a messy set of sources. For one, the entries for the earliest years are uncertain and depend on us taking single reports at face value. Second, the dates of some of the early entries are debatable. For example, when describing the “small group of young men”, Hamid first says they arrived in mid-1978, but in the next sentence he says the Soviets invaded “a few months later”, which leads me to think he meant mid-1979, especially since mid-1978 would have been unrealistically early.⁵¹ Third, for some of the early arrivals, it is not clear how much they actually fought. Mustafa Hamid and his three friends, for example, only spent a month and a half in Afghanistan in the summer of 1979 – and part of this time was probably spent in Peshawar – before returning to their homes in the UAE. From the way Hamid talks about the trip, it seems to have been more of a tour of Haqqani’s battlefronts than a fully embedded tour of duty.

¹ In 2005, former British foreign secretary Robin Cook wrote that the very name “al-Qaida” referred to “the computer file of the thousands of mujahideen who were recruited and trained with help from the CIA to defeat the Russians”; Robin Cook, ‘The Struggle against Terrorism Cannot Be Won by Military Means’, *The Guardian*, 8 July 2005, sec. UK news, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2005/jul/08/july7.development>. While it is true that the expression *qa’idat al-ma’lumat* can mean database in Arabic, there is no evidence that such a database ever existed.

² Anas writes, “A former officer in the Algerian intelligence services, who currently resides in Europe, asked me about the number of Algerians in Afghanistan. I told him: ‘not more than 300’. He said: ‘yes, the number registered in my office in the capital was 250’; Anas, *Wiladat.*, chapter 7. Mokeddem writes, “[Mahfouz] Nahna eventually recruited 3000 Algerians for the Afghan jihad”; Mokeddem, *Les Afghans Algériens.*, p. 12.

³ Thomas Hegghammer, *Jihad in Saudi Arabia: Violence and Pan-Islamism since 1979*, 1 edition (Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

⁴ Wright, *The Looming Tower.*, p. 137. Wright cites a Pakistani news source that I have not been able to obtain: Ismail Khan, “Crackdown against Arabs in Peshawar”, *Islamabad the News*, 7 April 1993.

⁵ Khashoggi, ‘Arab Youths Fight’.

⁶ Coll, *Ghost Wars.*, p. 201.

⁷ Jarar, *Al-Shahid.*, p. 353.

⁸ Davis, ‘Foreign Combatants in Afghanistan’.

⁹ al-Nimla, *Al-Jihad Wa’l-Mujahidun.*, p. 50. Ali al-Nimla had known Azzam personally.

¹⁰ Hyman, ‘Arab Involvement in the Afghan War’, p. 79.

¹¹ ‘Un Étrange Soudanais’, *Le Point*, 12 March 1994.

¹² Cooley, *Unholy Wars.*, p. 227.

¹³ Kepel, *Jihad.*, p. 147.

¹⁴ Ahmed Rashid, *Taliban: Islam, Oil and the New Great Game in Central Asia* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2000)., p. 129.

¹⁵ Bergen, *Holy War, Inc.*, p. 58.

¹⁶ Bergen., p. 58.

¹⁷ Bergen., p. 58.

¹⁸ Bergen., p. 58.

¹⁹ Bearden and Risen, *The Main Enemy.*, p. 366.

²⁰ Bergen, *The Osama Bin Laden I Know*, 2006., p. 41.

²¹ Wright, *The Looming Tower.*, p. 399.

²² Bergen, *The Osama Bin Laden I Know*, 2006., p. 41.

²³ Author’s interview with Ahmed Zaidan, Islamabad, 18 March 2008.

²⁴ Author’s interview with Kamal al-Helbawy, London, 23 March 2008.

²⁵ Author’s interview with Abu Harith, Amman, 8 May 2008.

²⁶ Author’s telephone interview with Alastair Croke, 23 March 2008

²⁷ Williams, ‘On the Trail of the “Lions of Islam”’.

²⁸ Muhammad, *Al-Ansar.*, p. 47, citing *al-Ittihad* newspaper, 6 November 1980.

²⁹ Muhammad. p. 80.

³⁰ Muhammad. p. 79, citing *al-Da’wa* magazine, October 1983.

³¹ Muhammad. p. 79. Ayat, word version p. 58.

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- ³² Anas, *Wiladat.*, p. 19.
- ³³ Anas, *Rihlati (Part 3)*.
- ³⁴ Muhammad, *Al-Ansar.* p. 85.
- ³⁵ Azzam, *The Lofty Mountain.*, p. 31.
- ³⁶ Hodson, *Under a Sickle Moon.*
- ³⁷ Notin, *La Guerre de l'ombre.*, p. 301.
- ³⁸ Muhammad, *Al-Ansar.*, p. 111.
- ³⁹ Anas, *Wiladat.*, chapter 3
- ⁴⁰ Jalali and Grau, *Afghan Guerrilla Warfare.*, p. 129.
- ⁴¹ Anas, *Wiladat.* Chapter 4
- ⁴² Muhammad, *Al-Ansar.*, p. 113.
- ⁴³ Bergen, *The Osama Bin Laden I Know*
- ⁴⁴ Author's interview with Olivier Roy, Salzburg, 5 September 2016.
- ⁴⁵ Muhammad, *Al-Ansar.*, p. 112.
- ⁴⁶ Badi, *Afghanistan: Ihtilal Al-Dhakira.*, p. 132.
- ⁴⁷ al-Qandahari, *Dhikrayat.*, p. 80.
- ⁴⁸ Muhammad, *Al-Ansar.*, p. 79.
- ⁴⁹ Muhammad., p. 45.
- ⁵⁰ Author's interview with Abu Harith, Amman, 8 May 2008.
- ⁵¹ "The enthusiasm of the Arab youth drove them early on to take part in the battles in Afghanistan. The first of these battles took place in the summer of 1978 and was led by a very small group of young men. The Soviets invaded Afghanistan a few months after that attempt which was only known in small Islamic circles."; Hamid, *Laylat*, p. 20.