



ICT
International Institute
for Counter-Terrorism
With the Support of Keren Daniel

ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group **PERIODIC REVIEW**

Monthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

April 2017

Highlights

- **Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri**, the leader of **Al-Qaeda**, calls on jihad fighters in Syria to be patient and prepare for a long war against the Crusaders, and their Shi'ite and Alawite allies. He warns against being deceived by traitors who try to sabotage jihad by secularizing. He also offers operative advice to jihad fighters in Syria, including moving to guerilla warfare against the enemy and leveraging the war in Syria to a worldwide Islamic problem that will merit the help of all Muslims by any means, whether physical or economic.
- **Hassan al-Muhajir**, the spokesman for the **Islamic State (IS)**, encourages fighters, especially in Mosul and Raqqah, and calls on them to continue to stand with the IS against the "Crusader offensive". In addition, al-Muhajir pleads with them to continue to carry out attacks against the US, Europe and Russia, and criticized Turkey and the Muslim Brotherhood for cooperating with the Crusaders.
- **Qasim al-Rimi**, the leader of **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)**, emphasizes that the aggressive policy of the US, led by President Trump, in Yemen is proof of the failure of US policy in the war against Muslims and jihad fighters. In addition, al-Rimi calls on Muslims to wage defensive jihad against the American invaders in Yemen and their Houthi allies. According to him, the Arab Emirates are also playing a significant part in the battle against jihad fighters in Yemen.
- **Khalid bin 'Umr Bartifi**, a senior AQAP leader, states that US policy under the Trump administration has not changed and it continues its aggressive policies against Muslims in Yemen and, therefore, it is incumbent upon every Muslim to defend the religion of Islam. In addition, Bartifi calls on jihad fighters to be prepared for long clashes with the enemy and to wage a war of attrition against it.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)** publishes a series of recommendations written by **Abu al-Hasan Rashid al-Bulaydi**, a former senior leader in a Nigerian jihadist organization, about how to conduct jihad activity in Nigeria and how players operating in the region must be treated.
- **Asim Umar**, the leader of **Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent**, maintains that the US is experiencing an internal collapse due to repeated attacks by jihad fighters against US interests and due to the deterioration of American morality. In his opinion, the victories of jihad fighters in Afghanistan are leading to a US withdrawal from the country.

- The leader of the **Turkestan Islamic Movement, Abdul Haq**, expresses his support for Uyghur jihad fighters in Syria and emphasizes that, alongside the battle in Syria, there is a duty to act against the Chinese persecution of the Muslim population in the Xinjiang District in eastern Turkestan.
- The **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** declares the launch of “Operation Mansouri” against foreign forces and the government in Kabul. According to the organization, the operation will be conducted on both the political and military level.
- **Jihadist fighters in Syria** condemn the chemical attack carried out by the Assad government against the civilian population in Khan Shaykhun and calls for revenge attacks.
- The **Islamic State in Egypt** claims responsibility for attacks against Coptic churches in Tanta and Alexandria. In addition to carrying out terrorist attacks, IS supporters are waging an online campaign calling for attacks against the Coptic population in Egypt.
- The **Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula** warns the Tarabin tribe not to stand in its way and not to cooperate with the smugglers of prohibited items, such as cigarettes, or suffer the consequences.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula** publishes a guidebook titled, “Inspire Guide” containing insights and lessons from the terrorist attack carried out by an IS supporter in London. In addition, the organization encourages the continuation of the trend of “lone wolf” attacks in the West and emphasizes that these serve as the spearhead of jihad fighters in the West.

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New Publications

Ideology

- Al-Furqan jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published a recorded speech, over 30 minutes long, by IS spokesman, Hassan al-Muhajir.¹ The main points of the speech included:
 - Encouragement for the fighters – especially those in Mosul and Raqqah Provinces – to continue to stand firm against the “Crusader offensive”. The speech included a call on fighters in Libya to continue jihad and to be patient.
 - A call for terrorist attacks in the US, Europe and Russia.
 - Criticism against Turkey and the Muslim Brotherhood, which were described as “servants of the Crusaders”.
 - The first reference to US President Donald Trump, whom he referred to as a “fool” and noted that “signs of his forthcoming disappearance are obvious”.
 - Criticism against the Syrian opposition for allowing the Syrian regime to re-capture Aleppo.
 - Criticism against Muslim clerics who remain silent in light of the killing of innocent Muslims.
- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda, published a letter titled, “Advice for the Mujahideen during the Civil War” (24 pp.) by Dr. Sami al-‘Uraydi, a former member of Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda’s former branch in Syria. In the beginning of his letter, al-‘Uraydi explained that the mujahid is not immune from mistakes just because he is a mujahid. He then referred to the deviation of Muslim groups in the early history of Islam, such as the Khawarij and the Shi’ites. In the modern era, there has been a regrettable turn in the path taken by Muslims, such as when the Soviets left Afghanistan and the country became embroiled in bloody conflicts between Muslims until the appearance of the Taliban movement and the establishment of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan.

The letter included a series of tips and guidance for the mujahideen. For example, al-‘Uraydi emphasized that anyone interested in applying shari’a must do so without getting caught up in a

¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/68208>

fitna (civil war). According to him, adherence to the Quran and the Sunnah in accordance with the understanding of the ancient generations of Islam guarantees success and salvation. Al-'Uraydi also recommended caution and sensitivity to speech, since it contains the seed of calamity that could lead to a *fitna*. Other tips emphasized the importance of adherence to Allah, patience and moderation.²

- In the beginning of April, Dr. Sami al-'Uraydi published a statement titled, "Jihad in the Levant is a Milestone and a Stage in History" on his Telegram account. In the beginning of the statement, he warned that enemies of Islam continue to try and sabotage the efforts of jihadist groups in the Levant to wage jihad for the sake of Allah. He expressed regret that several jihadist groups and rebel forces in the Levant were harmed by these plots, as manifested in their willingness to participate in conferences for peace and security in Syria. According to him, jihad in Syria is a significant milestone in global Sunni jihad, and serves as a stage in jihad and in the struggle of the Muslim Nation against its enemies. Thus, the Muslim Nation must adhere to the path of jihad against the enemies of Islam and be careful not to fall victim to the craftiness of their enemies.³
- Tariq Abdelhaleem, a senior cleric in the Salafi-jihadist movement, published an announcement in which he criticized the conduct of Ahrar al-Sham, claiming that the organization had erred in taking the non-shari'a path by striving for a political solution in Syria that would include a secular state with a democratic, western nature. Finally, he asked Ahrar al-Sham leaders to repent or be replaced with other leaders.⁴
- A Salafi-jihadist fighter in Syria named Abu Waqid al-Shami published a book on his Telegram account titled, "The Things that Illuminate in the Name of the Faith and the Laws of Declaring Takfir in Light of the Sunni Faith".⁵
- Al-Battar jihadist media institution, which is involved in propaganda for the IS, published several articles by the writer, Gharib al-Saruriya:
 - An article titled, "Khorasan Province – Jihad by Tongue and Spear". In the framework of the article, the writer praised the "faithful believers" who established Khorasan Province

² <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

³ <https://justpaste.it/155gu>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/DMTAH/status/855361422360027136>

⁵ Telegram

of the IS in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and defamed the Taliban movement for guarding shrines, and cultivating cannabis and drugs. The writer emphasized that while the IS sanctifies the Oneness of God, the Taliban espouses polytheistic ideas and supports the idea of nationalism.⁶

- An article titled, “Participation in the Polytheistic Elections” against the backdrop of the Turkish constitutional referendum on April 16. In the article, the writer mentioned that the IS has a clear position regarding the elections according to which one who takes part in them should be considered a heretic and his participation should not be justified. The writer provided quotes from various IS publications (especially from *Al-Naba* magazine) and noted that election participants and voting stations are legitimate targets for attack.⁷
- An article in which he claimed that in the old days, too, the "righteous" who walked the straight path were defiled. The writer noted that the Islamic State is managing to stand firm despite all of the trials that it faces and noted that the many criticisms directed against the IS are merely testimony to the justice of its path.⁸
- Al-Battar jihadist media institution distributed a number of anti-Christian propaganda items, including an article in which it accused Christians of killing, torturing and humiliating Muslims in various countries,⁹ and a *qasida* under the title, “Blow up Your Explosive Belt”, which included encouragement for suicide attacks against the “Crusaders”.¹⁰
- Al-Wafa jihadist media institution, which is involved in propaganda for the IS, published the following:
 - An article by the writer Jarrah al-Ansari about the execution of Adel Habbara by the Egyptian authorities after he was accused of killing 25 army conscripts. The article illustrated the image of Habbara and ended by encouraging young people in Egypt to join the fighters in Sinai Province or to support them with money or weapons.¹¹

⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁷ <https://justpaste.it/15zn5>

⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁹ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰ <http://i.imgur.com/A1ATNrT.jpg>

¹¹ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

- An article by a writer known as Abu Jihad al-San'ani appealing to the Sunni population in Yemen. In the framework of the article, the writer criticized “Operation Decisive Storm” and encouraged Sunnis in the country to support and help the mujahideen, while explaining that shari’a is only strictly enforced in IS territory. The article ended with threats against the Saudi coalition and against the Houthis in Yemen.¹²
- An article by a writer known as Abu al-Baraa bin Malek against the backdrop of attacks that were carried out by the IS against two Coptic churches in Egypt. In the article, the writer referred to Coptics as “snakes” and presented them as a “poisoned dagger” operating against Islam and Muslims, and he criticized those Muslims who expressed regret over the attacks. The writer noted that, in his opinion, the Egyptian regime is more concerned over attacks against the Christian population than it is about attacks against the army and police, and he raised the scenario of war between Muslims and Christians in Egypt, similar to the Sunni-Shi’ite battles in Iraq.¹³
- An article by an anonymous writer in which he criticized Muslims who express solidarity with the infidels after attacks were carried out against Christians. The writer explained that the very expression of compassion toward Christians undermines the Muslim faith since it contradicts the principle of renouncing the infidels.¹⁴
- An article by a writer known as Al-Muslim al-Tarabulusi in which he warned of the implications of the request for a general pardon submitted by families of Muslim prisoners in Lebanon. The writer clarified that the release of Muslim prisoners should be arranged, but not through a general amnesty – which will lead to the release of “Christians, Shi’ites and criminals” - but rather through the exchange of the corpses of "infidels" for Sunni prisoners in Lebanese prisons.¹⁵
- An article by a writer known as Abu Jihad al-San'ani titled, “Mosul – Legend of Steadfastness”. The article reviewed the battle between IS fighters and Shi’ites in Mosul

¹² <https://up.top4top.net/downloadf-463c33ir1-pdf.html>

¹³ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁴ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁵ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

and included a call on IS supporters to join its ranks, kill the infidels, disseminate publications or at least support the organization through prayer.¹⁶

- Various essays on religious topics, such as: an article regarding the prayer for rain,¹⁷ and an article on the founder of the Hanabi school of Islam.¹⁸
- Al-Ansari jihadist media institution published an article by a writer known as Qalam Muwahhid regarding *Istishhad* (martyrdom) attacks. In the framework of the article, the writer presented excerpts from the Quran and Hadith that, in his opinion, testify to the legitimacy of such attacks in Islam, and he emphasized the differences between suicide and a martyr's death for Allah's sake. In the framework of the article, the writer defined *Istishhad*, analyzed of use of these attacks in the modern era, and clarified that the death of a mujahid is the necessary result of the explosion and while it would preferable to avoid it, that is not possible.¹⁹
- Clashes continued between factions in Syria against the backdrop of the merger with Jabhat Fateh al-Sham. For instance, Abu Julaybib al-Tubasi, a former member of Al-Nusra Front, sent a letter to Abu Muhammad al-Julani in which he accused the people of Al-Sham of harassing his wife and children while referring to al-Tubasi as a "traitor" (al-Tubasi refused to retract his oath of allegiance to al-Zawahiri when Al-Nusra Front became Jabhat Fateh al-Sham).²⁰
- The discourse on jihadist forums against Hamas in Gaza continued. Several articles that were published criticized Hamas, and accused its members of kidnapping and torturing Salafist fighters, destroying houses and arresting civilians. Several of the articles described the difficult situation of the residents of Gaza in light of clashes between Hamas and Fatah.²¹
- Dawa al-Haq news agency published an article criticizing A'ed Abu Hasanayn, one of the sheikhs belonging to the Ibn Baz Society, in light of a sermon that he gave in Gaza in which he called for IS fighters to be attacked and killed.²²

¹⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁷ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁹ <https://justpaste.it/155gb>

²⁰ <https://justpaste.it/15nz8>

²¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/70012>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/68546>

²² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/69533>

Strategy

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda, published an audio clip by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda, titled, “The Levant, We Will Not Succumb in Any Way Except to Allah”. In the beginning of the audio clip, al-Zawahiri expressed identification with the struggle of the Syrian people against their enemies, and noted that they are vulnerable because of their desire to let Islam rule. Later, he called on jihad fighters in Syria to be patient and prepare for a long war against the Crusaders, and their Shi’ite and Alawite allies. In addition, al-Zawahiri warned jihad fighters not to be deceived by traitors who try to sabotage jihad by defining it as a secular war. In light of this, he offered several operative tips:
 - A. Carry out a thorough investigation and pinpoint the factors that are delaying victory.
 - B. “The strategy of jihad in Al-Sham must focus on a war of nerves that strives to weaken the opponent. It is a tool of the weak used against the arrogant at all times. Do not focus your attention of capturing the ground, but rather focus of crushing the opponent’s morale and leading him to an abyss of despair through repeated strikes and embarrassing losses for its soldiers”.
 - C. The problem of Al-Sham is the problem of the entire Muslim Nation, and cannot be limited to a problem of the residents of Al-Sham alone. “The plan and intention of the enemy is to turn jihad in Al-Sham from the problem of the [Muslim] Nation into a national problem, then from a national problem into a regional problem, then from a regional problem into a problem of cities, villages and neighborhoods”. Thus, jihad in Al-Sham should be declared as jihad of the Muslim Nation and the people of the entire nation, its finances, its efforts and its energies should be harnessed to jihad in Al-Sham. According to him, various Muslim warlords throughout history, such as Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi and the Ottoman Turks, defended Al-Sham even though they were not Syrian, but rather Muslim mujahideen.

At the end of the clip, al-Zawahiri again warned against submitting to the dictates of “the biggest criminals, who are afraid of accusations of terrorism and extremism”. He added that the West

was not pleased with Mohamed Morsi, the deposed President of Egypt and representative of the Muslim Brotherhood, despite the fact that he offered it everything it wanted.²³



The banner of al-Zawahiri's speech

- Al-Andalus jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published an exchange of letters between Sheikh Abu al-Hasan Rashid al-Bulaydi, a senior AQIM leader (killed in 2016), and jihad fighters in Nigeria regarding how to conduct jihad activities in Nigeria, such as the how Muslim groups should be treated, what to do with money looted from banks, etc. The introduction to the publication stated that al-Bulaydi's advice was given in light of a request by Abubakar Shekau, the leader of Boko Haram, to the AQIM leadership in 2009 after bloody incidents against Muslims in northern Nigeria. It also stated that, despite the series of tips given by al-Bulaydi in 2011, Shekau's group had deviated from this advice due to its loyalty to the IS and its intolerance towards the Muslim civilian population.²⁴

It seems that the timing of publication was due to the decline of the IS and the desire to get jihad fighters in Nigeria to discover their error of their path and realize that the key to rectifying the current situation lies in their willingness to accept, as in the past, the intention of AQIM.

²³ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

²⁴ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

- Al-Wa'd jihadist media institution published the following:
 - A video titled, "And He Cast Terror into Their Hearts". The video mainly included photographs from press reports of attacks that were carried out in various European countries (France, Belgium, Britain and Germany) during the previous year. The video clarified the importance of the attacks, not only as a means of revenge against the "Crusaders" but also as a tool for wreaking severe economic damage and exposing "the fragility of security apparatuses".²⁷
 - The second issue of *Al-Malhama* magazine, which mainly included statements encouraging the organization's fighters and threatening additional attacks against "infidel countries". The issue also included articles about religion, a review of the number of casualties among the "Crusader countries", and *qasidas*.²⁸
- The Amaq news agency published a poster with statistics from the fifth month of battles in Mosul, between March 18 and April 17. According to the poster, approximately 790 Iraqi forces were killed and 32 terrorist attacks were carried out during this period. It also noted the number of military vehicles and aircraft that were destroyed or damaged, divided by type.²⁹



A summary of the fifth month of battles in Mosul (Amaq agency)

²⁷ <http://ia601500.us.archive.org/10/items/JIUTREQOO01/QETY.mp4>

²⁸ <https://up.top4top.net/downloadf-466k9d6a1-pdf.html>

²⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/C93YytzXkAErGI01.jpg>

Guidebooks

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published a guidebook in English and Arabic titled, “Inspire Guide”, which contained insights and lessons from the ramming and shooting attack that was carried out by a jihadist in London. For example, the organization noted that the timing of the attack was perfect as the British Prime Minister was scheduled to meet with members of Parliament in the British Parliament building, according to the organization. The choice of location for the attack was also good as the Westminster neighborhood and Parliament building that the jihadist focused on were full of many tourists at the time as well as political sites with symbolic significance, starting with the Parliament. The organization praised the terrorist and crowned the attack as a success. In the organization’s opinion, British intelligence agencies were helpless to provide an appropriate response to the attack. In light of this, the organization encouraged other Muslims in the West to show initiative and carry out individual attacks, either using car rammings or other creative attacks. According to the organization, “lone wolves” in the West serve as the leaders of jihadists in the West.³⁰



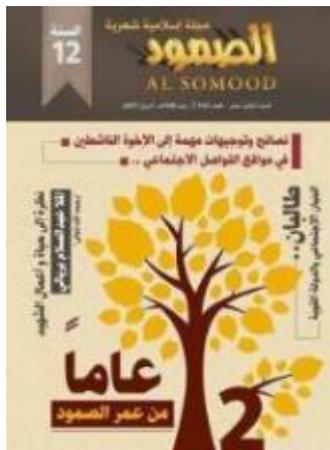
The banner page of the “Inspire Guide” guidebook

³⁰ <https://justpaste.it/159re>

- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a link to a collection of materials and articles by Abdullah Dhu al-Bajadin, an explosives expert known on jihadist forums. Among other things, the collection included “The Encyclopedia for the Production of Explosives”, written by al-Bajadin, a collection of questions and answers, and an article written about the terrorist attacks in Boston.³¹

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published issue no. 133 (44 pp.) of its magazine, *Al-Somood*, which deals with the arena of jihad in Afghanistan. In the current issue, the organization referred to the number terrorist attacks that it carried out during the last decade against US forces and their allies: 103,000 attacks, 50,000 military vehicles destroyed, 551 planes shot down in various areas, 1,075 suicide attacks, 155,000 killed and 97,000 injured among Afghan army forces, 48,000 killed and 23,000 injured among US army forces and other foreign forces, 11,000 martyrs, and 13,000 injured among the ranks of the Taliban.³²



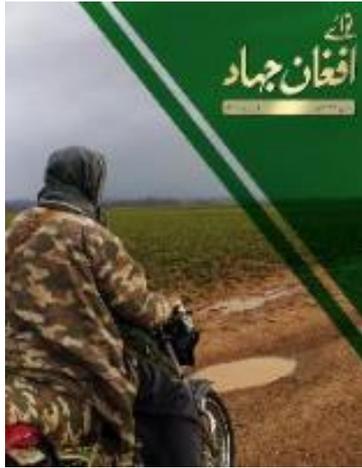
The banner page of *Al-Somood*

- The April issue of the magazine, *Nawai Afghan Jihad*, which belongs to Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, was published.³³

³¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/68208>

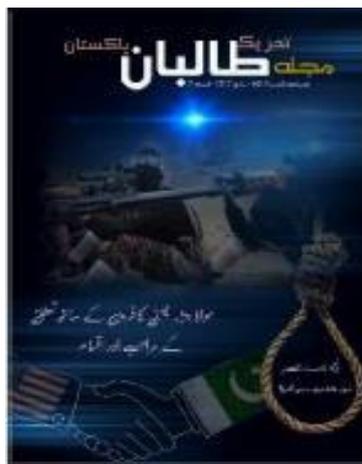
³² <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

³³ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).



The banner page of *Nawai Afghan*

- The second issue of the magazine, *Taliban*, which belongs to the Taliban in Pakistan, was published.³⁴



The banner page of the second issue of the Taliban in Pakistan's magazine, *Taliban*

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which is associated with Al-Qaeda, published issue no. 14 of its periodical, *Al-Nafir*. In the current issue, the organization criticized the US attempt to strengthen Israel's position in the region against the backdrop of statements made by the US Ambassador to the UN in favor of Israel. According to the organization, the US government and

³⁴ <https://archive.org/download/RisalaShumara02>

its allies are trying to fight off any criticism against the Zionists and enlist the support of the Arab states, while ignoring the slaughter of Sunni Muslims being carried out in Syria.³⁵

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published issues no. 45-47 of its magazine, *Al-Masra*. The magazine focuses on central developments in various arenas of jihad mainly tied to Al-Qaeda, news concerning them, and statements by prominent Salafi-jihadist fighters.

In addition to these reviews, issue no. 45 included an exclusive interview with Sheikh Iyad Ag Ghaly (Abu al-Fadhli), the leader of Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, a new Salafi-jihadist umbrella organization in Mali. The interview featured central stations in his life, the circumstances surrounding the establishment of the new umbrella organization, the goals of the organization, the importance of combining guerrilla warfare and organized warfare against the enemy, and more. For example, Ag Ghaly emphasized that the organization's top enemies are Jews and Christians, and that France is currently considered the historical enemy of Muslims as well as their western allies, such as the US, Germany, Holland, Sweden and more, and the West African countries that support it, such as Chad, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Niger and more.

It is worth noting another recommendation by the magazine to jihad fighters to use a pamphlet titled, "How to Preach to People?" by Muhammad Qutb, the brother of Sayyid Qutb, regarding methods of recruiting Muslims its ranks and spreading its doctrine.



The interview held with Ag Ghaly in issue no. 45 of *Al-Masra*

- Issue no. 8 of the magazine, *Rumiyah*, which belongs to the IS, was published in ten languages. Among the topics covered in the current issue were: the demonization of jihad fighters from other organizations in Syria and blame for their unwillingness to implement shari'a; a description of IS

³⁵ Telegram

fighters’ battle against their enemies as a test in which Allah seeks to test the extent of their dedication and willingness to sacrifice themselves; Shi’ites as the source of the Muslim Nation’s troubles; permission to steal and damage the wealth of infidels as a means of weakening their economy and social power; encouragement for “lone wolf” attacks in the West; a biography of Sheikh Abu Suleiman al-Shami, a senior PR member of the IS who was killed this year.³⁶



The banner page of the magazine, *Rumiyeh*

- Issues no. 75-78 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published by the Islamic State. Among the topics covered in the issues were: reports from the organization’s battles in various arenas (with emphasis on the battle in Mosul); the transcript of a speech by the spokesman of the organization, Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajir; a poster detailing the technical specifications of the Concourse missile; praise for attacks against the “Christians fighting” in Egypt; an article criticizing the involvement of women in religious-legal discourse; and an interview with the emir of the Authority on Prisoner and Martyr Affairs.³⁷

³⁶ Telegarm

³⁷ <https://archive.org/details/Npa755555>; <https://ia601502.us.archive.org/2/items/nabaa76/nabaa76.pdf>; https://ia801501.us.archive.org/10/items/edeer4_yandex_77/77.pdf; <https://archive.org/details/zruu75>



A summary of IS achievements during six months of battle in Mosul

- Issue no. 2 of the magazine, *Al-Malhama*, which is associated with the IS, was published. Among the topics covered in the issue were: encouragement to strengthen the morale of IS fighters against their enemies alongside quotes from Islam’s holy sources indicating that victory will ultimately be theirs; encouragement for lone wolf attacks in the West; threats of continued attacks in the West and in Russia; glorification of martyrs who were killed on western soil during the execution of attacks; justification for the integration of children in the battle against the enemy.³⁸

³⁸ Telegarm



From left to right: a threat to carry out attacks on western soil; the banner page *Al-Malhama* magazine

- Issue no. 7 of the newspaper, *Hasad al-Ansar*, which is published by a group identified as “Supporters of the Caliphate”. The newspaper included reviews of recent publications by the organization in various arenas as well as praise for its activities. Activists on jihadist forums welcomed the publication of the newspaper but noted the need for improvement in terms of production and editing.³⁹



The banner page of *Hasad al-Ansar*

³⁹ <https://archive.is/Wfiy7>

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic State in Afghanistan published the following:
 - An announcement denying claims that were published in the media regarding Russian assistance to the mujahideen. The organization stressed that it did not receive military or logistical assistance from Russia. However, the organization claimed that it was interested in developing good relations with neighboring countries and world powers in the region, and to this purpose it was willing to engage in political dialogue with these countries as long as it does not harm Islamic interests or the national interests of Afghanistan.⁴⁰
 - An announcement regarding recent US strikes in Nangarhar Province, which is located in eastern Afghanistan. In the announcement, the US criticized America's use of "the mother of all bombs" in Nangarhar Province against Afghan civilians and members of the organization, and called the bombing a "war crime". The organization added that the struggle against the Islamic State is the obligation of Afghans and not that of foreigners, and that if the Americans are concerned for their safety they should fight against the IS within their own borders. The organization also claimed that the use of the IS as an excuse to kill Afghans, bomb Afghan lands, experiment with new weapons and expand foreign occupation constitutes blatant aggression. The organization added that in recent months three separate attacks were carried out against the IS in Nangarhar Province, but each time but every time that the mujahideen came close to eliminating the IS, the Americans bombarded the mujahideen and forced them to retreat. The organization also claimed that such this type of US attack only serves to strengthen jihad and opposition to foreign occupation.⁴¹
 - An announcement of condolences regarding the death of Maulawi Lal Muhammad Muhammadi, the Governor of Baghlan Province in northern Afghanistan, along with five more of the organization's fighters in an ambush set by government soldiers with US

⁴⁰ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=13164>

⁴¹ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=13252>

assistance in the province. The announcement praised martyrdom through jihad and claimed that this type of death only unites the ranks of the organization and recruits more people to join its ranks.⁴²

- An announcement regarding the start of a spring operation called “Operation Mansouri” against foreign forces and the government in Kabul. The announcement added that the operation was named after the organization’s previous leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, under whose leadership the mujahideen achieved many victories. It also stated in the announcement that the operation will have two levels: political and military. On the political level, in the territories controlled by the mujahideen, mechanisms will be established to ensure the social, security and legal rights of civilians, as well as dawah departments to help those who are deceived by the enemy to see the truth. On the military level, in the areas in which the mujahideen do not have full control, they will continue to fight until they achieve full control and cause the enemy to retreat. The organization added that its military activities will include conventional attacks, guerrilla warfare, suicide attacks, attacks from the inside, and attacks using explosives. However, the organization demanded that the mujahideen choose the location of attack carefully in order minimize harm to civilians.⁴³
- A propaganda video in English that focused on US financial expenses for the war in Afghanistan. According to the organization, the US openly admitted its failure in Afghanistan as manifested in the loss of money, weapons and lives.⁴⁴ It should be noted that the video is very reminiscent of the psychological propaganda videos made by the IS against the United States and its allies.

⁴² <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=13537>

⁴³ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=13724>

⁴⁴ <https://justpaste.it/14ynn>



A clip from a video accusing US taxpayers of financing the needless war in Afghanistan

The Islamic State in Khorasan Province

- The IS in Khorasan Province and the Amaq news agency published the following:
 - Reports about activities in Nangarhar Province, such as: the destruction of an American Cougar vehicle using an explosive device;⁴⁵ the killing of several Afghan army soldiers in the framework of a repelled attempted advancement in the eastern part of the province;⁴⁶ a report about ongoing exchanges of fire between the IS and the Afghan army in Achin;⁴⁷ an attack by ten *inghimasi* against a joint site of the US and Afghan armies in the area of Shadal;⁴⁸ and a report about the thwarted landing of US forces in the Momand-Achin area.⁴⁹
 - A filmed review about the weapons taken as plunder in Darzab in Jowzjan Province.⁵⁰
- FURAT jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published a video titled, “Convoy of Light”. In the video, the organization called on jihad fighters in Afghanistan to swear allegiance to the Islamic Caliphate and continue jihad activities against their enemies.⁵¹

The Arabian Peninsula

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

⁴⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/68149>

⁴⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/149114638329961.jpg>

⁴⁷ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/C8940drXsAEf9jQ1.jpg>

⁴⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/68929>

⁵⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/68682>

⁵¹ Telegarm

- Al-Malahim jihadist media institution, which is associated with AQAP, published the following:
 - An audio clip titled, “The Duty of the Struggle” that contained a speech by Khalid bin ‘Umr Bartifi, a senior member of the organization. Bartifi referred to the war being waged by the new US administration, led by President Trump, against the Muslim residents of Yemen, and emphasized that the goal and the means of attacking Muslims has not changed – yesterday it was Afghanistan and Iraq, today it is Yemen, and tomorrow it could be the two places for Islam [...]”. According to him, history has already proven that US attacks are ineffective and only serve to strengthen the determination of Muslims to defend their lands. He emphasized that the West is carrying out a false propaganda campaign concerning its battle in Yemen and other areas in the name of a war against terror. According to him, it is a religious war intended to strike a mortal blow against Islam and its believers. Thus, every Muslim must consider himself obligated to defend Islam and not wait for a green light from the ruler. Bartifi also criticized the Houthis and accused them of cooperating with the US. At the end of his speech he thanked jihad fighters for their resilience and patience in the battle against the enemy, and advised them to be prepared for clashes with the enemy and to wage a war of attrition. He emphasized that clerics have the important job of spurring the nation to respond to aggression and to help, and he called on tribes to help in the war of jihad. In addition, he thanked media activists on the Internet and on social networks for exposing the truth behind America’s policy of aggression, and for praising the heroic deeds of jihad fighters.⁵²



The banner of Bartifi’s speech

⁵² <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

- An interview with Qasim al-Rimi, the leader of the organization, regarding the situation in Yemen and the war against the US. According to al-Rimi, the aggressive policy of the Trump administration in Yemen is proof of the failure of previous regimes' policies and America's plans in the war against Muslim nations and jihad fighters. In addition, al-Rimi denied claims made by the US according to which intelligence materials about the organization were found in a military raid in Yakla. According to al-Rimi, this claim demonstrates US attempts to cover up its botched raid in Yakla in January 2017.

Al-Rimi went on to mention a fatwa that was published by clerics in Yemen regarding the obligation to fight against the Americans in the event of an invasion into Yemen territory. According to the fatwa, "when a Muslim sees the US desecrating the honor of Muslims, and killing children and women, he must not hesitate to fight the Americans. If an American comes to the door of your house [...] you must take revenge on this American soldier who committed the crime".

Al-Rimi also referred to the UAE's involvement in the war in Yemen, and accused it of collaborating with the US in the botched raid. He stressed that, despite the UAE's claim that it is waging war against the Houthis, it is a partner in the American plan to seize control of Yemen's ports, such as Al-Mukala, Aden and Hudeida, and islands such as Socotra. According to him, the UAE seeks to purify Yemen of all elements connected to Islam, and to turn south Yemen into an area free of threatening elements. Regarding the ports, the UAE wants to disable them so that they will not serve as competition to the ports of Dubai and its commercial operations.

Al-Rimi also referred to his organization's war strategy in Yemen. According to him, emphasis is placed on war against the Houthis, but at the same time considerable effort is being made by members of the organization to defend themselves from the aggression of their enemies.

Another point discussed by al-Rimi was the deal, with conditions, presented by the organization in 2013 to end the battle against the Yemeni government led by Hadi. According to him, the agreement that was formulated between the organization and Hadi's government failed because of the US refusal to accept it. He added that, upon the

failure of the talks, clerics who represented the organization in negotiations with the Yemeni regime appealed to the organization that it would be best to devote most of their efforts to fighting against the Houthis, which pose a great danger to the country, rather than against the regime. Al-Rimi noted that his organization accepted this request on two conditions: A. the cessation of external interference in Yemen's affairs, including US involvement, and the cessation of US air strikes in Yemen. B. the establishment of a committee of clerics to examine the constitution and the laws of the country in a way that would be compatible with shari'a and its implementation in the country. According to him, Sheikh Abu Basir al-Wuhayshi, the former leader of the organization, agreed to the ceasefire with these conditions but Hadi refused to meet with the clerics.

Al-Rimi also emphasized the importance of the *ulama* in everything related to supporting the jihadists and urging the people of the Muslim Nation to fulfill the commandment of jihad. He expressed regret that several clerics chose to speak in the name of regimes and justify their crimes. According to him, the Taliban in Afghanistan is the correct model for clerics to follow. Jihad in Afghanistan, according to him, is carried out in the correct manner due to guidance by clerics who motivate the Afghan people and the Muslim Nation to wage jihad.

Al-Rimi was asked in the interview about the nature of relations with other Islamic groups and he responded that, in accordance with the roots of Islam and shari'a tradition, every Muslim is considered a brother to the mujahideen. He added that today Sunni Muslims are confronted by Crusaders and Shi'ites on several fronts, and that his organization is willing to help and protect any Muslim. He explained that the document, "Help Islam" that was outlined by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri in 2014 serves as the organization's vision, and stressed that his organization was fighting in Yemen in cooperation with all the various Muslim and Islamic groups, including Salafists, the Muslim Brotherhood, various tribes and more. Finally, he emphasized that his organization strives to implement shari'a in Yemen and that jihad fighters will ultimately be victorious.⁵³

⁵³ <https://justpaste.it/163dk>



The banner of the interview with Sheikh Qasim al-Rimi, the leader of AQAP

- A video titled, “The United States and the Final Snare 2”, which was published against the backdrop of a series of attacks in Yemen that were carried out by the US under the Trump administration. The video criticized the aggression of the US and its allies, especially the UAE, in Yemen. For example, the US was accused of killing the civilian population, including children, in Yemen as a result of its air strikes and in cooperation with Shi’ite Houthis against the Sunni population in the country. The video was intertwined with statements by past and present senior members of the organization concerning the obligation of Muslims to wage defensive jihad against the Americans.⁵⁴



The banner of the video, “The United States and the Final Snare”

- Al-Bashair lil-Intaj al-Sawti jihadist media group published a piece of poetry in memory of Jalal Bala’idi, also known as Hamza al Zinjibari, a senior field commander in AQAP who was killed in a US drone strike in February 2016.⁵⁵
- Ansar al-Shari’a, which is affiliated with AQAP, published the following:

⁵⁴ <https://justpaste.it/15rb5>

⁵⁵ Telegarm

- Three videos containing an appeal from Houthi prisoners being held captive by the organization to the Houthi leader, 'Abd al-Malik al-Houthi, to work for their release.⁵⁶



The banner of the first video

- An announcement titled, “Our Brothers and Our People in Taiz”. In the announcement, the organization denied any involvement in any of the recent attacks against the people of Taiz. According to the organization, these attacks were carried out by hostile elements who are not interested in strengthening ties between Ansar al-Shari’a and the people of Yemen. The organization emphasized that for the last three-and-a-half years, its fighters have been battling on 11 different fronts in Yemen against the Houthi enemy. In addition, the organization explained that its fighters have attempted to take control of certain areas in Yemen by managing and caring for the welfare of the civilian population in the areas subject to its control while cooperating with the clerics. However, the US and its ally, the UAE, which are not happy about the strength of the Ansar al-Shari'a organization, are acting in various ways in order to build a wedge between the organization and the population in Yemen. In light of this, the organization again explained that its battle is not against the Sunni civilian population in Yemen and that it is willing to go to legal arbitration if one of its fighters commits any offense. Thus, the attacks against Taiz residents stemmed from the desire to harm the image of the organization.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ Telegram

⁵⁷ Telegram

- A denial of enemy media reports according to which Arab coalition forces managed to kill some of the organization’s leaders in Al-Mukalla and to arrest a member considered to be the number 2 in the organization, in Hadramawt Province.⁵⁸

The Islamic State

- The IS in Al-Baydaa Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “The Army of Help”, which documented battles between IS fighters, and army and popular committee forces in the area of Qifa. The video also showed a renewed oath of allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi by IS fighters in the province and the execution of two captives.⁵⁹
 - A report on Houthi forces who were killed and injured in battles that took place in the area of Qifa.⁶⁰

Iraq

The Islamic State

- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Amaq news agency published a range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following issues:
 - A. Battles and Military Deployments:
 - *Nineveh Province*: A video approximately 60 minutes long titled, “Convoy of Light 2”, which documented dozens of suicide attacks that were carried out against Iraqi forces in Mosul. It should be noted that many suicide attacks were carried out by older adults or handicapped people who are of lesser benefit to the war. In addition to documenting the attacks (most of them were also photographed using a skimmer or from a photographic angle reminiscent of a computer game), the video included interviews with

⁵⁸ Telegram

⁵⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/68911>

⁶⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/149113256066061.jpg>

many of the suicide terrorists who told their personal stories; some were fathers whose sons had already carried out suicide attacks.⁶¹



Young and old IS fighters carrying out suicide attacks in Mosul

- Kirkuk Province: A video titled, “Arrows of the Monotheists” regarding assassinations carried out by IS snipers against Peshmerga soldiers. The video included a collection of sniper images throughout the province, along with documentation of sniper training in one of the organization's training camps.⁶²



IS sniper activities in Kirkuk Province

- Nineveh Province: A video, approximately 30 minutes long, titled “Those Holding the Hot Coals” in which it claimed that the organization’s administrative system continues to operate as usual in areas under its control. The video also included documentation of battles against Iraqi

⁶¹ https://ia601507.us.archive.org/15/items/1491760336_mokeb/1491760336_mokeb.mp4

⁶² <https://ia601507.us.archive.org/35/items/kar38seh3/SHMWH03.mp4>

forces (also using skimmers). In addition to the battles, *hisbah* officials were shown touring the streets of Mosul, handing out food packages and instructing residents to follow shari'a. In addition, in an attempt to lift the spirits of the organization's supporters, the video showed a recruitment office employee who claimed that over 2,500 people in the province had recently sworn allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and joined the organization. The video ended with documentation of a suicide blast against SWAT forces in Mosul.⁶³

- *Al-Janub Province*: A filmed review regarding the training of a new group of "Caliphate soldiers" in the province, including physical fitness courses and military training.⁶⁴
- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Amaq news agency published a range of videos and filmed reviews on a variety of operational issues, including: images from battles and suicide attacks in and around Mosul, the downing of an army helicopter in Mosul, the killing of 31 security forces in an *inghimas* attack in the city of Tikrit, the destruction of Iraqi army and PMF posts north of Baiji, and the killing of 23 Iraqi soldiers in an attack northeast of Aqaba.⁶⁵

B. Executions:

- *Al-Janub Province*: A video titled, "The Evil Plot", which reviewed the history of Iraq since the US invasion, the rise of a Shi'ite regime in the country, and the growth of Salafist jihad in Iraq from Abu Musab al-Zarqawi to the Islamic State. The video documented the execution of Abu Bakr Abbas Husayn Darraji, a Sunni Iraqi army soldier who was presented as "an apostate who serves his Shi'ite masters". The video ended with a threat

⁶³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/69713>

⁶⁴ <https://justpaste.it/files/justpaste/d419/a15397662/small.jpg>

⁶⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

against the Sahawat and all Sunnis serving in the framework of the Shi'ite regime, and noted that the "hit list" is long.⁶⁶

- *Diyala Province*: A filmed review of the arrest and killing of PMF members of others who were accused of spying in the areas of Hamarin and Al-Azim.⁶⁷

C. Propaganda and PR:

- *Al-Furat Province*: A video containing threats against the Kingdom of Jordan while presenting it as a branch of the "Crusaders", criticism over the cooperation between the Jordanian and US armies, and an accusation that it provides protection to the Zionists. In the video, several IS fighters of Jordanian origin criticized the Jordanian regime, praised the shooting attack in Karak (December 2016), and lauded the jihad personality, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who originates from the city of Zarqa in Jordan. Alongside encouraging additional attacks in Jordan, the video tried to stir the feelings of the Jordanian tribes and incite them against the regime as well as attempt to undermine the confidence of Jordanian citizens in the security apparatuses in their country. The video ended with the execution of several people who were presented as "apostates".⁶⁸



Threats against Jordan and executions in Al-Furat Province

⁶⁶ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.tor2net.xyz/34512>

⁶⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/68005>

⁶⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/68271>

- *Fallujah Province*: A video that reviewed the history of the battle in the province since American forces entered Iraq, through the establishment of the Sahawat, until the appearance of the IS, while praising the mujahideen who succeeded in defeating the “strongest army in the world”.⁶⁹

Al-Sham [The Levant]

Syria

Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham

- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (Assembly for the Liberation of the Levant) published the following:
 - Criticism over the chemical attack on the city of Khan Shaykhun in Idlib. In the announcement, the organization called on the mujahideen to incinerate all the fronts since, according to the organization, this is the only language that the Alawite regime understands. In addition, the organization vowed to take revenge for this attack through intensive attacks beyond enemy lines and fortified areas.⁷⁰
 - An announcement regarding an attack by Jaysh al-Islam in eastern Al-Ghouta. In the announcement, the organization accused Jaysh al-Islam of betrayal since it surrounded the positions of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, killed captives, broke into homes and killed passerby. The organization added that Jaysh al-Islam did not want to take part in the recent battles in eastern Al-Ghouta against the regime but rather preferred to attack the mujahideen. In addition, the organization claimed that Jaysh al-Islam lied in its announcement regarding recent events since Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham does not have blockades inside Al-Ghouta, and it emphasized that eastern Al-Ghouts will not be the ticket towards political understandings and conciliation agreements with the regime. At the end of the announcement, the organization vowed to punish Jaysh al-Islam for what it did to the residents of the area.⁷¹

⁶⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/69303>

⁷⁰ Telegram

⁷¹ Telegram

Ahrar al-Sham

- Ahrar al-Sham published the following:
 - An announcement regarding an explosion in Al-Rashideen neighbourhood in Aleppo. In the announcement, the spokesperson for the organization criticized the explosion, which targeted buses carrying civilians who were being evacuated from the towns of Foah and Kefraya in the framework of the “Four Towns Agreement” signed by Ahrar al-Sham and Iran. In the framework of this agreement, it was agreed that rebel forces would allow the residents of Foah and Kefraya to leave while the government would allow Sunni residents of Madaya and Zabadani to leave. The organization added that its members who were protecting the evacuated residents of Foah and Kefraya were killed in the blast, and it promised to cooperate with any international investigation into the reasons for the explosion. In addition, the organization claimed that this attack was only intended to denigrate the rebels and serve the government's crimes against civilians in rebel-held areas.⁷²
 - An announcement congratulating the Turkish government following the expected change in its constitution, which will increase Turkey's power and enable it to the fight against instability in the region. Later in the announcement, the organization blessed Turkey with prosperity, thanked it for its help to the Syrian people and expressed hope that it would continue to help them.⁷³
 - An announcement regarding the renewed fighting in eastern Al-Ghouta. In the announcement, the organization claimed that groups belonging to Jaysh al-Islam had attacked the bases of several factions, including Ahrar al-Sham in eastern Al-Ghouta, and arrested several of its members. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on both sides to exercise discretion and put an end this internal battle.⁷⁴
 - An announcement regarding a chemical attack by the Alawite regime on Khan Shaykhun in Idlib. In the announcement, the organization criticized the attack and called on all factions to incinerate all the fronts against the Alawite regime since they only understand

⁷² <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C9hXYzZW0AEnPBC.jpg>

⁷³ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C9pUHYKUIAE1hXq.jpg>

⁷⁴ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C-hcOMJW0AAB6L1.jpg>

the language of force. In addition, the organization called on Muslim nations to demonstrate mutual responsibility and condemn anyone who supports the Alawite regime. Later in the announcement, the announcement called on journalists from around the world to visit the liberated areas so that the world will be aware of the enormity of the tragedy that has befallen the Syrian people.⁷⁵

Ahl al-'Ilm fi al-Sham

- The Ahl al-'Ilm fi al-Sham Association published an announcement in which it condemned the attack by the Alawite regime on Khan Shaykhun and referred to it as a “crime against humanity”. In the announcement, the Association accused the international community of remaining silent in the face of crimes by the Alawite regime against the Syrian people. In addition, the announcement called on Muslim clerics and Islamic organizations to help the Syrian people in any way they can and not be content with messages of condemnation. The Association added that whoever supports the Alawite regime is considered a partner to the crimes that it commits against its nation. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on factions in Syria to unite their ranks.⁷⁶

The Turkestan Islamic Movement

- Sawt al-Islam jihadist media institution, which belongs to the Turkestan Islamic Movement, published the following:
 - Propaganda materials regarding the Chinese oppression of Muslims in eastern Turkestan, the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad and the reward promised to martyrs in the world to come.⁷⁷
 - A speech by the leader of the organization, Abd al-Haqq, in Uighur titled, “A Message to Our Brothers in the Levant”. In his speech, al-Haqq offered support to the Uighur fighters who are fulfilling the commandment of jihad in the arena of jihad in Syria, and mentioned

⁷⁵ https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C8tcv0jXcAA_1aP.jpg

⁷⁶ Telegram channel

⁷⁷ <https://justpaste.it/1590v>

the military victories attributed to them in the arena of jihad in Syria. In addition, he noted that the struggle against the Chinese regime has not been forgotten and that Chinese oppression of the Muslim population in China must be defeated.⁷⁸



The banner of the speech by the leader of the organization, Abd al-Haqq

The Islamic State

- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Syria, and the Amaq news agency, published a range of videos and filmed reviews regarding battles and military deployments:
 - Aleppo Province: A video titled, “We Will Remain Here until Judgement Day”, which documented battles waged by IS fighters against Syrian opposition factions, the Syrian army and the Turkish army. The video documented two suicide bomber brothers (one of whom was confined to a wheelchair) who made threats against those countries battling the IS, especially Turkey. The brothers carried out a double suicide attack west of the city of Al-Bab.⁷⁹
 - Raqqaqah Province: A video that documented, according to the organization’s claims, attacks by Syrian Democratic Forces that were repelled by the organization on various fronts in the province using different methods (light and heavy weapon fire, artillery fire and shelling by means of weaponized UAV’s). The video also documented the training of a new cycle of *inghimas* fighters at the Abu Muhammad al-Furqan training camp, and the execution of four “apostates” who were accused of activities against the IS.⁸⁰

⁷⁸ <https://justpaste.it/15drn>

⁷⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/69109>

⁸⁰ <https://videopress.com/v/8Tc4z9pA>

- *Raqqah Province*: A filmed review about a shelling using a weaponized UAV against a PKK ferry carrying vehicles near the village of Abu Hurayra, which lies on the banks of the Euphrates River.⁸¹



Operating weaponized UAV's against seacraft

- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Syria and the Amaq news agency published a range of videos and filmed reviews on various operational topics, including: the destruction of a Syrian tank using a guided missile east of Dir Hafer, a report of 65 PKK forces killed in Raqqah Province, the launch of a guided missile towards a PKK bulldozer north of Raqqah, the deaths of 30 soldiers east of Khanaser, battles against the Syrian army east of Palmyra, the deaths of Syrian army soldiers in gun battles west of Deir Ezzor, an attack near Al-Jarrah Airport in Aleppo Province, two suicide attacks at Al-Tanaf crossing on the border with Jordan as well as machine gun and mortar fire in western Qalamoun against Hezbollah.⁸²

Other Jihadist Organizations

- Jaysh Khalid ibn al-Walid published filmed reviews regarding battles against Sahawat forces and the shelling of their sites in the area of Dar'a.⁸³ The organization also published a filmed review

⁸¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/68005>

⁸² <https://dawaalhaq.com>

⁸³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/67992>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/68244>

regarding the execution of a person accused of witchcraft in the town of Tsil, which is located in the western countryside of Dar'a.⁸⁴

The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula

- Fadl Abd al-Hakim, a member of the Shura Council of Aknaf Bait al-Maqdis, published an article in which he compared Hamas and Fatah, and claimed that both are working to prevent jihad activities against the Jews, persecuting the mujahideen, putting them in jail and torturing them. Al-Hakim added that Hamas, like Fatah, calls for a hearing in the International Court of Justice on the crimes of the Jews, persuades its supporters to implement the Oslo Accords and stop the resistance, and invests efforts in pursuing those who try to fire rockets and carry out jihadist activity against the Jews. He then claimed that Hamas previously claimed to be able to combine politics with resistance but over time it focused mainly on politics and became indifferent to attacks by the Jews. He added that, while Hamas use to be opposed to the idea of co-existence with the Jews and a long-term ceasefire, now it is open to negotiations with them, thereby continuing the policy of Fatah. He then criticized the agreement achieved between Hamas and Israel following the war in 2014, according to which Muslims cannot build or renovate their homes without the consent of the Jewish security services, which will determine the quantities of cement and materials needed for construction. However, al-Hakim noted one difference between Hamas and Fatah – while Fatah pays its members for the operations that they carry out, Hamas cuts its members' salaries. He further criticized that fact that, even ten years after Hamas took control over the Gaza Strip, it still has not managed to establish an independent entity and is dependent on the Palestinian Authority. He added that, since Hamas took over the Strip, it has deteriorated politically, socially and economically to the point that Hamas was forced to reconcile with its political enemies. Al-Hakim further noted the connection between the Hamas leadership and al-Sisi, and claimed that the Al-Qassam Brigades move easily through the Rafah crossing but the residents of Gaza are not able to do so. At the end, al-Hakim claimed that only the Salafi-

⁸⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/69958>

jihadists continue to preserve jihad in the Gaza Strip and, therefore, Hamas sacrifices them to Egypt and the international community, and acts against them.⁸⁵

- Al-Zubayr al-Ansari published an article on the Ibn Tamiyya media institution, in which he claimed that what is happening in Palestine, especially the Gaza Strip, is an exploitation of the weak since Mahmoud Abbas has surrendered to external forces while Hamas frequently changes its mind. He criticized Hamas, which acted against the mujahideen, shed its Islamic character, and surrendered to humiliating resolutions such as the agreement for the 1967 borders. Al-Ansari further claimed that Hamas was not ashamed to grovel to al-Sisi while ignoring the actions of the Muslim Brotherhood and offered it support through Turkey. He also claimed that the only card left for Hamas to play is to fight against the Jews but it does not do so because there are spies among the ranks of its leadership and because it lost its deterrence power. He also claimed that the cut in salaries of former Fatah employees in Gaza is just the beginning of the harsh edicts planned by Mahmoud Abbas for the Strip, with the support of the US, and called on the residents of Gaza to stop remaining silent on the matter. Al-Ansari then accused the rest of the Palestinian factions, led by the Islamic Jihad movement, of not taking action against the betrayal of Gaza's residents by Hamas and the Palestinian Authority and of taking a cowardly stance motivated by political considerations in coordination with the government in Gaza. He added that Hamas committed a crime when it acted against the Salafists in Gaza, claimed that they were spies, arrested and imprisoned them, and took away their weapons. Finally, al-Ansari noted that Hamas wants to sacrifice Salafi-jihadists for the sake of the US but it will not succeed, and he called for the continuation of jihad in the Gaza Strip in order to defend the honor of its residents.⁸⁶

The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula

- The IS in the Sinai Peninsula published the following:
 - A video documenting actions by IS snipers in Sinai against Egyptian army soldiers at a range of targets in the Rafah and Al-Arish areas (observation towers, open spaces, military vehicles, etc.). In terms of weapons, the video showed several sniper rifles belonging to

⁸⁵ <https://justpaste.it/mojahaa12>

⁸⁶ https://justpaste.it/thlat_hmass

the organization, including Iranian-produced AM-50, Austrian-produced Steyr HS .50, Romanian-produced PSL-54C, and US-produced M-24. Despite the relatively advanced weapons, the organization's focus on sniper attacks can be seen as evidence of its difficulty in carrying out direct attacks from close range against Egyptian military forces.⁸⁷

- A statement directed at the Tarabin tribe warning its members not to stand in the way of the IS or cooperate with those smuggling banned items (such as cigarettes). The statement included a call on every family in the tribe to shun opponents of the IS and not rely of the “transient border of the Jews”.⁸⁸ In contrast, a report and a video were published regarding a prisoner from Sinai Province who was burned to death by the Sahawat in the Tababin tribe.⁸⁹
- A filmed review regarding the acceptance of those who repent by the organization’s “center for security” on the one hand, and the execution of four people accused of spying on the other hand.⁹⁰ Another review reported the execution of three others who were accused of spying for the Egyptian army.⁹¹
- The Amaq news agency published a poster showing statistics regarding IS attacks in Sinai between January 1 and April 11. According to the poster, during this period 79 soldiers were killed in sniper attacks and 64 explosive devices were detonated against military vehicles (most of the attacks were carried out in Al-Arish, and some were carried out in Rafah and Sheikh Zuweid).⁹²

⁸⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/68677>

⁸⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/69872>

⁸⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/69783>

⁹⁰ <https://justpaste.it/15394>

⁹¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/69529>

⁹² https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/C9KabUHXgAliV_B1.jpg

- A letter to the UN Secretary-General in which the group protested its recognition by the United Nations as “a coalition of armed Islamic groups” and the bias shown towards “Haftar’s militias”.⁹⁵
- A statement in which it was reported that the Jufra Air Force base was handed over to the General Staff of the Libyan Army (meaning the army identified with the unity government in Tripoli). The statement explained that the base will be transferred to the army’s control as a result of the transfer of the Benghazi Defense Brigades forces to new sites.⁹⁶

The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna

- The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna published several statements on various issues, including: a statement regarding the group’s actions against the distribution of drugs and alcohol in and around Derna, criticism over a letter to the UN Secretary-General sent by the Benghazi Defense Brigades (see above), an expression of solidarity with the Syrian Nation and condemnation of the chemical attack in Khan Shaykhun. In addition, in one of the statements the group emphasized that it is not identified with any political group and noted that its only representative is Nur al-Din Saleh Abdullah Balil.⁹⁷

The Shura Council of the Benghazi Revolutionaries

- The Shura Council of the Benghazi Revolutionaries published a eulogy in memory of several commanders in the group who were killed in battles in the area of Qanfuda in Benghazi, led by Ahmad Nuh al-Fakhiri.⁹⁸

Egypt

The Islamic State in Egypt

- The IS in Egypt published a claim of responsibility for attacks against churches in Tanta and Alexandria. According to the organization’s announcement, the attack in Tanta was carried out

⁹⁵ Telegram

⁹⁶ Telegram

⁹⁷ Telegram

⁹⁸ Telegram

by a suicide terrorist known as Abu al-Baraa al-Misri, while the terrorist who carried out the attack in Alexandria was known as Abu Ishaq al-Misri. According to the announcement, a total of 190 people were killed and injured in both attacks. The announcement ended with a threat of more attacks against “Christians battling” Islam.⁹⁹

Hasm Movement

- The Hasam Movement published a statement following the suicide attacks at Coptic churches and denied any involvement in the attacks. According to the statement, however, the international community is hypocritical for condemning the killing of Christians while ignoring the killing of Muslims. The organization further emphasized that it is not interested in starting a civil war in Egypt, but rather its armed activities are directed against the Egyptian regime and security forces.¹⁰⁰

Nigeria

- The IS in West Africa (Boko Haram) published a report about the death of 15 Nigerian army soldiers in a gun battle in northeast Nigeria.¹⁰¹

Somalia

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- Al-Kataib jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published a video containing a plea by a Kenyan soldier who was taken captive by the organization, in Swahili and English, to the ruler of Kenya and the Kenyan people to aid in his release from captivity. According to him, Al-Shabab fighters captured him on January 15, 2015 when they stormed a Kenyan base in the city of Adi. He noted that “What struck me was that for 15 months since I was captured, the Kenyan government did not lift a finger and forgot about us. We ask it to help us since we did not come to Somalia voluntarily but because of the government’s will”. At the end of his

⁹⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/68523>

¹⁰⁰ <https://hasamegypt.com/?p=269>

¹⁰¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/C-mKKc4XYAICbZ61.jpg>

statement, he appealed to the wife of the Kenyan President to help release Kenyan captives and to the President of Kenya not to abandon them as the President of Uganda did to his soldiers. At the end of the video, the organization called on the Kenyan government: “The fate of your captive soldiers is in your hands. If you do not act quickly to rescue them, it will lead to their deaths”.



The kidnapped Kenyan soldier held captive by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- Al-Shahada Media Center, which is associated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published an announcement regarding the fact that the US is sending additional soldiers to Somalia. According to the announcement, 40 additional US soldiers are expected to arrive in Somalia in order to train Somali forces and the African Union Force operating in the country. The announcement added that this is being done in an effort to help Somali forces fight against Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.¹⁰²

The Indian Subcontinent

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for the official publications of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, published the following:
 - A speech by the spokesman for the organization, Ustaz Usama Mahmud, in which he appealed to tribal members in Pakistan to fiercely defend their faith due to the persecution by the Pakistani regime.¹⁰³
 - A speech by Asim ‘Umar, the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, titled, “Allah’s Victory is Near”. In the beginning of the speech, he thanked jihad fighters for their sacrifice

¹⁰² Telegram

¹⁰³ Telegram

for Islam and for defending the Muslim Nation from the enemies of Islam. He then noted that the US, which is considered the leader of heresy, began a process of collapse - as could be predicted by the recent US elections since they indicated the collapse of American morality and culture. He added that America continues to be weakened as a result of ongoing attacks by jihad fighters against American interests, and there is already evidence of an internal collapse within the United States. For this reason, he claimed, the mujahideen's victory is close and is already causing the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan.

'Umar then praised the Pakistani Nation for the many victims that it sacrificed for the sake of Allah in its battle against the infidel Pakistani regime that, according to him, is helping the US in its war against Muslims and the mujahideen. In addition, he called on Muslims to adhere to Allah's laws and to help in the war of jihad against the enemies of Islam. He emphasized that the Islamic Emirate of the Taliban in Afghanistan is supposed to serve as a role model for the Pakistani people and that God's victory is near.¹⁰⁴



The banner of a speech by the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, Asim 'Umar

The Philippines

- The IS in East Asia Province reported about the deaths of six soldiers in the Philippines army in a bomb explosion south of the city of Cotabato in Mindanao.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁴ s <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/149103717685941.jpg>

Iran

Jaish al-Adl

- Jaish al-Adl published the following:¹⁰⁶
 - Condemnation of the Iranian government's arrest of the mufti of the city of Sarbaz in Balochistan Province in Iran. According to the organization, the reason for the mufti's arrest had to do with his criticism of the regime for its involvement in Syria. The organization further emphasized that the sheikh was eventually released thanks to widespread popular protests in Balochistan.
 - A claim of responsibility for the assassination of a senior officer in the Iranian security forces in Zahedan-Balochistan Province.
 - A claim of responsibility for the killing of ten soldiers in the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and the capture of an Iranian officer in Zahedan-Balochistan Province.

Turkey

Islamic State

- Al-Hayat jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published a video in Turkish titled, "The Islamic State was Established". In the video, speeches by IS fighters of Turkish descent were intertwined with an song clip urging Turkish-speaking Muslims to leave the infidel lands where they are living and migrate to the territory of the Islamic Caliphate in order to take part in jihad and in the creation of a new Islamic generation educated on the knees of pure ancient Islam.¹⁰⁷

Russia

- The Amaq news agency published an announcement regarding an attack that was carried out by IS fighters against the Russian Intelligence office in the city of Khabarovsk in eastern Russia, in which three people were killed and others were injured.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁶ <https://twitter.com/jaishaladl>

¹⁰⁷ https://ia601502.us.archive.org/32/items/TurkishNasheed_201704

¹⁰⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/C99KkqQWsAEhkHj1.jpg>

The West

- A visitor to the Dawa al-Haq Islamic news agency published a message to Muslims in America in response to several articles on the site. In the framework of the message, the visitor called on Muslims in the US to support Allah and his messenger, and encouraged whoever is able to purchase weapons to carry out attacks and cause fear and losses.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/68149>

ABOUT THE ICT

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The Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group (JWMG) is a specialized research and analysis team at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT). Composed of researchers fluent in Arabic, the JWMG monitors websites that support and serve the Global Jihad organizations. The unique characteristic of JWMG publications is the team's integration of diverse materials from a wide variety of Arabic sources. JWMG connects each source to larger trends, providing a complete understanding of events on both a local and a global scale.

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