

Clarification of a Doubt

I would like to take this opportunity, as a Salafi brother residing in Egypt who was blessed by Allah to know our Shaykh, Hasan Abdul-Wahhab al-Banna رحمه الله, personally, to clarify a few important matters:

Firstly:

The criticism that was circulated against Shaykh Bilal, in the form of an audio recording attributed to Shaykh Hasan Abdul-Wahhab al-Banna رحمه الله occurred during the height of the fitnah of Muhammad ibn Hadi. After this period, the Shaykh continued to speak positively of Shaykh Bilal, and none of the Mashayekh in Egypt accepted that previous criticism due to the well-known circumstances surrounding it.

This is alongside other statements that were released during that same period which supported the position of the Musafiqah; such statements were likewise not accepted, and this is well known among the people of Sunnah, especially the mashayikh and Salafis of our land.

In this regard, Shaykh Shihab ad-Deen حفظه الله, the son of our Shaykh Hassan Abdul-Wahhab al-Banna رحمه الله stated:

“I warn against the one called Khalid Uthman, known as Abu Abdil-A’la, for taking advantage of the illness of my father, the Allamah Hasan ibn Abdul-Wahhab al-Banna, by getting him to issue statements that contradict what my father had previously stated about him. My father had already warned against him, as had the Allamah Shaykh Rabi ibn Hadi al-Madkhali. He lies, plays with words, and exploited my father’s illness and the effects of medication on his memory, deceiving him with false clarifications in order to achieve his aims.

(Written by Shaykh Shihab ad-Deen after Fajr on Friday, 23 Dhul-Qadah 1440H)

The last known position of our Shaykh and father, Shaykh Hasan Abdul-Wahhab al-Banna, was that he stood with the Kibar al-Ulama in the fitnah of Muhammad ibn Hadi and spoke well of Shaykh Bilal prior to his death. For this reason, the Mashayikh of Egypt who also stood with the Kibar, such as Shaykh Ali al-Wasify رحمه الله and others, continued to cooperate with and remained united with Shaykh Bilal al-Salimi.

Secondly:

I would like to draw attention to the clear double standards currently being witnessed in two matters:

The elevation of a deviated individual such as **Hisham al-Biyali**, despite the major fitnah and splitting he caused in our lands, the detailed and well-known criticisms against him, and his repugnant speech regarding Shaykh Hasan Abdul-Wahhab al-Banna, even after the Shaykh's death he described our Shaykh to be ignorant of the methodology of the Salaf. More than twelve years have passed without any retraction, clarification, or repentance, yet those same individuals are attempting to belittle people who are well known upon the Sunnah in our country.

The selective use of statements made during the fitnah of Muhammad ibn Hadi, specifically taking from the speech of Shaykh Hasan Abdul-Wahhab al-Banna concerning Shaykh Bilal, while deliberately ignoring the fact that during that same period recordings were also circulated in which the Shaykh spoke against others. **None** of this speech was accepted due to the circumstances already mentioned and due to the Shaykh's later clarification.

Allah is my witness that the final phone call I had with the Shaykh, may Allah have mercy upon him, regarding this matter, he clearly stated that the truth was with the Kibar and not with Muhammad ibn Hadi. I refuse to remain silent while the speech of the Shaykh and these recordings, well known to all, are used in an insincere and disingenuous manner.

The dawah in Egypt already faces severe challenges as it is!

All of the above is known to the Mashayekh of Sunnah in Egypt and the Salafis, and they can be asked about it and I conclude with **the statement of Abu Zuraa ad-Dimashqi, who said:**

“I said to Abu Abdullah Ahmad ibn Hanbal: ‘O Abu Abdullah, what do you say concerning Saeed ibn Basheer?’

He replied: ‘You are more knowledgeable of his affair.’”

(Tareekh Abi Zuraa, 1/540)

Written by Abu Sarah Ahmed Yusef Elarabi on the 29th of Rajab 1447 coinciding with the 18th of January 2026, Cairo, Egypt.