

# **Occasional Papers**

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# **Arab Atheism**

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# Content

## **Arab Atheism**

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Rüdiger Lohlker



One of the less noticed aspects of the Arab uprisings is the emergence of many Arab Facebook pages of theists. A few pages existed before 2011.

The following pages list some atheist Facebook pages and other internet presences from the Arab speaking world.

## **Persons**

*Abdallah al-Qasimi*

Joined Facebook January 2011; 15.743 likes. 17.262 likes (September 30, 2013).

Saudi writer (1907-1996).

## **Atheists – national and regional**

*Algerians Atheists – Mulhidin al-Jaza'ir*

Joined Facebook April 2013; 13 likes.

*Ana mulhid misri wa-urid tamthili fi dustur baladina* (I am an Egyptian atheist and want to be represented in the constitution of our country)

Joined Facebook December 2012; 1.622 likes.

*Atheists and Agnostics of Gaza – Mulhidin wa-la-adriyyin of Gaza*

Joined Facebook August 2011; 83 likes.

*Atheist Society of Lebanon*

Joined Facebook October 2012; 5.118 likes.

*Council of Ex-Muslims of Tunisia CEMT – Majlis al-muslimin al-sabiqin bi-Tunis*

Joined Facebook July 2013; 241 likes.

*Egyptian Atheist – Mulhid misriyy*

Joined Facebook January 2012; 1.682 likes.

*Egyptians without Religion – Misiriyyun bidun diyana*

Joined Facebook in December 2012; 1.328 likes.

*Free Moroccan Atheists F.M.A*

Joined Facebook July 2012; 177 likes.

*al-Ilhad wa'l-la-din fi'l-urdunn (Atheism and Agnosticism in Jordan)*

Joined Facebook September 2012; 2.247 likes. 2.504 likes (September 30, 2013).

*Jam'iyat al-mulhidin al-sa'udiyyin (Society of Sa'udi Atheists)*

Joined Facebook November 2011; 58 likes.

*Jam'iyat al-mulhidin al-'umaniyyin – Atheists of Oman*

Joined Facebook February 2013; 8 likes.

*Khawatir la-diniyy khalijiyy* (Passing Thoughts of an irreligious person from the Gulf)

Joined Facebook August 2013; 64 likes; 573 likes (September 30, 2013).

*Kuffar Tunis wa-zanadiqatuha* (The Unbelievers of Tunisia and its Heretics)

Joined Facebook June 2011; 2.078 likes.

*Kuwaiti Atheists*

Joined Facebook March 2011; 251 likes.

*Lebanese Atheists*

Joined Facebook in January 2013; 4.138 likes. The pages are predominantly in English, some postings are in Arabic.

Issues discussed are gender equality, the confessionalized personal status law of Lebanon, civil marriages, child labor, inflation, Syrian refugees, paradise and the virgins of paradise, Lebanese politics, esp. related to confessionalism (*ta'ifiyya*), remarks on Catholicism, anti-religious statements, a YouTube video on the role of force in the process of imposing ignorance, on a Le-

banese singer turned Salafist and killing Lebanese soldiers;  
many illustrations focus on niqab.

There are many references to Internet sites of the Lebanese  
writer and activist Joumana Haddad.

*Libiyyun la-diniyyun/libiyyat la-diniyyat – Irreligious Libyans*

Joined Facebooks February 2013; 2.863 likes.



*Maghreb Atheists Republic – al-Jumhuriyya al-maghribiyya al-mulhida*

Joined Facebook September 2011; 256 likes.

*Marocains irréligieux – Maghariba la-diniyyin (Irreligious Moroc-  
cans)*

Joined Facebook June 2011; 3.914 likes.

*Misri mulhid – Egyptian Atheist*

Joined Facebook January 2012; 1.490 likes.



*Mulhida kuwaitiyya* (Kuwayti Atheist)

Joined Facebook January 2012; 1.844 likes.

*Mulhidi al-khalij – Gulf atheists*

September 2011; 1.268 likes.

*Mulhidin Bilad al-rafidayn* (Atheists of Mesopotamia)

Joined Facebook in March 2012; 682 likes.

*al-Mulhidin al-'iraqiyyin* (Iraqi Atheists)

730 members.

Closed group.

*al-Mulhidin al-jaza'iriyyin – Les Athées algériens Algerian Atheists*

Joined Facebook June 2011; 927 likes.

*Mulhidin Misr 'ala Facebook* (Atheists of Egypt on Facebook)

Joined Facebook 2012; 3.721 likes.

*al-Mulhidin al-misriyyin* (Egyptian Atheists)

Started at Facebook December 2012; 1.777 likes.

*al-Mulhidin al-sudaniyyin* (Sudanese Atheists)

Joined Facebook March 2013; 291 likes.

*al-Mulhidin al-tunisiyyin – Athées Tunisiens*

Joined Facebook March 2011; 9.102 likes. 9.255 likes (September 30, 2013).

*al-Mulhidin al-yamaniyyin (Yemeni Atheists)*

Joined Facebook October 2012; 91 likes.

*Mulhidun libiyyun (LibyanAtheists)*

Joined Facebook August 2012; 208 likes. 256 likes (September 30, 2013).

*Mulhidu Lubnan – Atheists of Lebanon*

Joined Facebook October 2012; 125 likes. 154 likes (September 30, 2013).

*al-Mulhidun al-sudaniyyun (Sudanese Atheists)*

Joined Facebook in February 2012; 2.086 likes.

*al-Mulhidun al-maghariba – Les athées marocains*

Joined Facebook September 2010; 923 likes.

*Mulhid Sa'idi (Atheist from Upper Egypt)*

Joined Facebook in July 2013; 196 likes.

*Private Syrian Atheists Network*

Joined Facebook June 2012; 13.747 likes.

*Shabakat al-mulhidin al-suriyyin – Syrian Atheists Network*

Joined Facebook February 2012; 1.886 likes.

*Shabakat al-mulhidin wa'l-la-diniyyin al-suriyyin li-da'm al-thawra al-suriyya*

Joined Facebook December 2011; 6.408 likes.

*Sudanese Atheists Revolution*

Joined Facebook June 2010; 419 likes.

*Sudaniyyun la-diniyyun (Irreligious Sudanese)*

Joined Facebook in July 202; 2.811 likes.

*Sudaniyyun la-diniyyun – Irreligious Sudanese (Sudanese Agnostics)*

Joined Facebook in July 2011; 12.131 likes.

*Sudan: non-religious out loud – Sudan la-diniyyun 'aliyyan*

Joined Facebook in July 2011; 803 likes.

*Suriyyun la-diniyyun* (Irreligious Syrians)

Joined Facebook August 2011; 1.984 likes.

*Syrian Atheists*

Joined Facebook March 2012; 12.174 likes.

*Syrian Atheists – Mulhidun Suriyyun*

Joined Facebook January 2010; 6.145 likes.

*Tajammu' Mulhidin al-'Iraq* (Bloc of Atheists from Iraq)

1.919 members.

Closed group.

إذا كانت الحضارة أنثى . . .

والثقافة أنثى . . .

واللغة أنثى . . .

والقصيدة أنثى .

والشجرة أنثى . . .

والثورة أنثى . . .

فلماذا ينفرد الرجال بالسلطة؟؟

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*When civilisation is female,/culture is female,/language is female/  
le/poem is female,/tree is female,/revolution is female, then:  
Why are only men in power?*

*Tawanisa la-diniyyun – Tunisiens irréligieux*

Joined Facebook April 2010; 14.384 likes.

*Tunisiyyun la-diniyyun – Tunisiens irréligieux*

Joined Facebook in April 2013; 263 likes

*Yemen Atheists*

Joined Facebook August 2013; 2 likes.

### **Atheist – local**

Some atheist Facebook pages refer to a local context.

*al-La-diniyyun fi Jami'at al-Azhar* (Irreligious at al-Azhar University)

Joined Facebook in July 3, 2013; 16 likes.

*Mulhidin Jami'at al-Iskandariyya* (Atheist of the University of Alexandria)

Joined Facebook March 2013; 369 likes.

*Mulhidin Jami'at Asyut* (Atheists of the University of Asyut)

Joined Facebook in February 2013; 79 likes.

Three postings, all on February 25. One a general statement to be proud to be an atheist (English), another a statement about god created according to humans imagination, and a cartoon on parents forcing religion on their child.

## **Atheists – general**

Other Facebook pages do not refer to a geographic area:

*Ana mulhida... ana hurra* (I am a female Atheist... I am free)

7.883 members.

Closed group.

*al-'Aql din* (The Brain is a Faith)

Joined Facebook September 2012; 27.181 likes.

*Arab Atheist Broadcasting*

Joined Facebook November 2011; 2.435 likes.

*al-Asdiqa' al-mulhidin – Atheist Friends*

Joined Facebook March 2013; 832 likes.

*Atheist Arabians*

Joined Facebook January 2013; 121 likes.

*'Ayiz atazawwaj mulhida* (I want to marry an Atheist)

Joined Facebook April 2013; 1.441 likes.

*Harakat al-ikhwan al-mulhidin* (Movement of the Atheist Brothers)

Joined Facebook June 2011; 1.480 likes. 1.513 likes (September 30, 2013).

*I am an Atheist – Ana mulhid*

Joined Facebook ; 4.228 likes.

*Ihna mulhidin*

Joined Facebook June 2013; 16 likes.

*al-Ilhad* (Atheism)

Joined Facebook October 2012; 1.977 likes.



*al-Ilhad huwa al-hall* (Atheism is the solution)

Joined Facebook December 2010; 1.249 likes.

*Al-Ilhad wa-hiwar ma'a l-adyan – Atheism and dialogue with religions*

Joined Facebook September 2011; 507 likes.

*Innani ana allah* (I am God)

Joined Facebook November 2011; 625 likes.

*al-Islam wa l-ilhad... tahawara*

Joined Facebook July 2010; 82 likes.

*Ittihad al-mulhidin al-'arab – Arab Atheists Union*

Joined Facebook November 2012; 927 likes.

*Ittihad al-mulhidin wa'l-la-diniyyin al-'arab* (Arab Atheists and Irreligious Union)

Joined Facebook August 2012; 3.020 likes.

*Jama'at al-ikhwan al-mulhidin* (Community of the Atheist Brothers)

Joined Facebook December 2012; 1.042 likes.

*Jama'at al-ikhwan al-mulhidin* (Community of the Atheist Brothers)

Joined Facebook July 2013; 618 likes.

*al-Kafir* (The Unbeliever)

Joined Facebook August 2013;

*La ilaha ila l-'aql* (There is no god, but the brain)

Joined Facebook March 2013; 1.324 likes.

*La ilaha ila l-'aql wahdahu la-sharika lahu* (There is no god, but the brain alone, nothing equal to it)

5.121 members.

Closed group.

*Ma'an li-malyuniyat al-mulhidin al-'arab* (Together for a Million Arab Atheists)

Joined Facebook June 2011; 53 likes.

*Majallat al-mulhid al-'arabi* (Journal of the Arab Atheist)

1.552 members.

Closed group.

*Majmu'at al-mulhidin al-'arab* (Group of Arab Atheists)

Joined Facebook November 2012; 887 likes

*Maktabat al-mulhidin l-'arab – Arab Atheists Library*

Joined Facebook in January 2013; 5907 likes. 6306 likes (September 10, 2013)

The group declares itself as open not only for atheists, but for everybody who is interested in a well balanced view of the issues discussed in the books linked to in this group. The books offered are from Arab authors or translated.

*Mantiq al-ilhad* (The Logic of Atheism)

Joined Facebook September 2013; 352 likes.

*Min ajl fikr al-mustanir*

Joined Facebook October 2011; 138.000 likes.

*Mudhakkirat mulhid* (Musings of an atheist)

Joined Facebook November 2012; 8.580 likes.

*al-Mujahidun fi sabil al-ilhad* (Mujahidin on the way of Atheism)

Joined Facebook August 2011; 1.118 likes.

*Mulhid wa-aftakhir* (Atheist and I'm proud)

3125 members

Closed group.

*Mulhid bi l-fitra* (Atheist by nature)

Joined Facebook November 2011; 3.329 likes.

*al-Mulhida al-muhajjaba* (Veiled Female Atheist)

Joined Facebook April 2012; 1.917 likes.

*al-Mulhidat wa'l-mulhidin* (Female and Male Atheist)

Joined Facebook in March 2013; 215 likes.

*al-Mulhidin* (The Atheists)

Joined Facebook October 2012; 29 likes.

*al-Mulhidin al-'arab* (ArabAtheists)

Joined Facebook February 2012; 129 likes.

*al-Mulhidin al-'arab – ArabAtheists*

Joined Facebook September 2012; 2384 likes.

*al-Mulhidin al-'arab min ajli ma'rifat al-haqiqa bi'l-'aql wa'l-man-tiq* (Arab Atheists for Grasping the Truth by Reason and Logic)

Joined Facebook July 2010; 653 likes.

*Mulhidin 'an al-din*

Joined Facebook ?; 50 members

Closed group.

*al-Mulhidin wa'l-mufakkirin al-'arab* (Arab Atheists and Thinkers)

Joined Facebook September 2012; 4.303 likes.

*al-Mulhidin wa'l-muhashshishin* (Atheists and Hashish-Users)

Joined Facebook November 2011; 231 likes.

The postings contain mostly photos, videos, and statements mocking religion or statements about atheism.



*„An atheist is an apostate. We fear his logic. Therefore it is necessary to kill him“ The signboard on the left reads: „Fatwa Shop“*

*Mulhid mantiqiyy* (Logical Atheist)

Joined Facebook September 2011; 4.710 likes.

*Mulhidun* (Atheists)

Joined Facebook November 2012; 2.595 likes. 3.977 likes  
(September 30, 2013)

„I am a Marxist... Atheist and proud“

*Al-Mulhidun bi-la hudud & Mulhidun wa-law kariha al-mu'minun*  
(Atheist without frontiers & Atheists, even if the believers don't like it)

Joined Facebook March 2012; 5.238 likes. 5425 likes (September 10, 2013).

*al-Mulhidun didd al-adyan* (Atheists against Religion)

Joined Facebook in August 2011; 11.131 likes.

*Mulhidun min al-muhit ila l-khalij* (Atheists from the Ocean to the Gulf)

Joined Facebook June 2013; 855 likes.

*Mulhidun – mutaharrirun* (Atheists – Liberators)

Joined Facebook September 2012; 1.061 likes.

*Qur'an al-mulhidin al-'arab* (The Quran of the Arab Atheists)

Joined Facebook November 2010; 1.864 likes. 2.131 likes (September 30, 2013).

*Shabakat al-la-diniyyin al-'arab – Non-religious Arabs Network*

Joined Facebook May 2011; 2.189 likes.

*Shabakat al-mulhidin al-'arab* (Arab Atheists Network)

Joined Facebook March 2013; 1.022 likes.

*Shabakat al-mulhidin al-'arab – Arab Atheists Network*

Joined Facebook June 2013; 644 likes.

*al-Shaykh al-mu'min* (the believing shaykh)

Joined Facebook August 2013; 1525 likes.

*al-Tahaluf al-mulhidin al-'arab – Arab Atheists Alliance*

Joined Facebook December 2012; 578 likes.

*Tajammu' al-mulhidin*

Joined Facebook March 2013; 43 likes.

*Tajammu' al-mulhidin al-'arab* (Bloc of Arab Atheists)

Joined Facebook April 2013; 8 likes.

*Warshat 'amal Majallat al-mulhidin al-'arab* (Journal of Arab Atheists – Workshop)

12 members.

Open group.

*Ya malahida al-'alami ttahadu* (Atheists of the World Unite)

Joined Facebook October 2011; 3.048 likes.

*Yaumiyat fatat mulhida*

Joined Facebook November 2011; 5.490 likes.

## **Non-Arab Atheists**



Since the Arab (speaking) world is not an ethnically and linguistically homogenous world:

*Akrad la-diniyyun* (Irreligious Kurds)

Joined Facebook July 2012; 1.553 likes.

*al-Amazigh al-la-diniyyin* (Irreligious Imazighen)

Joined Facebook February 2013; 1.045 likes.

*Imazighen Atheists*

Joined Facebook June 2013; 61 likes.

*Kurdên Xwedê ne nas – Mulhidun Kurd* (Kurdish Atheists)

Joined Facebook February 2013; 2669 likes

## **Arab Agnostics**

*Shabakat al-la-adriyyin al-'arabiya* (Arab Network of Agnostics)

Joined Facebook August 2013; 68 likes.

*Tawanisa al-la-adriyyin – Tunisiens Agnostiques*

Joined Facebook June 2011; 1.154 likes.

## **Arab Atheist Journal**

There is the blog of an atheist journal:

<http://aamagazine.blogspot.co.at/>

## **Arab Atheist Pages – hacked**

Some Facebook pages are hacked:

*Daulat al-mulhidin* (State of the Atheists)

959 members.

Closed group. Hacked by HaMa HaCker, displaying the shahada in the header.

*Ittihad al-uluhiyyun wa'l-mulhidun li-shimal ifriqiyya wa'l-sharq al-awsat* (Union of the Deists and Atheists of North Africa and the Middle East)

1.140 members.

Open group. Group description hacked by Mena EL Masery of Hacker Muslim.

## **Polls**

A recent Gallup poll tells that the number of atheists in Saudi-Arabia is 5 %:

<http://www.an7a.com/108470>

## **Twitter**

Research started September 10, 2013.

*Ahmad Mulhid Sa'udi*

@atheist\_sa

Follower: 1.461

*Alanazi Hamid Salaf*

@saudirawndy

Follower: 1.438

*Atheist*

@Atheistinsaudi

Follower: 177

*AtheistGhost*

@AtheistGhost

Follower: 3.460

*Bassma*

@\_Bassma

Follower: 178

*D. Salman Mulhid Sa'udi*

@AHaoi

Follower: 2.856

*Godless Heathen*

@SaudiAtheist1

Follower: 324

*KuwaitiAtheist*

@Q8yAtheist

Follower: 985

*al-La-diniyyun al-'arab*

@ArabIrreligious

Follower: 650

*Mulhid*

@HarmfulIslam

Follower: 686

*Mulhida hurra*

@mol7daa

Follower: 2.421

*Mulhid 'Arabiyy*

@ml7d

Follower: 670

*al-MulhidaRevenge*

@revenge1girl

Follower: 601

*Mulhid Kafir*

@Atheist\_Infidel

Follower: 1.513

*Mulhid wa-hamdu li-llah*

@Affeist

Follower: 1.501

*Mulhidun Suriyyun*

@syrianatheists

Follower: 139

*Muslim murtadd mutaharrar al-fikr*

@BigLieReligion

Follower: 1.868

*Saghira wa-mulhida*

@lolo\_ksa3

Follower: 249

*Taghridat al-mulhidin 'ala*

@El7adorg

Follower: 195

*The Saudi Atheist*

@TheSaudiAtheist

Follower: 1.819

*TheSkepticMind*

@TheSkepticMind

Follower: 280

## **Blogs**

*al-Wahy*

<http://holyghostbook.blogspot.co.at/>

Started in July 2012.

*spring.me*

*The Saudi Atheist*

Smile: 340

## **Forum**

*Shabakat al-mulhidin al-'arab*

<http://www.il7ad.com/>

17.563 members.

**Google+**

*Mulhid Sa'udiyy*

Circles: 39