



Jihad Report

February 2019

Main Points

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan criticizes US General Joseph Votel's statement that the **Islamic State** organization in Afghanistan poses a serious threat and is capable of directly hurting the US from Afghanistan. According to the Emirate, the statement is exaggerated and intended to exonerate the US's continued occupation of Afghanistan and sow fear among the countries of the region and the American public. In addition, the Emirate, a branch of the "Islamic State" in Afghanistan, is limited to a small area and will soon be destroyed by the Emirate's jihadists.

Sheikh **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, leader of al-Qaeda, deems the Arab Spring revolutions to be a defeat and a failure. This is due to the mesh of a number of factors such as the willingness of Islamic movements to serve under secular laws, the existence of alliances with secular powers and the unwillingness to promote the implementation of Sharia law. In addition, al-Zawahiri criticized Syria's jihad activists for their internal power struggles instead of focusing on the external enemy. In his view, the solution to exiting the current crisis lies in adhering to and applying Sharia law, becoming free from American hegemony in the Muslim countries and in Da'awa and Jihad against the enemy, which includes Iran and the Shiites, the US, Israel, Russia, France, China, the Hindus, and local governors who cooperate with the enemies of Islam and the regimes that are fighting the Sharia.

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb criticizes the belligerent policies of the Algerian and Tunisian regimes in assisting France against Islamic religion and the suppression of Islamic identity. It called on residents of both countries to wake up and warned that continuing this trend would create a generation that is disconnected from the foundations of the Islamic religion, hence the silence on the issue must be stopped and action must be taken against this criminal policy.

Sheikh **Muhammad Kufa**, leader of the **Macina** organization affiliated with **Jamaat Nusrat**

al Islam wal Muslimin and working in conjunction with **al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb** in Mali, declares that he is still alive contrary to early reports in his media of his assassination. According to him, the enemy media, mainly France's, is spreading false rumors aimed at demoralizing jihad activists and creating a sense of national security and pride among civilians. In addition, Kufa noted that the state of the Mali army is not good and that its attempts to penetrate the ranks of jihad activists have failed.

Sheikh **Abu Hudayfa al-Sudani**, a senior Salafi Jihadi philosopher who is close to **al-Qaeda**, describes the jihad arena in Mali as an arena in which jihad is embodied in its full power and glory thanks to the determination of its residents to fight for freedom and dignity. According to him, the **Jamaat Nusrat al Islam wal Muslimin** organization, which operates in Mali and is close to **al-Qaeda**, currently enjoys a very extensive popular support base from the various ethnic groups in the country such as the Fulani group. Alongside this, al-Sudani called on the Muslim nation to assist the organization and jihad in Mali in every way.

The two organizations, "**Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham**" and "**Hurras al-Din**", an al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria, publish a joint proclamation in which they pledge to put an end to the struggle between them and to cooperate against their mutual enemy. In addition, the two organizations pledged to resolve disputes and disagreements in a religious court.

The **Islamic State** organization emphasizes in its official journal **Al-Naba**, that the organization continues to operate in additional combat arenas and does not limit itself to a restricted geographical area. It said the Islamic State's biggest victory lies in it not being defeated by a huge coalition of armies and huge squadrons of fighter jets.

The **Fajr al-Kinana** organization, which appears to be a Muslim Brotherhood jihadi organization, blames the international community for ignoring Egypt's "crimes" against its citizens, as expressed in the execution of several young Egyptians without trial. The organization called on all movements opposing the Egyptian regime to overthrow it and reveal its "crimes" to the public, promising revenge.

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New Publications

Ideology

Al-Qaeda publications

- From the publications of the **Al-Sahab** Media Institute, belonging to the al-Qaeda organization:

- Speech by Sheikh **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, leader of al-Qaeda, entitled "The Way of Salvation". The bulk of the speech, as al-Zawahiri made clear at the outset, was devoted to a discussion of the Arab Spring revolutions. He said, "Many have argued that they constitute an alternative to the way of Da'awa and Jihad [...]", but reality has proven them wrong. According to him, the local regimes deliberately deceived the masses to strengthen their hold on the country.

According to al-Zawahiri, eight years have passed since the outbreak of the popular revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Syria, but nothing has improved. On the contrary, there was a deterioration and the revolutions ended in defeat and failure. In Tunisia, the regime exploited the al-Nahda movement belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood in order to strengthen its power and cover the continued activity against the Islamic religion and the citizens of the state. He noted that the **al-Nahda movement** had adopted a policy similar to that of the previous regime by declaring it to be a secular movement that did not seek to change the world order in the state, including individual-status laws; In Egypt, **the Muslim Brotherhood, the Salafis** and others served as a cover for the regime that described the presence of the tanks in the squares as an act designed to protect the inhabitants, but in practice the tanks' role was to open fire on elements that threatened public order; In Yemen, the opposition forces such as the Muslim Brotherhood's **al-Islah movement** collaborated with the US and Saudi Arabia to negotiate on behalf of the ousted ruler Ali Saleh; In Libya, the US-backed General Haftar managed to take over more than half the country. This took place while many schools of thought associated with Islam in Libya call for maintaining the

unity among the ranks in Libya, but in practice do not contribute to strengthening Islamic identity and applying the principles of Islamic religion; In Syria, the revolution also suffered a disgraceful defeat, in part because of the damaging activities of the Islamic State organization.

Later in his remarks, Al-Zawahiri listed several reasons for the failure of the revolutions. The most important of these was the disregard for the principle of Al-Wala'a wal-Baraa (the duty of showing loyalty to Muslims in times of trouble and in general, and the duty to renounce and not associate with non-Muslims):

- a. Participation in democratic elections under a secular constitution before achieving the objectives of the revolutions. According to him, a secular constitution contradicted Sharia law.
- b. The desire to establish alliances with the secular, showing willingness to be under their leadership, and to agree with their actions even if they violate the Sharia. According to al-Zawahiri, those secularists even appealed to the military to conspire with it to seize power while violating Islamic principles. Following these statements, a speech by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi made on CNN's network in early January 2019 was incorporated, in which he denied the presence of political prisoners in Egyptian prisons, stressing that the only prisoners were Islamist holding weapons.
- c. Focusing on the struggle for control of territories, warehouses, villages, cities and more while abandoning the war for the oppressed. An unfortunate trend that led the rebels to fight each other instead of pointing their weapon at the real enemy. An unfortunate result of this trend has made civilians targets for bombing and destruction following the military attacks, "The cities fell one by one and so did the regions and fronts". Al-Zawahiri strongly criticized jihad activists in Syria. According to him, instead of enforcing their will on the enemy and waging a war of attrition, they had to surrender to dictates of states and enemies in view of the preference of leaders of jihad factions not to face the enemy face to face and neglect the oppressed civilian population at the mercy of enemies.

Al-Zawahiri sought to clarify the danger inherent in the involvement of secular states in Muslim affairs. For example, he noted that Pakistan did not lift a finger in favor of the Arab immigrants when the war against the Russians in Afghanistan ended; Turkey and the Gulf states also did little to help the jihad operatives.

- d. Absolute disregard to the path being a long and hard one. According to al-Zawahiri, one must not come to terms with life alongside the lie and the tyrant. "The path requires many victims. There is no escape from preparation for immigration, deportation, killing and imprisonment [...]". Al-Zawahiri emphasized that those jihad factions who educate their young men that Islam can be helped by a willingness to coexist with the enemy and act according to its constitutions, laws and security mechanisms have revealed that they cannot protect their people and rise up against the crimes and injustices of the tyrannical rulers. In this context, al-Zawahiri condemned the religious establishment in Saudi Arabia which advocates coexistence with the enemy and at the same time calls for the termination of jihad.
- e. Adopting religious rulings that contradict the Islamic religion of movements that refer to themselves as being Islamic, such as supporting US military service for Muslims in the U.S. military, support for democratic rule and elections, and more.
- f. Imposing false awareness among Muslims that victory will be achieved by peaceful means. "For any revolution to succeed there is a need for an armed clash that will eliminate the previous regime, or else the latter will return and be worse, uglier and more corrupt than before". In this context, excerpts were incorporated from the book written by Sif al-Adal, a senior leader of al-Qaeda, highlighting the importance of managing the armed struggle and the guerrilla war against the enemy as a means of victory and not peaceful demonstrations.
- g. The obedience of the Salafi sheikhs to those in power. Al-Zawahiri accused the religious establishment and advocates supporting local regimes of being

responsible for the failure of the revolutions due to their willingness to serve as advocates for the crimes of the regimes and to sacrifice the principles of Islamic religion for the sake of money. Alongside this criticism, a speech by Sheikh Anwar al-Awlaki, a former senior al-Qaeda leader in the Arabian Peninsula, was incorporated, on the influence and involvement of the West in Islamic countries. He argued that the United States is not interested in the existence of Islam to protect Muslims, or Islam that advocates jihad, but is interested in fostering liberal, democratic and civilian American Islam, and for this purpose it is using fake religious clerics to assist in its dissemination.

After addressing the factors that led to the failure of the Arab Spring revolutions, al-Zawahiri pointed out how to escape the crisis and the ways to victory: the implementation of the Al-Wala'a wal-Baraa principle; Applying the rule of God (hakmiyya) by applying Sharia law; The presence of Muslim scholars who would be devoted to cultivating such ideas; The abandonment of the illusion of control and return to the war of the oppressed [i.e., fighting for the benefit of the Muslim civilian population as the one in Idlib in Syria which is under existential danger from the enemy]; Grouping jihad activists around the word of God's uniqueness to weaken the enemy; The liberation of Muslims from the US hegemony that is fighting Muslims through its bases scattered throughout the Muslim countries; Ignoring weak religious rulings; Being wary of weak behavior "leading the nation to defeat and surrender to the greatest criminals"; Increasing awareness among the Muslim nation that victory will be achieved only through Da'awa, in an armed way, in fighting, in emigrating to the jihad arenas, in patience and sacrifice, and not in peaceful coexistence with the tyrannical ruler. Alongside this, statements made by Sheikh **Asim Umar**, a leader of **al-Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent**, on the importance of armed conflict with the infidels, were incorporated. According to him, God commanded his believers to fight the unbelievers in an armed way until his laws were instituted throughout the world.

Later on in his remarks, al-Zawahiri again emphasized that in order to secure the victory of the Islamic religion, "religious traders" must be exposed, including the



Excerpt from a speech by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of al-Qaeda

- The **Al-Bayyan** Media Institute, affiliated with **Hurras al-Din – an al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria**, has published an article titled " Hamas and the Shiite al-Zabrine Movement" by **Bilal Khuraysat Abu Khadija**. In the article, the writer referred to the arrest of members of the **al-Sabrin movement**, which is directed by the Iranian regime in the Gaza Strip, including that of **Hisham Salim**, the leader of the organization, by the security forces of the **Hamas movement**. The author noted that the alleged arrest clearly points to the strengthening of the Iranian influence within the Gaza Strip and as he called it the "Shiite invasion." According to him, Hamas – Iran relations are not new, and are expressed, for example, in financial support of Hamas's fight against Israel. According to the writer, the arrest was carried out only in the wake of criticism and pressure exerted by Egypt on the Hamas movement on the issue, with the aim of severing Hamas from the Iranian axis and bringing it closer to the Arab axis. Later in the article, the author blamed Hamas for ignoring Iran's penetration into Yemen through the Houthis, into Lebanon through Hezbollah, into Iraq through al-hashd al-sha'abi and into Syria; The persecution of the Salafi in the Gaza Strip; In it being a national movement and not an Islamic movement that utilizes the religion of Islam to increase its support base.

Later in the article, the author quoted criticisms made by **Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filastini**, a senior Salafi Jihadi cleric who is an **al-Qaeda** supporter in the Hamas movement. Al-Filastini accused Hamas of deviating and betraying the Islamic religion for failing to apply Sharia law, the unwillingness to declare Gaza an Islamic Emirate, recognition of the legitimacy of the rule of Abu Mazen, Head of the Palestinian Authority, the unwillingness to adhere to jihad against Israel and more. In conclusion, the author

noted, "*We are not asking Hamas to declare Gaza an Islamic Emirate as the Sheikh [Abu Qatada al-Filastini] has demanded, but we are content with applying Sharia law [...]*".²

Publications of the Islamic State

- The **Remah** media institute, supporting the **Islamic State**, posted a video titled "Have they not seen how many generations we destroyed before them?". The video opens with footage from an old Islamic State publication documenting the "children of the Caliphate" living and playing in the shadow of Islam and Sharia after the "Idol of Nationalism" was removed, and continued to show footage of children and babies killed in American bombings, so the video asserts. Furthermore, the video included footage of hurricanes that occurred in the US (presenting them as "divine punishment" for America's actions) and a record of the Islamic State's operational activities in various arenas such as Somalia and Iraq.³
- Surfers on the **Shumukh Al-Islam** forum, aiding in the propaganda of the **Islamic State** organization, discussed the decision by the Algerian Minister of Education to ban prayers in schools across the country on the grounds that "the place of prayer is at home and not at school". One of the surfers said that in response to the ban, several schools held prayers in protest. Another surfer pointed out that prayer is not enough and that jihad and the principle of Al-Wala'a wal-Baraa (allegiance to Muslims and renouncing the infidels) do not exist in Algeria.⁴
- Surfers on the **Shumukh Al-Islam** forum, aiding in the propaganda of the **Islamic State** organization, criticized Sheikh Abdullah al-Mahisani, a Saudi religious scholar who operates in Syria and is affiliated with al-Qaeda. One of the surfers mocked al-Mahisani's tweet according to which "Trump will help Sunni victory in Syria" and claimed that there was no difference between this statement and the statement made by the Imam of the Great Mosque in Mecca, Abd al-Rahman al-Sudais, according to which the US 'carries the banner of justice and liberty'.⁵
- In issue 169 of the **al-Naba** journal, an article was published condemning the reforms of

² February 28th 2019

³ <https://obedientsupporters.com/owncloud/index.php/s/9YACs9B5YFXRj5J>

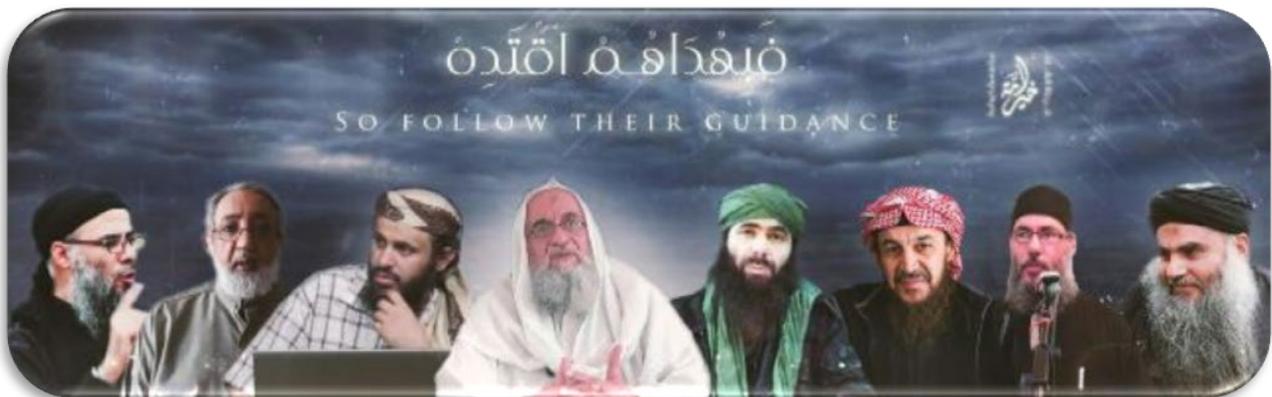
⁴ <https://shamukh.net/vb/showthread.php?t=290023>

⁵ <https://shamukh.net/vb/showthread.php?t=289914>

the Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, in the kingdom. In the article, the author compared bin Salman to the Ba'ath party members in Syria who tried to reform the country in an attempt to "spread heresy and atheism" and "replace Sharia with their socialist religion". The writer claimed that similarly bin Salman wishes to impose his religion on the people of the Arabian Peninsula and to strike the monotheists and opponents in the country. The article concluded with a call for Muslims in the Arabian Peninsula to learn from the lessons of their brothers in Iraq and Syria, to protect the blood and dignity of Muslims and to release the male and female prisoners from the "tyrants" prisons.⁶

- A 170-page article was published in the **al-Naba** journal on the steadfastness of the Islamic State. The article highlighted statements in the Western media that this was not the end of the Islamic State organization and that the attempt to limit the war against the organization in a limited geographical area ignored its activity in other arenas. According to the article, the Islamic State's biggest victory lies in not being defeated by a huge coalition of armies and a huge number of fighter jets.⁷

Opinion leaders in the jihadi discourse



Pictured are prominent ideologues affiliated with al-Qaeda and above them the caption "Follow their guidance." The message was posted on social networks by the Khayr al-Ummah media group, which helps in al-Qaeda propaganda

⁶ [Telegram](#)
⁷ [Telegram](#)

This section deals with the opinions of some religious scholars, military commanders, and publicists affiliated with jihadi Salafi terrorist organizations seeking to shape jihadi discourse and influence thought and action in the field. The opinions and publications receive high viewing percentages among global jihad activists, hence their importance.

- Among the publications of Sheikh **Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi**, a prominent Salafi jihadi thinker affiliated with **al-Qaeda**:⁸

- An article also published by the **Bayan** media institute entitled "The Global Union of Muslim Religious Scholars and the Fall of the Last Fig Leaf – The Human Fraternity Charter". In the article, al-Maqdisi  criticized the joint declaration calling for world peace and coexistence among members of various religions signed at the beginning of February 2019 by Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, Chief Imam of the Al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo. In the article, al-Maqdisi criticized the World Union of Muslim Religious Scholars who supported this treaty, and in particular condemned religious scholars belonging to the Union such as Muhammad Ould Dedew of Mauritania and Ali Sallabi of Libya. Al-Maqdisi devoted the greater part of the article to his arguments as to why the treaty is a "lie and heresy" document. Among other things, he argued that the message of Islam as conveyed by the Prophet Muhammad is definitive and clear and therefore no further documents and declarations are needed (every addition is a distortion of the religion) and emphasized that love and loyalty is reserved for the Muslims only and between themselves and that no loyalty should be given to non-Muslims (the "Jews and Christian infidels" are not the Muslims' brothers). In this context, al-Maqdisi speaks against the blurring of the distinction in the treaty between 'Muslims' and 'infidels' incorrectly and expanding the concept of faith to include idolaters such as Hindus.

Al-Maqdisi further claimed that the treaty was written in the spirit of "human fraternity" promoted by the "Free Masons" with the aim of misleading believers and placing a wedge between members of the Muslim nation connected to each other

⁸ Telegram

according to the principle of Al-Wala'a wal-Baraa (the Muslims' loyalty to one another and their renouncing of the infidels).

Al-Maqdisi accused the West of arguing for human fraternity and equality but at the same time killing Muslims in various arenas such as Palestine, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia and Syria. He added that the goal of the treaty was to eliminate the Muslims' spirit of jihad from which the "crusaders are afraid", while the Pope reaches military bases in the West where soldiers are incited to kill Muslims. In addition, al-Maqdisi criticized the Western concept of "liberty" which, in his eyes, is but a cover for permissiveness, moral corruption and abandonment of the religion. He added that the condemnation of terrorism in the treaty is actually a statement against the legitimate jihad of Muslims, while ignoring the activities of Jews against Palestinians or of the Americans in various arenas in the Muslim world.

- An article also published by the **Khayr Ummah media institute**, assisting in propaganda for the **al-Qaeda** organization, against the Mauritanian religious cleric, **Muhammad al-Hassan Ould Dedew al-Shanqiti**. Al-Maqdisi devoted most of the article to criticism against Ould Dedew for "legitimizing the indefensible" in his lectures and supporting various tyrants in the Arab and Islamic world (Al-Maqdisi, for example, cited the praise given by Ould Dedew to Amr Al-Bashir, whom al-Maqdisi called "Sudan's tyrant"). Al-Maqdisi emphasized that Ould Dedew and similar religious scholars mislead the people and youth into thinking that declaring the ruler as a heretic (Takfir) is a matter of religious extremism, and that is not the case. Al-Maqdisi added that Ould Dedew confuses between concepts, causes young people to fear the declaration of 'tyrants' as heretics, and even mixes between the idea of the Islamic Shura with the "heretic idea of democracy". Al-Maqdisi summed up his statement by saying that he detailed Ould Dedew's cons in the article so that no Muslim would be tempted to believe them.

- Among the publications of Sheikh **Abu Qatada al-Filastini**, affiliated with the al-Qaeda

organization:⁹

- A post in which al-Filastini claimed that the present era marks the rise of faith and the downfall of Jahiliyyah with reference to recent changes, both on the regional and the global levels. On the other hand, al-Filastini warned of the anguish of God humanity can expect due to increasing sins, including in a country that until recently was the last stronghold of modesty (alluding to the Saudi Arabian kingdom). Al-Filastini also referred the State of Israel by saying that, contrary to the past, which was characterized by progress, today there is breakdown and controversy, evidence of a near collapse.
- A post about the Arab Spring and its importance to the jihadi movement. Abu Qatada noted that despite the mistakes made during the revolutions, the importance of the 'Arab Spring' lies in the fact that it was the awakening of a nation rather than one organization or another. In addition, the 'Arab Spring' has developed jihad in a number of arenas – and even if there is some weakening – this is welcome and necessary.
- A post in which al-Filastini rejected the allegations made against him by Dr. Tareq Abd al-Halim. Al-Filastini protested that Abd al-Halim criticized his statements in an opinion that was made public, cotnaoning mocking and contempt. Al-Filastini particularly attacked Abd al-Halim's statement that 'the jihad in Syria is over'.
- A post in memory of Emir Muhammad bin Abd al-Karim al-Khattabi, a political and military leader from Morocco who led a rebellion against French and Spanish colonialism in the Reef region of Morocco. Al-Filastini praised al-Khattabi for carrying the banner of jihad against the colonial enemy and for developing guerrilla tactics used in various arenas around the world.
- A post in which al-Filastini encouraged the wounded Mujahideen, urged them to be patient and pray for their Mujahideen brothers who continue to fight.



- Among the publications of Sheikh **Hani Saba'i**, a senior Salafi jihadi cleric affiliated with

⁹ Feb, 2019. [Telegram](#).

al-Qaeda:¹⁰

- A Friday sermon addressing operatives of the "Islamic Turkistan Movement". In his sermon, al-Saba'i condemned Russia's and China's efforts to exert pressure on the Taliban in Afghanistan to extradite operatives of the "Islamic Turkistan Movement" in light of ties between the two. He said the fate awaiting these Uighur fighters, members of the "Islamic Turkistan Movement", should they return to China was a death sentence. Therefore, any intention of returning them to China is a grave sin. Al-Saba'i emphasized that a scenario of their extradition is unacceptable and that the activists of the above organization are wanted guests to be guarded. 
- Blaming the Al-Azhar institute and the Egyptian Mufti for the delegitimization they do to devout Muslims. According to him, Al-Sisi's regime and anyone who assists him, such as the Al-Azhar institute, are the enemy of God against whom action should be taken. At the end of the correspondence, al-Saba'i called for a real revolution in Egypt that would lead to the overthrow of the incumbent regime and the application of Sharia law in the country.
- A series of sermons with a historical overview of the jihadi Salafi movement and its more and lesser known leaders.
- Among the publications of Sheikh **Sami Aridi**, a prominent Salafi jihadi cleric affiliated with **al-Qaeda** in Syria:¹¹
 - Proclamation calling on Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Julani, leader of the **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham** organization, Abd al-Rahman Atton, senior cleric member of the organization, and members of the latter organization to strive to end tension and rivalry with the Hurras al-Din organization, an al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria. He said it would be better to set up an independent legal body to resolve the disputes between the two organizations and to avoid armed conflict, since the jihad arena in Syria cannot allow an internal confrontation between the jihad factions. Aridi noted that just as Al-Julani had asked a few years ago to settle the disputes with the

¹⁰ Feb, 2019. [Telegram](#).

¹¹ Feb, 2019. [Telegram](#).

other school of thought which is inconsistent with their thought such as the Muslim Brotherhood, as is the second school which labels Muslims as infidels if they do not accept its doctrine. According to al-Mahdi, the true Salafah is the one who implements the Quran and the Sunnah word for word and renounces obscene innovations and deviant things to Islam. According to al-Mahdi, to be true Salafi, this has to be applied in practice.

- Criticism of the UAE leader for his meeting with the Pope.
- Correspondence about the growing Iranian threat in the region. According to al-Mahdi, Iran is concentrating considerable resources and efforts to change the composition of Iraq's populations in Syria and to disseminate the Twelver Shi'a among the Yemeni, African and Asian people. This is while the Sunnis themselves are subject to internal controversies and conflicts when some are in the various jihad arenas. According to him, hundreds of Iranian activists are scattered in Aleppo and are working to establish a social and religious infrastructure to help spread the Shi'a. in conclusion, he called on the Sunnis to wake up.
- Correspondence about the Syrian regime policies towards the rebels who responded to the latest call to lay down their arms in exchange for their lives being spared. According to al-Mahdi, these promises were not kept and many former rebel leaders in the Dara'a and Hauran areas were arrested or killed. At the same time, al-Mahdi called on the Dara'a and Hauran youths to resume the rebellion against the regime, "Rebel again... Restructure your ranks and carry out first-class quality attacks against the Alawite and especially the officers. Attack the collaborators [...] and harm anyone who works for the regime. [...]". Following these remarks, al-Mahdi shared a video of a group of young people in Dara'a and Hauran announcing the establishment of a new rebel group in the area in the face of the Syrian regime's aggressive policies.
- Correspondence in praise of the Palestinian Hamas movement following the arrest of Hisham Salim, the commander of the Shi'ite al-Sabrin movement in the Gaza Strip, and several of his friends. According to him, this is a welcome trend that must be continued, namely the cleansing of Gaza from Shiites.

- Among the publications of Sheikh **Abu al-Fatah al-Farghali**, in charge of the Sharia Council of the Tahrir al-Sham organization in Syria:¹⁴
 - Reference to the fact that taxes can be levied on Muslims to fund the salaries of jihad activists and the equipment needed to carry out jihad, to the extent that they lack money to fund jihad activities; Answer to a user's question about the importance of collecting public money for the carrying out of jihad.
 - Correspondence in which he emphasized that Uighur jihad activists, members of the "Islamic Turkistan Movement", are an integral part of the Syrian people and part of the Muslim nation.
 - Sharing a proclamation by the spokesman of Izz al-Din al-Qassam, the military arm of the Palestinian Hamas movement, calling on Muslims to donate money to the organization through Bitcoin to help the war against Israel. In addition, a video by al-Farghali was published praising donations of Bitcoin as an expression of the Muslims' support of jihad.



Proclamation by Izz al-Din al-Qassam, the military wing of the Hamas movement, with a call to donate funds to help in the war against Israel

- A series of videos called "The Victory Theory in Islam". In the series, al-Farghali discusses the circumstances and conditions that can guarantee victory for Muslims

¹⁴ Feb, 2019. Facebook.

clerics and did not give them proper weight. He then joined the ranks of the Tahrir al-Sham organization.

Al-Masri also referred to the period of tension between the two organizations and denied the allegations attributing to him that he allowed attacking the Ahrar al-Sham activists. He also referred to a ruling that he wrote prohibiting the participation of jihadist operatives in the military operation led by Turkey against the Kurds east of the Euphrates River in Syria. He said the Kurdish PKK organization is regarded as a heretical secular organization and therefore the jihad war against him was justified. Jihad activists should rejoice in this campaign they must not participate in it because it is not intended to apply Sharia law.

In the interview, al-Masri confirmed that he had decided to leave the Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham organization without mentioning the reasons for leaving, but stressed that he was continuing his religious activity and preaching to jihad activists whether during Friday prayers in mosques, in military camps or on the front lines. He also stated his intention to publish a series of videos that will deal with the interpretation of the Quran while emphasizing the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad. Al-Masri noted that jihad in Syria continued and that the younger generation growing up in the shadow of jihad, the bombings and shootings would never surrender to the enemy, hence the jihad will continue until it overthrows the tyrannical regime in Syria.¹⁷



Excerpt from the interview with Abu al-Yaqdhan al-Masri

¹⁷ February 20th 2019.

- Among the publications of **Abu Basir al-Tartusi**, a jihad activist in Syria:¹⁸
 - Reference to the Constitution Drafting Committee to be established in Syria. According to al-Tartusi, any constitution written in the shadow of the Russian and Iranian occupation in Syria and under the auspices of the war will involve some of the killers of the Syrian people and a number of innocent loyalists of the revolution and therefore such a constitution should be refused.
 - Addressing a surfer's question about whether to continue working as a police officer responsible for securing a company for oil manufacturing in Iraq, after entities close to the "Islamic State" claimed his work was considered heresy. According to Al-Tartusi, the "Islamic State" fatwas are not to be relied upon in any matter and in respect to his question, if his work includes service for the benefit of Muslims it is permissible and if it harms Muslims it is prohibited.

- Among the publications of **Tarik Abd al-Haleem**, affiliated with al-Qaeda:¹⁹
 - Criticism of the brainwashing by the "Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham" organization of its people to the extent that it even persuades them to join the Free Syrian Army.
 - A reference to Abu al-Yaqdhan's resignation from Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham. According to al-Haleem, al-Yaqdhan refused to continue to cooperate with the wrong path of the organization.
 - Criticism of Abu Muhammad al-Julani leading the "Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham" to doom. Later on, al-Haleem suggests to anyone who can jump off the sinking ship of al-Julani to do so.
 - Criticism of al-Sisi's rule in Egypt and his policy and calling for a revolution against him.

- Among the publications of **Al-Asif Abd al-Rahman**, a jihad activist in Syria who is affiliated with the **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham** organization:



¹⁸ Feb, 2019. Telegram

¹⁹ Facebook

the Saudi regime. According to him, the tacit assent to the determination of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, US President Trump's "Deal of the Century" seeking a permanent solution that will lead to peace between Israel and the Palestinians and improving relations between Israel and the Arab world, does not contribute to the Palestinian issue. According to him, striving for the liberation of Palestine from Israeli occupation and the application of Sharia law should be sought.

- Among the publications of Sheikh **Nail bin Ghazi**, a salafi jihadi affiliated with the al-Qaeda organization in the Gaza Strip:²³
 - An interview with Sheikh **Abu Abida Yosef Anabi**, a senior leader and head of the Council of Dignitaries of **al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb**. In the interview, Anabi examined the jihad in the face of the challenges facing it today.²⁴

Strategy

- The **Remah** media organization, assisting with the **Islamic State** organization's propaganda, published a title containing a series of security-related from the official journal of the **Al-Naba** organization called "Watch Out!". The articles were divided into six sections and dealt with an overview of security matters, the principle of 'Know the Enemy', the construction of a defense plan, the construction of an attack plan, the "Crusader intelligence" activity and avoiding security camera surveillance.²⁵
- Surfers in the **Shumukh Al-Islam** jihadi forum, assisting with the **Islamic State** organization's propaganda, updated on the organization's channel for English-language publications on Rocket Chat.²⁶ Also reported was the use of the Rocket Chat of the Remah Media Production institution, supporting the Islamic State.²⁷
- A number of guidelines and tutorials on various operational issues were published in the **Shumukh Al-Islam** jihadi forum. One member of the forum asked for books on mines

²³ Feb, 2019. Telegram.

²⁴ February 16th 2019; February 17th 2019, a detailed document on the matter is to be published on the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism website.

²⁵ https://chat.techhaven.xyz/channel/Remah_Media

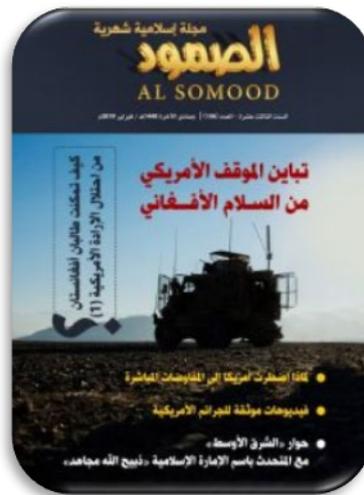
²⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb/showthread.php?t=289958>

²⁷ <https://shamukh.net/vb/showthread.php?t=290020>

(land mines and marine mines), while another user posted documents on explosives engineering and mine production. Another surfer posted some basic guidelines on using chemicals, including a way to calculate the mole of different substances.²⁸

Magazines

- Issue no. 156 of the **Al-Somood Journal** of the **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** for February 2019 has been published. Among other things, the journal's articles dealt with the following: an Al-Sharq Al-Aws interview with the Islamic Emirate's spokesman, **Dabihullah Mujahid**, contradictions in the American position regarding peace in Afghanistan, an article about the Taliban's success in having its demands met by the Americans, an article as to why the US was forced to negotiate directly, as well as publishing videos showing the American crimes in Afghanistan.²⁹



Cover page of the Al-Somood Journal

- Issue no. 14 of the **Baytuki** periodical, a women's journal affiliated with **al-Qaeda**, was published. Among the topics the issue discussed are: education of children while placing emphasis on not bribing to do deeds for money; Tips for a good marriage.³⁰

²⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb/showthread.php?t=290038>

²⁹ February 23rd 2019, <http://file4up.net/uploads2/156.pdf>

³⁰ February 1st 2019



Cover page of the Beitak periodical

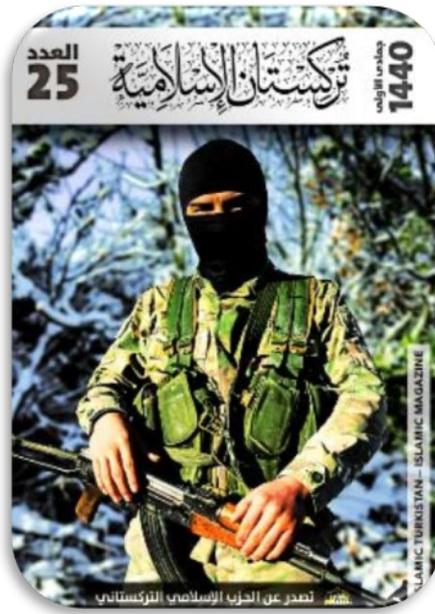
- Issue no. 5 of the **Ibnat al-Islam** periodical, published by the jihadi Salafi movement in the Gaza Strip and dedicated to the status of women. Topics in the issue include: Interview with Sheikh Na'al bin Ghazi (a senior Salafi jihadi cleric in the Gaza Strip affiliated with al-Qaeda) on the importance of providing Islamic education to children; The moral promiscuity affecting Saudi Arabia; The elevated status of the Palestinian fighting woman; On Israel's efforts to extinguish the jihad flame in the Gaza Strip and more; The importance of fighting the local tyrannical regimes for a better future for Muslim children; An article by Sheikh Abdullah Azzam, the father of the Global Jihad, on the West-East civilization clashes; A short biography of Aisha, the wife of Prophet Muhammad.³¹



Cover page of the Ibnat al-Islam periodical

- Issues no. 168-171 of the **al-Naba** journal, published by the **Islamic State Organization**, were published. The magazine's articles mainly dealt with the following issues: reports on the organization's operational activities in various arenas (mainly in

³¹ December 11th 2019.



Cover page of the Turkistan Al-Islamiyya publication

- Issues no. 34-37 of the **Ibba** periodical, published by the Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham organization, were published. The issues include reports, posters and interviews with the organization's operatives about fighting in Syria, as well as references to what is happening in other jihad arenas.³⁴



Cover page of issue no. 37 of the Ibba periodical

³⁴ Feb 2019. Telegram.

Reports from the field

Afghanistan – Pakistan

The Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan

- From the publications of the **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** (Taliban Organization):
 - An announcement of the Taliban delegation's participation in conference to be held in Moscow on the matter of Afghanistan. The purpose of the conference is to hold discussions on the Afghan issue, to declare policy and to reach understandings with non-government political groups in Afghanistan. The announcement added that at the conference, the Islamic Emirate would clarify its policy on the future of Afghanistan after the end of the occupation, peacekeeping in Afghanistan and the establishment of Islamic rule.³⁵
 - An announcement referring to the next step in Taliban-US negotiations. According to the announcement, the next talks will take place on February 25, 2019 in Doha, the capital of Qatar. Even before that, Taliban and US representatives are expected to hold talks on February 18 in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. The announcement added that Taliban negotiators are also expected to meet with the Pakistani prime minister to discuss Afghan-Pakistani relations and issues related to Afghan refugees and businessmen.³⁶
 - A statement denying the Kabul government's propaganda stating that there are differences of opinion between Mujahideen officials in the Taliban regarding the Taliban's visit to Pakistan. The statement reads that all the Taliban Mujahideen believe in and obey their leadership and that there is no difference of opinion between them.³⁷
 - Statement of condemnation of the attack perpetrated by the American invaders along with their local allies in the Kapisa Province on a madrassa. According to the statement, this activity aims to undermine Islamic, academic and spiritual values and is indicative of the desire to extend the occupation in Afghanistan. The

³⁵ February 4th 2019, Telegram

³⁶ February 13th 2019, Telegram

³⁷ February 16th 2019, Telegram

organization also threatened to take revenge on this action of the American invaders and their allies and called on the Mujahideen to launch wide-scale attacks against sensitive intelligence centers of the invaders and their local supporters.³⁸

- A reference to US commander Joseph Votel stating that the "Islamic State" in Afghanistan poses a serious threat and has the ability to directly harm the US from Afghanistan. The statement says that this is US propaganda exaggerating the threat of the Islamic State and using it as an excuse to extend its occupation in Afghanistan and to instill fear among the countries of the region and the American public. Later in the statement, the organization denied Votel's claims, stressing that Afghanistan does not pose a threat to any country. The organization also noted that the "Islamic State" group in Afghanistan is limited to a small area and that despite the full support of the US Air Force, it is under siege and attacks by the Mujahideen and will soon be eliminated.³⁹
- A statement referring to a news release in Reuters stating that Deputy Leader of the Islamic Emirate for Political Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, will not attend a meeting with US representatives scheduled to be held in Qatar due to controversy in the Islamic Emirate ranks in respect thereof. In the statement, the organization denied that this was the reason for Baradar's non-participation in the Qatar negotiations, claiming that Baradar would not participate in the talks because his American counterpart would not be present and because he had appointed a negotiating team on his behalf.⁴⁰
- A reference to the UNAMA report on civilian casualties in Afghanistan. In the statement, the organization rejected UNAMA's report, which attributed 37% of civilian casualties to the Islamic State's Mujahedeen attacks and called it propaganda. According to the organization, 83% of civilian casualties are related to US bombings and the actions of Kabul government personnel against Afghan civilians.⁴¹
- An announcement on the participation of Deputy Leader of the Islamic Emirate for

³⁸ February 20th 2019, Telegram

³⁹ February 21st 2019, Telegram

⁴⁰ February 22nd 2019, Telegram

⁴¹ February 24th 2019, Telegram

Political Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, in talks with US representatives in Qatar. The statement said that Baradar had arrived in Qatar after an official invitation from the Qatari Foreign Minister and a private jet that was sent for him. The announcement added that during the negotiations today, Baradar introduced the negotiating team, clarifying the importance of the negotiations, the authority of the team and Afghanistan's future peace plan. The statement also states that Muhammad Abbas Stanekzai, Head of the Islamic Emirate negotiating team, will be in charge.⁴²

- An announcement regarding talks between Taliban and US representatives in Doha, the Qatar capital. The statement said that talks by the negotiating team revolved around the withdrawal of foreign forces and the prevention of using Afghanistan against other countries. The statement also said that Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar discussed with the Qatari Foreign Minister, Qatar's National Security Adviser, and the US Special Representative in Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, and the commander of the US forces in Afghanistan, Scott Miller, the ongoing process of negotiations and the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan.⁴³
- Clarification on Taliban-US negotiations. The statement said that, contrary to rumors, negotiations did not revolve around a transition government or holding elections in Afghanistan, nor about extending the US stay in Afghanistan for the next 4-5 years, but only revolved around the withdrawal of foreign forces and the future of Afghanistan.⁴⁴

The Islamic State

- Islamic State's "Khorasan Province" and the Amaq News Agency have released several reports of the organization's operational activities across Afghanistan, such as: the detonation of an Afghan police car in Jalalabad city in Nangarhar Province (the vehicle was destroyed, one policeman killed and another injured), the assassination of two townspeople in the Mumandara area of Nangarhar, the killing of three Afghan military

⁴² February 25th 2019, Telegram

⁴³ February 27th 2019, Telegram

⁴⁴ February 28th 2019, Telegram

personnel in the detonation of an explosive device at Kuru in Kunar and the killing of a policeman by means of gunfire in Kabul.⁴⁵

The Arabian Peninsula

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- From the publications of the **al-Hedaya** media institution, assisting in the propaganda of the **al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula** organization:
 - A video entitled "God Will Testify They Are Liars". In the video, the organization strongly criticized the Islamic State and accused of arbitrarily killing innocent children and civilians in Yemen. As part of the video, Yemeni citizens were interviewed about the vandalism and violence shown by Islamic State activists.⁴⁶
 - A video entitled "Battle Dust". At the opening of the video, US military forces were portrayed as an immoral brutal force that butchers Muslims, children, women and the elderly, preachers at mosques and more, with a view to eradicating Islam. Alongside this, the video focused on the role of the Ansar al-Shariah organization, affiliate with al-Qaeda in Yemen, in protecting Islam and Muslims. The video incorporates records of attacks by the organization's operatives on Houthi and Yemeni military forces posts and targets.⁴⁷
 - An article by a writer named Hudhayfah al-Sudani, a senior member of the organization, praising the Jihad in Yemen against the enemies of Islam since the times of Sheikh Osama bin Laden.⁴⁸

The Islamic State

- The **Islamic State's al-Baja'a District** has published several articles dealing with its clashes with al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. Comprehensive reports (Qifa) say that a shell was fired at a gathering of AQAP personnel in the area and that attempts on the part of al-Qaeda fighters to infiltrate the Za'aj area were thwarted by light weapons fire

⁴⁵ https://chat.techhaven.xyz/channel/1NashirNewsAgency_Arabic

⁴⁶ February 20th 2019, <https://bayaan.info/archives/1631>

⁴⁷ February 22nd 2019, Telegram

⁴⁸ February 22nd 2019, <https://bayaan.info/archives/1708>

and the detonation of a roadside bomb.

Iraq

The Islamic State

From the publications of the **Islamic State** districts in Iraq and the Amaq News Agency:

- Reports of operational activity in various provinces in Iraq, such as: sniper fire at a Peshmerga fighter in the Yusuf Bek area (Diyala), the burning of hoses belonging to Shiites in the village of Mubarak (Diyala), sniper firing at the Oilfield Protection Police in the Al-Nada region (Salah al-Din), the destruction of two Iraqi Army vehicles in the explosion of a car bomb in Mosul (Nineveh), the detonation of an explosive device against tribal mobilization forces (Dajla), the destruction of a PMF car in an explosion in the Sharqat governorate (Salah al-Din), repelling an Iraqi Army attack in the Al-Anbar desert, the detonation of an explosive device against a police vehicle in the Ghreeb village (Kirkuk), the taking down of an Iraqi Army photography aircraft west of Ramadi (al-Anbar) and more.⁴⁹

Al-Sham

Syria

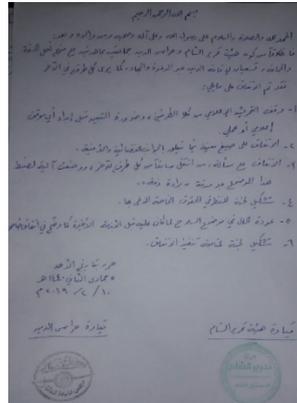
Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham

- Tensions prevailing between **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham** and **Hurras al-Din**, the al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria, for some time due to competition over the hegemony in the Idlib Province and the struggle over the nature of jihad in Syria, came to an end, apparently in a joint agreement signed by both organizations. Thus, both pledged to put an end to the fight between them and to cooperate against their mutual enemy. It was further agreed that the matter of the shooting at the checkpoint would be brought to a Shari'a/ religious court, and it was ruled that "Hurras al-Din" would coordinate with "Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham" whenever it wanted to carry out operations in areas under its control.⁵⁰ Subsequently, a broader agreement was published, including 6 main points referring to

⁴⁹ https://chat.techhaven.xyz/channel/1NashirNewsAgency_Arabic

⁵⁰ February 7th 2019, Telegram

the establishment of a committee that will discuss legal and security matters and will oversee the implementation of the agreement as well as a promise to stop publishing negative propaganda against each other in the media.⁵¹



The reconciliation agreement between the Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham and Hurras al-Din organizations

- A statement by a Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham member, **Abu Abdullah al-Shami**, stating that the rulings of the religion are fixed but the capacity varies. In the statement, Al-Shami argued that Allah's rulings are fixed, but they exist on a scale that a person or group moves up and down on, according to circumstances and ability;⁵² In another post, Abu Abdullah al-Shami criticized groups like the "Islamic State" who, according to him, did not understand the reality and the need to adapt to circumstances and try to be like "Superman" and live on miracles and accidental successes.⁵³
- Some of the foreign jihad factions in Syria have issued a proclamation expressing support of the **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham** organization and swearing their fealty to it. The proclamation is signed by several leaders of jihadi groups in Syria, among them:
 - a. **Abu Omar al-Turkstani**, leader of the Islamic Party of Turkistan (Uighurs from western China);
 - b. **Abu Salah al-Uzbaki**, leader of the **al-Tawhid wal-Jihad Brigade** (of Uzbek origin);
 - c. **Abu Mohamad al-Daghstani**, leader of **Jaish al-Mahajreen wal-Ansar** (from the Caucasus);

⁵¹ February 10th 2019, Telegram

⁵² February 3rd 2019, Telegram

⁵³ February 19th 2019, Telegram

- d. **Abu Qatada al-Alabani**, also in charge of studies at the **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham** organization, the leader of the **Al-Alban Brigade** (from Albania);
- e. **Abu Safiyya**, leader of the **Iranian Sunni Immigrant Movement** (the Uighur from western China);
- f. **Al-Mua'tasim bi-Allah al-Madani** (also serving as a member of the Halachic Ruling Committee in the Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham organization) and **Abu al-Walid al-Mutayri**, leaders of the **Al-Malai League** (from the Arabian Peninsula);
- g. **Abu Ayub al-Maladivi**, leader of the **Mujahideen of the Maldives**;
- h. **Abu Jabir al-Maghrabi**, leader of **Sham al-Islam** (from Morocco);⁵⁴
- i. **Sheikh Abu al-Fatah al-Farghali**, a member of the Shura Council and a member of the Fatwa Council at **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham**;
- j. **Mukhtar al-Turki**, the military supervisor at **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham**;
- k. **Abu al-Hussein al-Urduni**, in charge of defense at **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham**;
- l. **Abu Hajjar al-Tunisi**, in charge of immigrants at **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham**;
- m. **Abu Abd al-Rahman al-Zubayr al-Ghazi**, at **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham**; the Qadi of the military wing.

بيان من المهجرين في الشام المباركة

نصرة ووفاء لهيئة تحرير الشام

الحمد لله والصلوة والسلام على رسول الله وعلى آله وصحبه ومن والاه، وبعد؛
قال الله تعالى في محكم التنزيل: ﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَهَاجَرُوا وَجَاهَدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ آوُوا وَنَصَرُوا أُولَئِكَ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ﴾.

إن هذه الموالاة الإيمانية تجب أكثر ما تكون حين الشدائد، ووقوفاً مع مسؤوليتنا الإيمانية وموالاة لإخواننا، وحفظاً لأهل الفضل ووفاء بالجميل، فإننا كمهاجرين مجاهدين في بلاد الشام، هاجرنا لنصرة دين رب العالمين وتحكيم شريعته سبحانه وتعالى، نحب أن نشهد شهادة حق فيما رأيناه في واقعنا في هذا الجهاد المبارك طيلة سبع سنين، عملاً بقوله تعالى: ﴿وَلَا تَكْفُرُوا بِالْشَّهَادَةِ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْهَا فَإِنَّهُ إِثْمٌ قَلْبُهُ﴾.

أولاً: إن هيئة تحرير الشام متمثلة بقياداتها وجنودها هي شوكة أهل السنة في بلاد الشام، وهي خير من حمل راية الجهاد في هذه الأرض المباركة، فهي من تدافع عن الثغور وتحمي بأمور المسلمين من خدعة لهم وحفظ أمنهم، وإقامة المحاكم التي تحكم بشرع الله في جميع المناطق الخاضعة لها، وهي التي ألقت حولها وحول قياداتها عامة المجاهدين أنصاراً ومهاجرين، وما كان ذلك إلا لما رأوه منهم من صدق وبخل في سبيل الله في المحن والشدائد وحكمة وفهم وتسجيل من الله لهم في التوازل والفتن، مع انضباط في سياساتها الداخلية والخارجية وفق الأحكام الشرعية، وبالتشاور معنا كمهاجرين فيها وإطلاعنا على حقائق الأمور ومشاركتنا في صناعة القرار.

وإننا نبين في هذا المقام أننا مع إخواننا صفاً واحداً وبنيناى مرصوا، وسنقف سداً منيعاً أمام كل من تسول له نفسه الاعتداء علينا.

ثانياً: نحب في هذا المقام أن نشكر إخواننا في هيئة تحرير الشام خاصة، وأهلنا المسلمين في بلاد الشام عامة، على ما أكرمونا به من حسن نصرة واستقبال وإيواء لإخوانهم المهاجرين، فكانوا خير أنصار، أعانونا على الخير، وسهلوا لنا مراحنا، ووقفوا معنا في كربنا ومصائبنا.

وإن مطلة المهاجرين هي ذاتها مطلة عموم المسلمين في الشام لا تفتك عن ذلك، فليس لهم مصالح خاصة بهم، ولا حقوق خاصة بهم، فهم من المسلمين في هذه البلاد المباركة يجري عليهم ما يجري على غيرهم، ولا فرق بينهم وبين غيرهم في الحقوق والواجبات، ولن نرضى أن يكونوا باباً للامزادة لنصرة فصيل على غيره، فنصرتهم حقاً معلومة طرقها وليس من ذلك المزادة باسمهم.

بيان من المهجرين في الشام المباركة

نصرة ووفاء لهيئة تحرير الشام

ثالثاً: انطلقنا مما مضى، فإننا نوصي الإخوة المصلحين، والعلماء المكرمين في الداخل والخارج، ألا يأخذوا بالكلام الباطل الذي تتهم به الهيئة ظلاماً وعدواناً، بل عليهم أن يتبنتوا ويتبينوا كما أمر الله جل وعلا.

نسأل الله أن يؤلف بين قلوب المجاهدين ويصلح ذات بينهم، ويجمعهم على القتال في سبيله صفاً واحداً كأنهم بنيان مرصوص.

والحمد لله رب العالمين

الموقعون على البيان:

- الحزب الإسلامي (التركستاني) وعنهم: الأمير العام أبو عمر التركستاني،
- كتيبة التوحيد والجهاد (الأوزبك) وعنهم: الأمير العام أبو صلاح الأوزبك،
- جيش المهاجرين والأنصار (القوقاز) وعنهم: الأمير العام أبو محمد الدغستاني،
- كتيبة (الألبان)، الأمير العام أبو قتادة الألباني - مسؤول الأكاديمية العسكرية في الهيئة،
- حركة المهاجرين السنة من إيران وعنهم: الأمير العام أبو صفية،
- رابطة المعالي (بلاد الحرمين) وعنهم: عضو مجلس الإفتاء في الهيئة المعتصم بالله المحتفي، وأبو الوليد المطيري،
- مجاهدو المالحف وعنهم: الأمير العام أبو أيوب المالحفي،
- شام الإسلام (المغرب) وعنهم: الأمير العام أبو جابر المغربي،
- عضو مجلس الشورى وعضو مجلس الفتوى: الشيخ أبو الفتح الفرغلي،
- المسؤول العسكري العام للهيئة: مختار التركي،
- مسؤول الدفاع في الهيئة: أبو الحسين الأرنجي،
- مسؤول المهاجرين في الهيئة: أبو هاجر التونسي،
- قاضي الجناح العسكري: أبو عبد الرحمن الزبير القرني.

يوم الثلاثاء: 30 جمادى الأولى 1440 هـ، الموافق: 05 فبراير 2019 م.

Proclamation of support of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham by some of the foreign jihad

⁵⁴ February 5th 2019, Telegram

factions

Hurras al-Din

- Among the publications of **Hurras al-Din**:
 - A proclamation expressing condolences on the death of Abu Ibrahim Hawir, a member of the Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham organization, who was killed in the Aleppo region.⁵⁵
- Among the publications of the **al-Bayyan** Media Institute, affiliated with **Hurass al-Din – the al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria**:
 - A proclamation containing a call on the part of Muslim women to senior jihad Salafi preachers affiliated with the al-Qaeda organization, to assist them in the release of one of their relatives who is held captive by the Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham organization. Among these preachers were Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, Hani Saba'i, Abu Qatada al-Filastini, Tareq Abd al-Halim, Sami Aridi, Nail bin Ghazi and more. The women's group expressed hope that thanks to their religious authority and the influence they enjoy, they could persuade the Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham organization to release the prisoner.⁵⁶
 - Opinion on the jihad arena in Syria, which argues that the main problem in Syria is in the attempts of the various jihad factions to impose their own interpretation of Islamic law. This creates friction to the point of bloodshed between the various factions and puts jihad in Syria at risk. In addition, jihad activists appear to be seeking to maintain the existing, that is, their achievements such as the liberation of the lands of Idlib in northern Syria, and do not express willingness to continue the jihad for various reasons such as the desire to satisfy the will of the Turks. Further on, the authors of the opinion stressed that the fulfillment of the Jihad commandment should continue and that if friction arises between the various jihad factions, it should be resolved by arbitration in the halachic courts. In conclusion, a call was made to the Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham organization to resolve mutual

⁵⁵ February 9th 2019, Telegram

⁵⁶ February 2nd 2019, Telegram

disagreements through halachic courts.⁵⁷

- "**Duaat al-Tawhid**" (those calling for the uniqueness of God), a group of jihadi Salafi preachers affiliated with the Hurras al-Din organization, has released several videos on various topics such as the importance of maintaining morality, calling on Muslims to fulfill the commandment of jihad and kill the enemies of Islam, including supporters of the Syrian regime.⁵⁸

Hurras al-Mamnun

- Among the publications of the Operations Room of "**Hurras al-Mamnun**" (Incite the Believers) shared by several rebel factions in Syria, including **Hurras al-Din**, al-Qaeda's branch in Syria:
 - Videos documenting the activities of the "Operations Room" members against Syrian military forces in various areas such as the Druze Mountains, al-Jub al-Ahmar in the Lattakia area, the rural areas of Lattakia. A proclamation was also published calling for continued jihadist activity against the Syrian regime and its allies in Syria.⁵⁹

The Islamic State

- Among the publications of the "**Islamic State**" provinces in Syria and the **Amaq** News Agency:
 - Most reports of the "Islamic State" in Syria focused on activity in the last strongholds in the al-Khir Province (Deir al-Zor), particularly in the village of Baghuz, where the fighters of the organization had barricaded themselves. Most of the fighting took place against the Kurdish PKK militia and included guided missile fire and mine blasts. The detonation of explosives against PKK vehicles south of the al-Shaddadi town in the al-Hasakah Governorate and in Raqqa has also been reported.⁶⁰

The Turkistan Islamic Party

- Among the publications of the **Turkistan Islamic Party** in Syria:

⁵⁷ February 5th 2019, <https://bayaan.info/archives/1348>

⁵⁸ February 2019, Telegram

⁵⁹ February 2019, Telegram

⁶⁰ February 2019, Telegram

- A video in praise of the organization's children in Syria for being Muslim believers who are educated on the knees of the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad; A video calling on the Muslim nation to wake up to China's crimes against the Muslim population within its borders.⁶¹

The Gaza Strip – Sinai

The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula

- The **Islamic State's Sinai District** released several reports of attacks, such as: killing three Egyptian soldiers and wounding another in sniper shootings at the Abu Shannar checkpoint west of Rafah City; Destroying a bulldozer and an Egyptian army armored vehicle with two explosive charges near the Al-Arish Airport and reports of an attack at a police checkpoint on the Baghdad-Luxor Road (Baghdad is a village in northern Sinai).

Fajr al-Kinana

- A new organization called **Fajr al-Kinana** (Egypt's Dawn), apparently a jihadi organization of the Muslim Brotherhood, has published a first proclamation on "The Last Executions of Free Egyptian Young Men." In the proclamation, the organization blamed the nations of the world for ignoring Egypt's "crimes" against the people of Egypt, recently expressed in the execution of several young Egyptians without trial. In the light of this, the organization called on all factions opposing the Egyptian regime to act to overthrow it and reveal its "crimes" to the public. The organization added that the blood of the men executed was not shed in vain and called for revenge.⁶²



The opening proclamation of the Fajr al-Kinana organization

⁶¹ February 5th 2019, Telegram

⁶² February 23rd 2019, Telegram

Africa

The Maghreb

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

- Among the publications of **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb**:
 - A biography of the life of a former member of the organization, Lukman bin Sakhr, who was killed by the Tunisian forces in 2015. The biography was published as part of the series "The Shahids of Islamic North Africa" and is part twenty of the series.⁶³
 - A proclamation titled "The war against Islam in Tunisia and Algeria... How long will the silence last!?". The organization blamed the Tunisian and Algerian regimes for the continued suppression of the Islamic religion and the Islamic identity of the residents. It thus addressed the ban imposed by the Algerian Minister of Culture on the observance of the five prayers of Islam within schools. According to the organization, the outrageous decision hurts the feelings of forty million Algerians and is another tier of a continuing trend of harming the foundations of Islam. The organization added that behind this decision stands France, that is assisted by Algeria's ruling elite to weaken Islamic identity.

The proclamation further warned Algerian residents that if they continue to send their children to Algeria schools, there is reasonable fear that the next Muslim generation will be educated in accordance with the spirit of the Algerian Ministry of Culture, that is, a generation with not ties to the authentic elements of Islam.

The organization also noted that in Tunisia, the same process of suppressing Islamic identity is taking place through the control of dictated curricula, attacks by media outlets against Quran schools and more, when the Tunisian Prime Minister finally ordering to close more than 160 Quran schools across the country. The organization reiterated its accusation that Tunisian policy was also intended to please the French ruler.

Finally, the organization called on the Muslim residents of Algeria and Tunisia not to

⁶³ February 7th 2019, Telegram

remain silent and to respond to the combative policies of the Algerian and Tunisian regimes against the Islamic religion and the weakening of Islamic identity.⁶⁴

Libya

- In issue 171 of the **Al-Naba** journal, an opening article was published on the situation in Libya under the title "The fate of a Sirat is not like the fate of Darna". In the article, half of the criticism were against the "Religious Apostates in Darna" who claimed that they protected the city of Darna from "Islamic State" fighters and prevented it from the fate of Sirat. Criticism was also directed at Libya's Mufti, Sadiq Al-Ghariani, for his support for the fighters in Darna.⁶⁵

Tunisia

- Issue 171 of the **Al-Naba** journal reported on the execution of a man accused of espionage for the Tunisian security forces. The report said that the man had been executed in Jebel Mghila and that the explosives placed around his body had resulted in the injury of two senior members of the security forces who arrived in the area.⁶⁶



An armed operative of the "Islamic State" in Tunisia executing a man accused of espionage

Nigeria

The West Africa Province of the Islamic State

⁶⁴ February 12th 2019, Telegram

⁶⁵ February 2019, Telegram

⁶⁶ February 2019, Telegram

- The "**West Africa Province**" of the "**Islamic State**" of and the Amaq News Agency have reported on several operational actions across Nigeria, such as killing three Nigerian soldiers and wounding others in a town in the north-east of Maiduguri, an attack on a Nigerian military post in the town of Manati in the Borno State, firing of shells on sites of the Nigerian Army in Dambawa and the Yobe State as well as an attack on the Nigerian Army in the Lake Chad area.⁶⁷

Mali and Burkina Faso

Jamaat Nusrat al Islam wal Muslimin

- From the publications of the **Jamaat Nusrat al Islam wal Muslimin** organization:
 - The claiming of responsibility for an attack carried out by the organization's activists on January 29th 2019 against a Mali army camp in Tarkint village, 160 km north of Gao city in Mali. According to the proclamation, the attack was carried out using a car bomb driven by a suicide bomber named Tamim al-Ansari, when in the aftermath of the explosion, a 40-minute battle ensued, causing many to be killed and wounded amongst the Mali military forces.⁶⁸
 - The claiming of responsibility for two attacks against the Burkina Faso counter terrorism and military forces. According to the organization, the first attack was carried out on January 28th and the second attack on January 30th, during which several men from amongst the Burkina Faso forces were killed and wounded and a large number of weapons was looted.⁶⁹
 - A video documenting a suicide bombing attack of the organization's operatives against French military patrol forces in Tombouctou, Mali.⁷⁰
 - A video by the **al-Andalal** and **al-Zalaka** media institutions titled "They Are the Liars." Most of the video was dedicated to an interview with Sheikh **Muhammad Kufa**, the leader of the Macina organization affiliated with the **Jamaat Nusrat al Islam wal Muslimin** organization and mainly active in southern Mali. At the

⁶⁷ https://chat.techhaven.xyz/channel/1NashirNewsAgency_Arabic

⁶⁸ February 15th 2019, Telegram

⁶⁹ February 3rd 2019, <https://bayaan.info/archives/1330>

⁷⁰ February 22nd 2019, <https://archive.org/details/Jamacc84e28099at-nuscca3rat-al-islacc84m-wa-l-muslimicc84n-22martyrdom-operation>

opening of the video, a speech by Sheikh Abu Musab Abd al-Wadud, leader of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, was incorporated, condemning the false news spread by the French Defense Minister and the media around the world on the assassination of Sheikh Muhammad Kufa and 34 of his friends in an airstrike on November 28th 2018.

After the opening, an interview with a Kufa was shown, who first thanked the jihad activists, especially in the various fighting arenas, and members of al-Qaeda, the Taliban in Afghanistan organization, Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri and the al-Andalas and al-Zalaka jihadi media institutions, and wished for the victory of the jihad operatives. Then, Kufa thanked everyone who assisted, especially the leader of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, in refuting the false rumor that he had been killed. Kufa stated that he longed for martyrdom for God. He said this was not a new trend as the French Department of Defense, the French military forces in Mali had previously spread several false rumors, including a rumor of a suicide bombing carried out by a female suicide bomber at the Tombouctou airport in April 2018 while a male member of the organization carried out the attack. Kufa added that today the world is characterized by free information and that no one has a monopoly on the news.

Kufa noted that the false information disseminated by the media about his death indicates lack professionalism, since had they relied solely on reports from the French Ministry of Defense and did not wait for the finding of the body to verify the reports. While the media has little to do with jihad activists' media institutions, following government restrictions to verify such and other news, it does not mean they are blameless, "the media people have a part in their falling for the [French] fake intelligence".

Kufa noted that he and his friends in the organization preferred to postpone the announcement that it was false for a number of reasons: waiting for political responses to the issue; Outlining a plan as to how to benefit from the false report from the media perspective, the political perspective and in the field; Monitoring the degree of influence of the false report on the unity of jihadist ranks. Kufa added

that this event taught his organization's activists how to prepare and act in the event such an event would occur. He said that the important conclusion of this event is the assimilation of education among young people that jihad activity continues even with the death of the leaders. He claims that the Mali leader took advantage of the news of his death in order to portray the Mali army as a strong army that is well spread across the country's various fronts. In practice, however, the state of the army is not good and there is a crisis in trust between the people and the regime.

In his interview, Kufa also referred to Mali's efforts to penetrate the organization's ranks. He said the organization is open, for new recruits, and the infiltration attempts of spies should be taken into account. However, the organization's security forces make an effort to expose these traitors. He noted that his organization had seized a spy sent by France and Mali and that he is under investigation.⁷¹



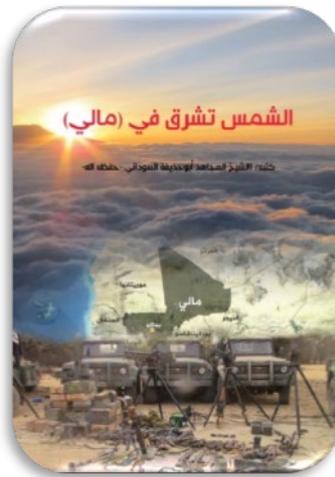
Pictures from Muhammad Kufa's speech

- Sheikh **Abu Hudayfa al-Sudani**, a senior jihadi cleric close to **al-Qaeda**, published an article praising the jihad theater in Mali entitled "The sun is shining in Mali". In the article, Al-Sudani describes Mali as an arena in which jihad is embodied in its full force and glory thanks to its residents' determination to fight for freedom and dignity. He added that the Jamaat Nusrat al Islam wal Muslimin organization currently enjoys a very extensive popular support base from the various ethnic groups in Mali, including the Fulani, the Berber and the Arabs. All of them joined together to help the organization and hurt France and its allies. Al-Sudani emphasized in his article that *"today, Mali is the arena of immigration, the oppressed people's hearts desire, Africa's hope, the great*

⁷¹ February 28th 2019, Telegram

breakthrough that will revive the embers of jihad on the forgotten continent, and weaken the capabilities of the US and those trailing it [...]. Mali is our long-awaited hope, it is our lost sword that we have dreamed about in Africa throughout time ...".

Later in the article, Al-Sudani called on the Muslim nation to help the organization and the jihad in Mali in every way and level, stressing that it was a duty. He thus sought to assist the Mujahideen in Mali through funding, supplying weapons, manpower, preaching, medicine, propaganda and more. He finished the article with praise of the jihad activists and the martyrs who died while fulfilling the commandment of jihad in Mali.⁷²



Cover page of the article in praise of the jihad theater in Mali

Somalia

The Al-Shabab Al-Mujahidin Movement

- From the publications of the **Al-Kataab** Media Institute, belonging to the **al-Shabab al-Mujahidin** organization, the al-Qaeda affiliate in Somalia:
 - Part 2 of the video "The Most Successful Aspect of the "Muhammad Bin Maslama Battalion". This part is similar to part one that documents the assassination operations a unit called the "Muhammad Bin Maslama Battalion", which is charge of assassinations and placing land mines against Somali government officials and the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISON). The video documented the actions of the group's members and the detonation of explosives in vehicles of the African Union Mission to Somalia. At the end of the video, Sheikh Abu 'Abd al-Rahman

⁷² February 27th 2019, <https://bayaan.info/archives/1819>

Mahd Warsame, senior leader in the organization, warned the Somalis to not cooperate with the heretics, otherwise they are likely to be punished by the organization.⁷³

- From the reports of the **Shahada** News Agency, affiliated with the **al-Shabab al-Mujahidin** organization:
 - A report that members of "Al-Shabab" thwarted the landing of a special force of US troops along with a special Somali force in the town of Janaale, in the Lower Shabelle region in southern Somalia. The report later states that in revenge for this operation, American planes bombed homes of residents in the area. The report added that members of Al-Shabab managed to take over the town again after clashes with American and Somali forces.⁷⁴
 - A report on the assassination by al-Shabab members of the "12 April Brigade" commander belonging to the Somali forces, Abdul Salam Adam Kargo, at the same place where the previous commander was killed in December 2018. Subsequent to the announcement, reports of escalation in al-Shabab's attacks against Somali security forces in the area of Mogadishu were reported.⁷⁵

The Islamic State

- The **Islamic State** in Somalia has reported several attacks, such as the assassination of one of the men of the Puntland Police commander during his stay in the city of Bosaso as well as the assassination of a Somali police and intelligence officer in the town of Beledweyne.⁷⁶

Iran

Ansar al-Furqan

- From the publications of the **Al-Faruq** media institute, affiliated with the **Ansar al-Furqan** organization, a Salafi Baluchi jihad organization operating against Iran:

⁷³ February 9th 2019, <https://justpaste.it/4rq8f>

⁷⁴ February 2019, <http://shahadanews.com/?p=2638>

⁷⁵ <http://shahadanews.com/?p=2583>

⁷⁶ https://chat.techhaven.xyz/channel/1NashirNewsAgency_Arabic

- Five videos documenting the activities of members of the organization in a training camp called "Mawlawi 'Abd al-Jalil."⁷⁷

Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice)

- From the publications of the **Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice)** organization, a Salafi jihadi organization operating against Iran:
 - The claiming of responsibility for an attack against the Iranian Revolutionary Guards headquarters in the Nikshahr region of Baluchistan on February 13th; The claiming of responsibility for an attack against a shuttle bus that drove 40 Revolutionary Guards soldiers in the Zahedan region of Baluchistan on February 14th 2019. According to the organization, most bus passengers were killed.⁷⁸

The Philippines

- The East Asia Province of the "**Islamic State**" reported 23 dead and wounded in the ranks of the "Philippine Crusader Army" in a fire exchange in the Sulu area. An exchange of gunfire between the "Islamic State" and the Philippine Army in the Sulu area was reported, during which five Filipino soldiers were killed and another 18 wounded.⁷⁹

Miscellaneous

- In a number of jihadi forums and on YouTube, a recorded message was posted by a Moroccan woman in Syria captured by one of the Kurdish factions. In her statement, the woman called on the "brothers in Idlib" to come to the aid of the widows held captive with their children and release them before their handing over to the Syrian regime or another party. The woman called on Moroccan activists to stand up and take action similar to the "brothers in Turkmenistan" who helped and released their sisters.⁸⁰

⁷⁷ February 16th 2019, <https://pastethis.to/Tkrrer2>; Telegram

⁷⁸ February 2019, Telegram

⁷⁹ https://chat.techhaven.xyz/channel/1NashirNewsAgency_Arabic

⁸⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2v8qau6tg0&app=desktop>

ABOUT THE ICT

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