

## **Monthly Report**

### **Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites**

**August 2017**

## Highlights

- The leader of the **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan**, **Hibatullah Akhundzada**, emphasizes that the **Taliban** will continue to act for the sake of Afghanistan's independence and for the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan, and that it is willing to initiate peace talks. He urges US President, Donald Trump, to withdraw US military forces from Afghanistan and stresses that the organization is not interested in harming other countries. Nevertheless, he threatens to attack any invader that would undermine Afghanistan's sovereignty, including US military forces.
- **Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri** eulogizes **Abu 'Umar Khalil**, a member of the organization's Shura Council, and **Abu Dujana al-Pasha**, a senior leader of the organization and the son-in-law of al-Zawahiri. Alongside to the eulogy, he issues harsh criticism against the Pakistani army and accuses it of tendentious persecution against jihadists and Muslim civilians in Pakistan. In addition, al-Zawahiri reveals that al-Pasha had fulfilled a central and important role in the establishment of **Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent** under the auspices of the **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** thanks to his efforts to unite several jihad factions in the region. He also reveals that **Sheikh Kahlid Muhammad**, one of the planners of the 9/11 attacks who is currently incarcerated in an American prison, was one of the founders of **Al-Sahab media institution**, which serves as a platform for the official publications of Al-Qaeda.
- **Ansar Ghazwat-Ul-Hind**, a new jihadist group in Kashmir led by **Zakir Musa**, declares its intention to wage a steadfast war of jihad in Kashmir and India until their liberation from the Indian regime and the application of an Islamic regime based on shari'a. The group calls on Muslims in Kashmir and around the world to help with jihad against India, either by physically joining the battle or through financial support.
- **Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen** calls on Muslims in Kenya to avoid voting in the upcoming elections to take place in Kenya. The organization further claims in the video that Muslims in Kenya are being oppressed and encourages them to move to Somalia and join Al-Shabab.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula** calls on its supporters through the pages of its magazine, *INSPIRE*, to carry out terrorist attacks against public transportation in the West, especially against trains. The organization directs attention to a unique and easy-to-assemble device that can be placed on the railroad tracks in order to divert a train from its course. According to the

organization, attacks of this kind cause enormous economic and strategic damage to enemy states and widespread panic among the public.

- The **Islamic State** claims responsibility for terrorist attacks in Spain, including a ramming attack on La Rambla, Barcelona. Against the backdrop of these attacks, supporters of the organization publish a series of threats to continue carrying out attacks against Spain due to its military and logistical assistance to the war against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.
- The **Islamic State** praises the capture of the city of Marawi in the Philippines by its fighters. As a result of the takeover, its fighters in the Philippines threaten to attack Philippines President, Rodrigo Duterte, and call on Muslims in Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand and Singapore to move to Marawi in order to fight against the Philippines regime.
- An **Islamic State** fighter of Australian origin encourages Muslims in Australia to join the battle alongside the organization in Marawi, in the Philippines, and attacks the Australian government for supporting the Philippines regime against the mujahideen. He advises Australian Muslims who cannot reach the Philippines to carry out terrorist attacks in their home country by crucifying with a nail gun, ramming into a crowd using a truck, and setting houses on fire using gas.
- The **Islamic State** encourages the execution of terrorist attacks against embassies and diplomats belonging to coalition countries that are operating against the organization throughout the world. According to the organization, attacks against the embassies are likely put pressure on the infidel governments in light of the severe damage to their interests. According to the organization, the embassies also serve as centers for gathering intelligence, spying and organizing operations against enemies and the opposition: "The embassies constitute a smaller form of their governments outside their lands." Therefore, an attack against embassies and diplomats, the takeover of embassy buildings, and the taking hostage, kidnapping or execution of embassy staff should be of great service to jihad fighters. In light of this, the organization calls on its Muslim supporters around the world to attack embassies and diplomats.
- The **Taliban in Pakistan** launches a new magazine for women called, Sunnat -e-Khaura ("The Way of Khaura"). The magazine is written by women, including female members of the organization, and includes the personal stories of women who joined the organization, an interview with the first wife of the organization's leader, and a call on women who are unable to move to areas of jihad to contribute to jihad against the infidels in various ways, including through the media.

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## New Publications

### Ideology

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda leadership, published a recorded speech by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri titled, “The Martyrs of Waziristan”. In the video, al-Zawahiri eulogized Sheikh Abu ‘Umar Khalil, a member of the organization’s Shura Council who was killed in 2016 in a US drone strike, and Abu Dujana al-Pasha, a senior leader of Al-Qaeda and al-Zawahiri’s son-in-law, who was killed in 2014 as a result of intercepting a UAV in Waziristan. In the recording, al-Zawahiri revealed that al-Pasha had a central role in the establishment of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, and he praised his success in uniting several jihadist factions in the Indian Subcontinent and bringing about the establishment of a branch under the auspices of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. In addition, al-Zawahiri issued harsh criticism against the Pakistani army for its activities against the mujahideen in the Waziristan region, and accused it of selling the land of Pakistan to the US and submitting to its dictates. He added that the Pakistani army had conducted a harsh oppressive policy against the Muslim population in the past as well, as reflected in the massacre of the residents of Bangladesh in 1971. According to him, this trend of oppression is aimed at protecting the ruling elite.

Al-Zawahiri also praised the efforts of Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda, to bring its messages and publications to the Muslim community. According to him, these efforts exact a high price from those involved in the media work in light of the assassinations and bombings of houses belonging to jihad operatives by the enemy. Al-Zawahiri even revealed that Sheikh Kahlid Muhammad, one of the planners of the 9/11 attacks who is currently incarcerated in a US prison, was one of the founders of Al-Sahab media institution.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).



The banner of al-Zawahiri's speech

- Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric, published a statement in which he explained why Muslims must not support ruling tyrants. For example, he noted that tyrants will use any means in order to prevent their subjects from applying shari'a and make them adhere to forms of government, such as democracy, that contradict shari'a.<sup>2</sup>
- Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric in Jordan, discussed the question of whether Turkey is turning toward Islamization.<sup>3</sup>
- The Salafi-jihadist portal, Minbar al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, published a booklet titled, "The House of Dawah" by Sheikh 'Umar Rifai Sarur. In the booklet, the author discussed the importance of dawah as a platform in the struggle against infidel forces. According to him, the family unit is the most importance component in the dawah system because planting the seeds of true faith and moral values are essential to the ideological struggle against heresy. According to him, all members of the family, including the woman, must contribute to this effort.<sup>4</sup>
- A writer named Jihad Salih, who is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published a statement regarding the organization's successes. He noted that anyone who dared to "eulogize" the organization was wrong. According to him, the organization succeeded in attacking deep inside the US, arousing the consciousness of the Muslim world to wage a global war of jihad against the enemies of Islam, capturing territories in the Middle East and waving the banner of the Oneness of God, and accumulating a jihadist, military, strategic, and logistical body of knowledge to fight against

<sup>2</sup> Telegram

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

enemy armies.<sup>5</sup>

- Sheikh Dr. Sami al-Aridi, a senior Salafi-jihadist affiliated with Al-Qaeda and a former senior member of the Shura Council of Al-Nusra Front, published the following:
  - An article regarding jihad of the Nation and the path of the jihadist movement. According to him, jihad of the Nation must be based on the path of the jihadist movement, and the battle must be based on jihadist principles and Islamic faith. Al-Aridi also noted that that laws of jihad are divided into two parts: permanent laws that include laws of religion and faith, and laws that vary according to the situation on the ground based on logic and experience. Al-Aridi went on to discuss the existing connection between jihad of the Nation and the path of the jihadist movement, and he brought Al-Qaeda as an example, specifically Osama bin Laden who recognized that the time of regional jihadist movements had passed and that jihad of the Nation should be concentrated on enemies outside the country, like the United States and the Jews in Palestine. He again stressed that the jihadist path is an important part of jihad of the Nation and protects it from deviating off the straight path.<sup>6</sup>
  - An article titled “If it is Hard to Go Back, How Will You Move Forward?” According to al-Aridi, the mujahideen’s plan in Syria is clouded in darkness and it is not clear where it is headed - do they want to become an extension of Turkey or gain its secular recognition? Do they want to accept among their midst the Ba’ath officers who will repent? He added that if these are the future plans of the mujahideen, then they are following the path of al-Baghdadi whom they condemn. At the end of the announcement, al-Aridi warned the mujahideen to carefully consider their future plans.<sup>7</sup>
  - An article titled, “They are the Enemy, Beware of Them” in which he warned Muslims about those among them who pretend to be on the side of Muslims, such as Arab armies, but at the same time act against them.<sup>8</sup>
- A writer named Hasan al-‘Ashmawi published a video titled, “Candles on the Way” in which he

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>6</sup> <https://justpaste.it/1a3t6>

<sup>7</sup> <https://justpaste.it/1agok>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).



discussed the challenges and achievements of the Salafi-jihadists movement in recent years.<sup>9</sup>

- The GIMF jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda, published a lecture translated into English titled, “The Oneness of God in Battle” by Sheikh Abu Harith al-Nadhari, a former senior member of the Shura Council of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, who was killed in a US drone strike in January 2015. In his lecture, al-Nadhari discussed the rules of war and the conditions for declaring *takfir* in accordance with ancient Islam. For example, he discussed the conditions under which God’s punishments can be applied.<sup>10</sup>
- The Dawa al-Haqq Islamic news agency published several articles criticizing Hamas and other entities in the Palestinian arena. Among other things, Hamas was criticized for turning a blind eye to Iran’s crimes against the Sunnis in Iraq and Syria, and was accused of harassing civilians and imposing unjustified fines.<sup>11</sup>
- Al-Himmah Library, the Islamic State’s media institution that deals with the publication of Islamic pamphlets, published a pamphlet regarding the ascent of prayers and the worship of Allah during the first ten days of the Hijri month, Dhu al-Hijjah.<sup>12</sup>

## Strategy

- The IS published issue no. 92 of its magazine, *Al-Naba*, which included an article about the importance of focusing effort on carrying out attacks against embassies and members of diplomatic delegations belonging to the Crusader countries fighting against the organization. According to the organization, these embassies fulfill a central role in implementing the policies of Crusader governments in the political, economic and strategic arenas. To a reduced form, he claimed that the embassies function as centers for gathering intelligence, spying and organizing operations against enemies and opposition forces: “The embassies constitute a smaller form of their governments outside their lands.” Therefore, an attack against embassies and diplomats, the takeover of embassy buildings, and the taking hostage, kidnapping or execution of embassy

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>11</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76127>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76225>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76275>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76351>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76683>

<sup>12</sup> <https://archive.org/details/Hemma10ar>

staff should be of great service to jihad fighters. In light of this, the organization calls on its Muslim supporters around the world to attack embassies and diplomats.<sup>13</sup>

- Al-Hayat jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published the second video in the series, “Inside the Khilafa”. The video showed a fighter of Australian origin known as Abu Adam, identified by journalistic sources as Mounir Raad, encouraging Muslims in the West, especially in Australia, to join the battle alongside the IS in Marawi, in the Philippines, and attacking the Australian government for its support of the Philippines regime against the mujahideen. Abu Adam recommended that Australian Muslims who are not able to travel to the Philippines carry out “righteous terrorist attacks” in their homelands and suggested the following modus operandi: crucifying with a nail gun, ramming into a crowd using a truck, and setting houses on fire using fuel. In addition to this advice, Abu Adam justified the acts against the civilian population in the West in fulfilling the verse in Chapter 9 of the Quran, in which the Muslims are called upon to intimidate and wipe out the infidels.<sup>14</sup>



#### Encouragement for ramming crowds with a truck as a modus operandi for lone wolves

- The Ifriqiyyah al-Muslima jihadist media institution published an article by a writer known as Jawad al-Jazairi titled, “The Study of the Jihadist Discourse - For the Right Step towards Victory”. In the framework of the article, the writer suggested an outline for improving jihadist propaganda for the purpose of disseminating messages, penetrating Islamic societies, and exploiting the ‘revolution energy’ and harnessing it to promote jihad. After analyzing the layers of the ‘Pagan

<sup>13</sup> Telegram

<sup>14</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/1919>

National Society', the writer recommended creating a new framework of identification and partnership that would unite all Muslims, but at the same time warned against visions that are too idealistic to create a utopian society. The writer emphasized that the priorities of the jihadist discourse should be in the following order: Exposing the corrupt tyrannical regime, carrying out dawah and encouraging jihad, and presenting jihad as a constructive element - a sort of 'comprehensive solution' for all aspects of life, and not only as a military solution to an armed conflict. In addition, the writer referred to the concept of 'Deep State' and explained that the process of deposing a ruler through revolution is not sufficient to bring about change. In order to bring about real change, the new framework on which the jihadist discourse will be based must be defined, guerilla warfare must be conducted both military and ideologically against the state, and jihad must be presented as the one and only solution.<sup>15</sup>

- The Amaq news agency published an infographic regarding the last two months of battle in the city of Raqqah. According to the infographic, during this period 1,040 PKK forces were killed, 54 attacks were carried out (most of which were suicide attacks), and 30 different military vehicles were damaged or destroyed.<sup>16</sup>
- The Amaq news agency published an infographic regarding the suicide attacks that were carried out by the IS in Iraq and Syria in July 2017. According to the infographic, during this period 50 suicide attacks were carried out: 19 against Iraqi forces, 24 against PKK forces, and seven against the Syrian regime. Most of the attacks were carried out using explosive-ridden vehicles, and focused on Raqqah Province in Syria and Nineveh Province in Iraq.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Telegram

<sup>16</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/DGz4ZZ3XoAAy11d1.jpg>

<sup>17</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76200>



### 50 suicide attacks by the IS in Syria and Iraq during July 2017

- The Muata news agency published an infographic in which it listed the names and photos of 15 senior commanders in the Syrian army, Hezbollah and the Revolutionary Guards who were killed by IS fighters during the month of July.<sup>18</sup>
- A visitor to Al-Fidaa jihadist Web forum, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published a statement regarding the importance of the media activities carried out by jihadist forums. According to the visitor, jihadist forums are currently suffering from a decreasing number of writers for many reasons, mainly due to their move to social networks. However, there is a catch to this. According to the visitor, jihadist media's focus on social media can be severely damaging to the mujahideen and their supporters, and it has many disadvantages. First, the propaganda material published on social media is deleted and removed within a short period of time and is not saved while jihadist forums do save the material and function as archives. Second, writers gain a reputation and accumulate followers of their publications but when their accounts on Twitter, Facebook and any other social media are deleted and removed, they are forced to reopen the account but under a new name in order to make it difficult for intelligence agencies to identify or remove them. In the visitor's opinion, this is not a positive trend since it make is hard for visitors to regularly and meticulously follow prominent writers, and so their connection with jihad supporters is broken. Third, Twitter has a character number limit. In light of this, the visitor noted that the problematic nature of focusing propaganda on social media should be brought up for discussion and weight

<sup>18</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/DGpM6I9WAAAQIzG1.jpg>

should be placed on jihadist forums because they are a safer platform. According to him, an initiative should be launched to train a new generation of writers who will publish their articles on jihadist forums and distribute them on social networks later. In other words, according to the writer, the jihadist forum is supposed to serve as a starting point and basis for jihadist publications, while social networks should serve as a distribution space for these publications.<sup>19</sup>

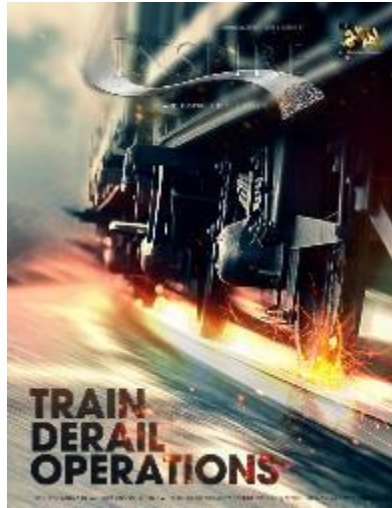
## Magazines

- Al-Malahim jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published issue no. 12 of its magazine, *INSPIRE*. The most prominent topic in this issue dealt with promoting terrorist acts against trains. The editorial and the issue's main article stated that the organization invented a unique and easy-to-assemble device to be placed on the train tracks to serve as an obstacle to the trains' movement and cause them to derail. According to the organization, attacks on vital transportation vehicles have serious political and economic implications for the enemy. Another article justified attacks on citizens of enemy states and called for an increase in such attacks, claiming that they have a broader media echo than attacks against military personnel. In the same issue, Sheikh Abdelmalek Droukdel, the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) was interviewed. In the interview, Droukdel discussed his biography, the start of the armed struggle in Algeria, his attitude towards American policy in the world, especially in the Middle East, his determination to fight in the West, especially France, and his positive opinion about the growing phenomenon of "lone wolf" terrorist attacks against Western targets. Another article recommended that the "lone wolf" adopt several modes of behavior in order to instill a positive psychological feeling about the success of the attack. For example, the lone wolf was asked to maintain secrecy and not reveal his intention to carry out an attack.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>20</sup> Telegram



The banner page of *INSPIRE* magazine

- Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent published an issue of its magazine, *Nawai Afghan Jihad*.<sup>21</sup>



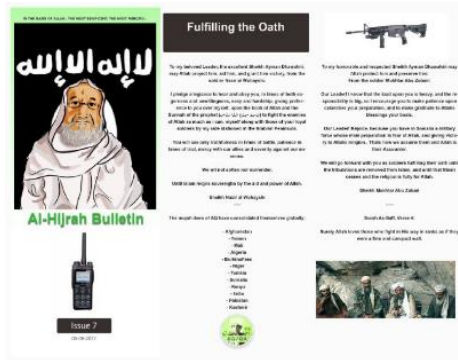
The banner page of the issue

- Issues no. 92-95 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published by the Islamic State. The magazine reviews various arenas of jihad in which the organization fights, and includes articles to commemorate martyrs, encouragement for youth to act for the sake of Islam before they get old,

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<sup>21</sup> Telegram





Issue no. 7 of the magazine, *Al-Hijra*

- The Taliban in Pakistan launched a new magazine for women titled, *Sunnat-e-Khaula* (The Way of Khaula) (45 pp.) in English and Urdu. The title of the magazine refers to Khawlah bint al-Azhar, a prominent woman who was part of the Prophet Muhammad's flock and fought in his time against the Byzantine army. The magazine is written by women, including the wives of members of the organization. Among the topics covered by the magazine: the personal story of a female Muslim doctor who worked in a hospital outside of her birth country, Pakistan, but after experiencing a “revelation” moved back to Pakistan in order to join the ranks of the organization; a review of Muslim women throughout Muslim history who suffered and were persecuted for their faith in Islam; an interview with the first wife of the leader of the organization who was married at the age of 14 regarding her relationship with her husband and with her father, her husband’s attitude towards women, etc.; a call on women who are unable to move to arenas of jihad to contribute and help with jihad against the infidels in various ways, such as helping with media, organizing religious meetings, organizing secret meetings in their homes, planning suicide attacks, gathering intelligence about attacks targets, etc.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>24</sup> <https://ia601505.us.archive.org/32/items/TTPMagazineSunnatKhaula01>





**The banner page of the new women's magazine**

- The Turkistan Islamic Party published issue no. 25 of its magazine, *Turkistan al-Islamiyya* (64 pp.). Among the articles covered in the issue: the need for members of the organization to cope with conspiracies by enemies of Islam in Syria; the stories of fighters who joined the organization; biographies of martyrs; articles regarding the oppressive policies of the Chinese regime against the Muslim population in the country; an article criticizing the Egyptian regime for arresting Uighur Muslim students and extraditing them to China; a message from the leader of the organization, Abdul Haq, to the organization's fighters in Syria, to continue helping the Syrian people and waging jihad against the enemies of Islam. In addition, he called on them to prepare for a future battle against China, which continues to oppress the Muslim population and to blur their identity in various ways, such as through intermarriage; an article regarding the hypocrisy of European countries in their attitude towards refugees from Syria and other Middle Eastern countries, as manifested in their preference to provide asylum to Christian refugees instead of Muslims; an article expressing solidarity with Muslims in Burma who are persecuted by the Burmese regime.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Telegram



The banner page of the issue

- Two issues of the magazine, *Fustat al-Muslimin*, which is affiliated with jihadists in Syria, were published. Among the topics covered in the issue: a call to fulfil the commandment of jihad against infidel forces; encouragement for individual “lone wolf” attacks; operative advice for battle in the field; a review of developments in the geopolitical arena.<sup>26</sup>



The banner page of *Fustat al-Muslimin*

<sup>26</sup> Telegram

- The Telegram channel, Khayr al-Umma, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda in Syria, published the second issue of its magazine titled, *Al- Risālah*, which covers developments in the geopolitical arena.<sup>27</sup>

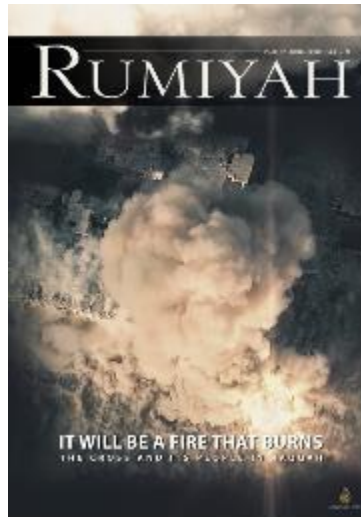


**The banner page of *Al- Risālah***

- Issue no. 12 of the magazine, *Rumiyah*, which belongs to the IS, was published in several languages. Among the topics covered in the issue were: ‘Muslim society between human reality and misleading fantasies’, a mujahid’s recollections from the battle in Mosul and part two in a collection of tips for the mujahideen by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. The cover story of the issue, titled, “It will be a fire that burns the Cross and its people in Raqqah” is essentially an interview with a military commander in the city of Raqqah who detailed the course of the battles in the city.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Telegram

<sup>28</sup> <https://cldup.com/lqw3mM0n3R.pdf>



Issue no. 12 of the magazine, *Rumiyah*

## Reports from the Field

### Afghanistan-Pakistan

#### *The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan*

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the following:
  - An announcement regarding claims made by the Saudi Deputy Ambassador in Kabul. The announcement stated that Saudi Arabia is one of the countries that recognized the Islamic Emirate when the latter was in power and had good relations with it. The organization added that at a time when the Islamic Emirate is fighting for Afghanistan's independence, it expects Saudi Arabia to play a role in ending the occupation and in resolving the Afghan issue. The organization further claimed that the purpose of the Islamic State's political department in Qatar is to find a political solution to the Afghan issue, which attests to the Islamic Emirate's commitment to a peaceful solution.<sup>29</sup>
  - An open letter to US President, Donald Trump. In the beginning of the letter, the organization claimed that since the American invasion into Afghanistan 16 years ago, the country is unstable and its economy is deteriorating. The organization added that those holding power in Kabul do not care about American or Afghan interests and their only

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<sup>29</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=18194> (English).

interest is to remain in power. Therefore, they are prepared to go with any foreign force that will ensure their position. The organization also claimed that the administration in Kabul created by the American administration has internal conflicts. It added that the Afghans have no intention to harm the US or any other nation, but that they will rise up against anyone who invades their land. Later in the letter, the organization asked the US President to withdraw his troops from Afghanistan and not yield to the pressure of generals seeking to prolong the war. The organization added that it will continue to fight against the invaders and that an additional dispatch of American forces will only lead to the destruction of the US Army.<sup>30</sup>



**The banner of the organization's message to President Trump**

- An announcement in honor of 98 years of Afghanistan's independence from Britain. In the announcement, the organization claimed that over the last 16 years, the US and its partners, including Britain, have been operating to steal Afghanistan's sovereignty. Later in the announcement, the organization called on the US to learn a lesson from previous invasions into Afghanistan and withdraw its forces from the country.<sup>31</sup>
- An announcement by the spokesman of the Emirate, Zabihullah Mujahid, regarding the strategy of US President, Donald Trump. In the announcement, the organization claimed that the President Trump called for the continued presence of US forces in Afghanistan and tagged Afghanistan as a threat to the US. The organization added that the US is still

<sup>30</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=18529> (English).

<sup>31</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=18697> (English).

not prepared to end its war in Afghanistan and, therefore, the organization will continue to wage jihad against American forces until the US withdraws its forces from the country.<sup>32</sup>

- An announcement by the leader of the organization, Hibatullah Akhundzada, in honor of Eid al-Adha. In the announcement, Akhundzada claimed that the Taliban will continue to act for the sake of Afghanistan's independence and the establishment of an Islamic regime, in contrast to the false rumors that the Taliban wants to establish a monopoly and cause ethnic and religious discrimination. Akhundzada added that the organization will be committed to the peace process as long as it ends the occupation in the country. Later in the announcement, Akhundzada vowed that the Islamic Emirate has no intention of harming other countries and, therefore, they have nothing to fear from the establishment of an Islamic regime in Afghanistan. He further claimed that is troubled by the terrible situation of the Muslim world and especially by developments in the Middle East. He later called on Afghans, especially businessmen, to act to rehabilitate their country and he called on non-governmental organizations to provide help to Afghans in the fields of education, health and society. In addition, Akhundzada called on the mujahideen to provide the security that will allow welfare and prosperity for Afghans. Akhundzada also called on the educated echelon and dignitaries among the nation to support the mujahideen and view them as freedom fighters for Afghanistan's independence. Later in the announcement, he asked the Afghan nation to adhere to shari'a, carry out prayers, heed the clerics and not abandon the families of martyrs, the injured, prisoners, orphans and handicapped, and avoid ethnic discrimination. In addition, Akhundzada appealed to the mujahideen and asked them to treat prisoners in their care properly, organize education and training, obey their superiors and try to avoid harming civilians as much as possible.<sup>33</sup>
- A book titled, "Convoy of Martyrs", a biography about several members of the organization who were killed in the battlefield.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=18900> (English).

<sup>33</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=19352> (English).

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.alizaa.com/showthread.php?764>



The banner page of the book

### ***The Taliban in Pakistan***

- The Taliban in Pakistan (Tehrik-i-Taliban) published the following:
  - A video message from August 28, 2017 via Umar Media, the organization’s official media outlet, titled, “Ghandpur Mujahideen join Tehrik – I – Taliban Pakistan (TTP)”. The video announced and showed the formal induction of Ghandapur Mujahedeen as commanders into TTP (Ghandapur is a Pashtun tribe located in the district of Dera Ismail Khan in Pakistan). The commanders in the video - Zaraar Hafzullah, Sher Ali Arif Adil, Maulvi Ghaznavi, Maulvi Ayoobi and Maulvi Ilyas - pledged allegiance to the Emir of TTP, Mullah Fazlullah.<sup>35</sup>
  - A video message from August 28, 2017 via Umar Media, titled, “Bannu Division joins Tehrik – I – Taliban Pakistan (TTP)”. The video showed the mujahedeen in training and demonstrated their commitment to jihad in Pakistan.

### ***The Islamic State***

- The IS in Khorasan Province published the following:
  - An announcement in Arabic and Farsi regarding a repelled attack by the Crusaders in the area of Ashin in Nangarhar Province. According to the announcement, over 30 soldiers among Afghan army forces and their allies were killed and injured in the gun battle.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> <https://archive.org/details/GhandpurMujahideenJoinTTP>

<sup>36</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

- A filmed review regarding *ribat* activities by IS fighters in the Tora Bora mountains.<sup>37</sup>
- A filmed review regarding the growing of vegetables in Nangarhar Province.<sup>38</sup>

## The Arabian Peninsula

### *Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula*

- Al-Malahim jihadist media institution, which belongs to AQAP, published the following:
  - A series of videos on the topics of Islam and Islamic law by Sheikh Khalid Batarfi, a senior member of the organization.<sup>39</sup>
- Ansar al-Shari'a, which is subject to AQAP, published the following:
  - Videos documenting military activities by members of the organization against various targets in Yemen, such as the Houthis in Baydaa Province.<sup>40</sup>
  - An announcement warning the Houthis in Yemen not to carry out their intention to execute Sunni prisoners held captive by them. According to the organization, such action will be met with acts of revenge, namely the execution of Houthi prisoners being held captive by the organization.<sup>41</sup>
  - An announcement criticizing the military operations by the United Emirates in Abyan Province. In addition, the organization called on tribal members in Abyan Province to call on their children not to cooperate with the Emirates. The organization further warned that anyone who is found helping enemy forces will be severely punished. The organization also sent a similar message to the residents of Shabwa Province.<sup>42</sup>
  - A denial of involvement in, or any connection to, the terrorist attack in Ib Province that killed and injured innocent people.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76142>

<sup>38</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>39</sup> Telegram

<sup>40</sup> Telegram

<sup>41</sup> Telegram

<sup>42</sup> Telegram

<sup>43</sup> Telegram



## ***The Islamic State***

- The IS in Al-Baydaa Province in Yemen published the following:
  - A video titled, “A Window into the Land of Yemen 2”, which documented attacks against Houthi sites in the Qifa and Al-Zahra areas as well as military training and religious guidance at the organization’s training camps. The video showed a fighter who made threats against ‘enemies of the Caliphate’ and other fighters who carried out suicide attacks on the organization’s behalf.<sup>44</sup>



**An IS training camp in Yemen**

- Artillery fire against Houthi posts in Al-Zahra.<sup>45</sup>

## **Iraq**

### ***The Islamic State***

- The FURAT jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published the third video in a series titled, “Convoy of Martyrs: Abu Hudhayfa al-Daghistani”. In the video, which was published in Russian with Arabic subtitles, al-Daghistani spoke of how he decided to leave Daghistan for Syria in order to join the ranks of the IS and fight alongside it, and he welcomed the application of shari’a under its rule. In addition, he stated that the mujahideen’s success in the Caucasus encouraged him to sign up as an *istishhadi* (suicide terrorist), he encouraged fighters in Mosul and called on additional fighters to migrate from the ‘house of heresy’ to the land of the Islamic

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<sup>44</sup> <https://ia800801.us.archive.org/29/items/noafeth2/noafeth2.mp4>

<sup>45</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

Caliphate in order to establish a Muslim way of life that is true and faithful to the Prophet Muhammad.<sup>46</sup>

- 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:

- Dijlah Province: A video documenting battles in the province and attacks by IS fighters against PMF posts. The attacks included gun battles, guided missile launches, aerial bombardments by combat drones, and fires set to posts.<sup>47</sup>
- Baghdad Province: A video titled, “Spider Webs”, which documented the organization’s activities in the city of Baghdad. Among other things, the video documented: intelligence gathering about targets in Baghdad, terrorists’ penetration into Al-Sanak area in the city center, the detonation of an explosive device in the area of Al-Mashtal and the explosion of an oil pipeline in Al-Za'franiyya. The video ended with the execution of four men accused of spying for the Iraqi security services. At the same time, the video showed suicide terrorists and fighters encouraging other Muslims to join jihad and protest against Baghdad’s reversal to Shi’ite rule after hundreds of years of Sunni rule.<sup>48</sup>
- Kirkuk Province: A video regarding sniper activities in the province. The video documented IS snipers dressed in camouflage alongside photographs of sniper fire against PMF forces through the vantage point of the rifle. In addition, the video showed part of a training lesson given to snipers that dealt with the skills required for an expert sniper.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> [https://ia601506.us.archive.org/21/items/Abou\\_7ouzayfah\\_c/Hothefa.mp4](https://ia601506.us.archive.org/21/items/Abou_7ouzayfah_c/Hothefa.mp4)

<sup>47</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/2611>

<sup>48</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76977>

<sup>49</sup> <https://ia600809.us.archive.org/3/items/siham2/siham2.mp4>



**IS snipers in Kirkuk Province**

- *Al-Furat Province*: A two-part video titled, “Shadows of the Spearheads”, which dealt with the organization’s attacks in the province, such as: an attack against PMF posts and Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the area of Jamuna, which is near Al-Tanaf on the Iraq-Syria border, and an attack against Syrian army posts; an attack against a Syrian army post and Iranian militias in the area of Wadi al-Wa’r in the Syrian desert.<sup>50</sup>
  - *Kirkuk Province*: A video titled, “The Gusts of Jihad”, which documented the organization’s attacks against PMF posts in the Allas oilfield.<sup>51</sup>
  - 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 various operational topics, including: an attack against PMF forces using combat drones in Al-Jazira Province and mortar fire against PMF posts on the Baiji-Haditha road; suicide attacks against Iraqi army forces in the areas of Tikrit and Tall-Afar; the assassination of two officers and a soldier in Mosul; and the killing of 68 Iraqi army forces at the Al-Tanaf crossing.<sup>52</sup>
- B. Executions: In Kirkuk Province, filmed reviews were published regarding the death of a married man who was accused of adultery, and the execution of a man who was convicted of witchcraft.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> <https://vimeo.com/229381986>; [http://www.isdarat.tech/2017/08/2\\_28.html](http://www.isdarat.tech/2017/08/2_28.html)

<sup>51</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76960>

<sup>52</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>53</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic); <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76861>

## **Al-Sham [The Levant]**

### **Syria**

#### ***Hayat Tahrir al-Sham***

- Hayat Tahrir al-Sham published the following:
  - An announcement regarding recent developments in eastern Al-Ghouta. In the announcement, the organization declared its willingness to dissolve the organization in Al-Ghouta and join a united body with the other factions out of a desire to avoid harming civilians and to apply the goals of the Syrian revolution. The organization also called on residents of Al-Ghouta to support its plan and not allow the handing over of the territories to the Shi'ites.<sup>54</sup>
  - A video containing interviews with several members of Lebanese Hezbollah who were taken captive by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham before returning to Lebanon.<sup>55</sup> Their release was achieved as a result of a prisoner exchange agreement that was reached with Hezbollah.
  - A response to an announcement by US Special Envoy for Syria, Michael Ratney. In the response, the organization claimed that there was nothing new in Ratney's announcement and that the constant effort of the US administration is to prevent the formation of a united coalition between the factions. The organization added that it was reasonable to assume that after Ratney's announcement, the US would bomb the factions in Idlib. However, this did not happen because the decision to bomb has nothing to do with which faction controls Idlib, but rather is based on agreements regarding a plan to solve the situation in Syria. According to the organization, the solutions offered today are still not consolidated and it does not seem that they will include international damage to the recent areas under the opposition's control. The organization also added that Russian policy has failed to lead to a comprehensive settlement and has only led to local cease-fires. The organization further claimed that US policy in Syria is fruitless and the deteriorating relationship between the US and Russia is affecting the implementation of

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<sup>54</sup> Telegram

<sup>55</sup> Telegram

a comprehensive plan in the region. It also noted that Iranian militias are wary of the US role in the Syrian arena and are trying to undermine it out of fear that a future arrangement will limit their activities. According to the organization, this entire situation has led Russia to reduce the escalation in Al-Ghouta and Homs while receiving cooperation from some of the factions. At the end of the announcement, the organization claimed that the capture of Idlib by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham thwarted countries' schemes for the region, and that the organization has exploited differences of opinion between the United States and Turkey in order to take control of it. The organization also noted that the capture of Idlib posed obstacles and proved that the jihadist force still actively holds the reins.<sup>56</sup>

- An announcement regarding an attack against members of the “civil defense” in Sarmin, in Idlib Province. In the announcement, the organization expressed regret over the members of the ‘civil defense’ who were killed and vowed to provide protection to its members in order to facilitate their activities in the liberated areas.<sup>57</sup>
- An announcement regarding the claim according to which “defensive jihad” has no conditions. In the announcement, the organization claimed that the statement is false and stems from confusion between conditions of jihad and the obligations imposed on a jihad fighter. The organization clarified that in “offensive jihad”, the fighter must be a free male independent and obey the imam and Allah, while in “defensive jihad” there are no such conditions and jihad is required of both slaves and women. Nevertheless, the organization claimed that in both types of jihad, the jihad fighter must prepare the equipment for battle, unite the ranks and obey the emir. The organization also noted that anyone who belittles “defensive jihad” and claims that it is not necessary to use all of the equipment in the fighter’s possession or unite the ranks, he is a sinner and does not do what is required of him.<sup>58</sup>

### ***Ahrar al-Sham***

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<sup>56</sup> Telegram

<sup>57</sup> Telegram

<sup>58</sup> Telegram

- The Shura Council of Ahrar al-Sham published an announcement in which it announced the resignation of Ahrar al-Sham’s leader, Abu Ammar, and the appointment of Hassan Soufan (aka Abu al-Bara) as leader of the organization.<sup>59</sup>

### ***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, which dealt with the following operational issues:

#### A. Battles and Military Deployments:

- *Al-Khayr Province*: A video titled, “The Clanging of Terror”, which documented attacks against Syrian army posts in the village area of Hmima, including gun battles, mortar fire, the dispatch of suicide terrorists in car bombs, and shellings from combat drones. The video ended with a display of the weapons that were plundered, the corpses of those killed, and the executions of several captured soldiers.<sup>60</sup>
- *Raqqah Province*: A video titled, “The Dust of War”, which documented battles in the Raqqah area. The video showed several suicide terrorists who carried out attacks using car bombs as well as light and medium weapons fire, and displayed the corpses of those killed among the enemy ranks.<sup>61</sup>
- *Homs Province*: A video titled, “The Charges of Redemption 3”, which documented attacks by the organization against Syrian army sites in the province. As is customary in the organization’s videos, this video also showed images from the attack, including the use of suicide terrorists as well as threats by fighters to take revenge in Rome, Tehran and Qom. It should be noted that the fighters’ clothing suggests that the photos were not very up-to-date, and indicated a notable decline in the quality of the

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<sup>59</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DGODv68XsAQiUY9.jpg>

<sup>60</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>61</sup> <https://ia600809.us.archive.org/35/items/kopar/kopar.mp4>

video's production and graphics.<sup>62</sup>

- Hamat Province: A video titled, “The Swords of Revenge”, which documented the organization’s attacks in the province. In the beginning of the video, a child talked about the death of his parents and family members in a chemical shelling, and asked the ‘lions of the Islamic State’ to take revenge against the regime and its abettors. The video also included propaganda against both Ishmaelite and Twelver Shi’ites (who were presented as a legitimate target for attack), and threats against Vladimir Putin by a Russian-speaking fighter standing in front of a Russian tank that was destroyed by the IS. The video ended with the presentation of statistics on the scope of operational activities in the province and their results (number of those killed, injured and taken captive, vehicles that were destroyed and weapons that were plundered) from the end of May until the end of July 2017.<sup>63</sup>
- Raqqah Province: A video titled, “They Will be Defeated”, which documented attacks against Syrian army sites in the desert area of eastern Raqqah Province. The attacks included data collection using a skimmer and a suicide attack against the military operations headquarters before the terrorists’ infiltration. The video ended with the setting alight of posts and the beheadings of soldiers who were captured.<sup>64</sup>
- The various media departments of the IS in Syria and the Amaq news agency published a range of videos and filmed reviews on various operational topics, including: attacks and suicide operations against PKK forces in Raqqah; the killing of five Syrian soldiers in an attack north of the Sha’er oilfield; an announcement about approximately 100 Lebanese army and Hezbollah forces killed near western Qalamoun; battles against the Syrian army east of the city of al-Salamiyya and penetration into the neighboring village; the killing of dozens of Syrian regime

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<sup>62</sup> <https://archive.org/download/solat3/solat3.mp4>

<sup>63</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76967>

<sup>64</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

forces and militiamen in an attack in the desert area of Homs, and a report about officers belonging to the Revolutionary Guards killed in battle in Palmyra.<sup>65</sup>

B. Propaganda and Media:

- Al-Khayr Province: A video titled, “The Beginning of the Rain – Raid in Barcelona”. Alongside images taken from media reports about the ramming attack in Barcelona, the video showed Spanish speaking IS fighters (nicknamed Abu al-Layth al-Qurtubi and Abu Salman) who praised the perpetrators of the attack and threatened more attacks in Spain as long as the coalition fighting against the organization in Syria and Iraq does not withdraw.<sup>66</sup>
- Al-Janub Province: A propaganda video against Iran and Shi’ites titled, “Burning the Zoroastrians”. The beginning of the video reviewed the Iranian penetration into the Iraqi space since the fall of Saddam Hussein’s regime and detailed ‘heretical beliefs’ in the Shi’ite movement. The video later showed images from a training camp for *inghimasi* fighters as well as suicide terrorist who carried out attacks in the areas of Al-Mishjab and south of Najaf (part of the video was dedicated to the recording of telephone conversations with the fighters in the midst of the attacks). The last part of the video showed three masked men, one of whom made threats in Farsi against Iran and encouraged additional attacks in its territory by the Sunni minority that lives in the country.<sup>67</sup>
- Al-Baraka: A propaganda video against the Kurdish PKK militia in the province. In the first part of the video, members of the militia were accused of activities against the Arab population in Al-Baraka and of destroying Arab villages. The second part of the video showed photos from the organization’s battle against the PKK in the village of Kishkish Jbur as well as statistics regarding operational activities in the province. In the last part of the video, an IS fighter made threats against Christians in the province who are fighting against the IS and against Arab tribes in the south

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<sup>65</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>66</sup> [http://www.isdarat.tech/2017/08/blog-post\\_92.html](http://www.isdarat.tech/2017/08/blog-post_92.html)

<sup>67</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/17081>



of the province who are collaborating with the PKK.<sup>68</sup>

- *Al-Khayr*: Al-Khayr Province published a video regarding the marking of Eid al-Fitr in the province and a warning against ‘forbidden and indecent practices’ on the day, as well as encouragement for terrorist attacks in the lands of ‘the Jews and the Crusaders’.<sup>69</sup> It also published several filmed reviews on civilian topics in Syria, such as a filmed tour in the town of Mihkan in Al-Khayr Province and medical services in the western countryside of Dara’a.<sup>70</sup>

### ***The Eastern Turkestan Party***

- The Eastern Turkestan Party published a series of videos praising the fulfilment of the commandment of jihad and the martyr’s death in the battlefield, as well as strengthening the morale of the organization’s fighters.<sup>71</sup>

### **The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula**

#### ***Liwa al-Tawhid***

- Al-Buraq jihadist media institution, which belongs to Liwa al-Tawhid, a Salafi-jihadist organization in Gaza, published the following:
  - A statement voicing protest over the arrest of members of the organization without directly naming Hamas. In the statement, the organization expressed indignation over the fact that the security services in Gaza arrest Liwa al-Tawhid members despite the operation that the latter carried out against the Jews on various occasions (including participation in the abduction of Gilad Shalit and the launching of rockets at Tel Aviv). In addition, the statement included a disavowal and denial of any connection to the suicide attack against a Hamas checkpoint in Rafah and, on the other hand, claimed as members of the group Nashat Milhem (the perpetrator of the attack on Dizengoff Street in January

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<sup>68</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76964/comment-page-1>

<sup>69</sup> <https://ia801507.us.archive.org/6/items/wthker>

<sup>70</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>71</sup> Telegram

2016) and Fadi Abu Qunbar (the perpetrator of the ramming attack on the Armon Hanatziv promenade in January 2017).<sup>72</sup>

- A video about a training camp for youth in Gaza. The video explained that the group's dawah committee set up a 2-day training camp that included instruction on dawah, security and knowledge alongside entertainment and sports activities. From a security perspective, the youth were warned about 'intellectual penetration', Internet and drug use, and the danger of being recruited by the enemy.<sup>73</sup>



A dawah camp for youth in the Gaza Strip sponsored by Liwa al-Tawhid

#### ***Jaysh al-Ummah al-Salafi fi Bayt al-Maqdis***

- Jaysh al-Ummah al-Salafi fi Bayt al-Maqdis, a Salafi-jihadist group in the Gaza Strip, published a condemnation of the suicide attack that was carried out at a Hamas checkpoint at the Rafah crossing, and described the operation as 'one of the Islamic State's *takfiri* ideas'.<sup>74</sup>

#### ***The Islamic State***

- A writer known as Jarah al-Ansari, a supporter of the IS, published a statement about jihad fighters in the Gaza Strip. According to him, many Gazans support the IS but are persecuted by the Hamas regime because of this. According to the writer, a large number of Gazans wish to move from Gaza to the Sinai Peninsula in order to join the ranks of the IS in the Sinai Peninsula but the Hamas leadership sets up obstacles at the border crossing. In general, Hamas is pursuing a policy of persecution against the Salafists in Gaza, as was evident in 2009 with the massacre of

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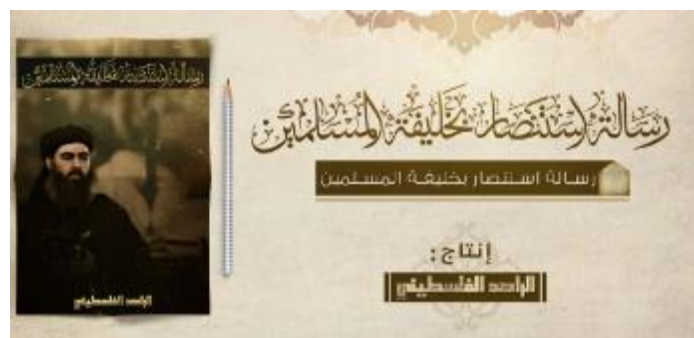
<sup>72</sup> Telegram

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9zuka8khZE>

<sup>74</sup> Telegram

Salafist activists at the Ibn Tamiyya mosque. According to the writer, there are many Gazans in the Gaza Strip who are faithful to the Caliph, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and are willing to follow his instructions.<sup>75</sup>

- A Palestinian writer directed a request for assistance to the leader of the IS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. In the framework of the request, the writer called on al-Baghdadi to come to the aid of members of the Salafist-jihadist stream in Gaza who are being persecuted by Hamas. The writer suggested that al-Baghdadi call on Hamas to allow Muslims from Gaza – including Salafist prisoners to be released from prison – to move to the IS in Sinai Province.<sup>76</sup>



**A request for help for the Salafists in Gaza directed at Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi**

### ***The Ibn Tamiyya Media Center***

- The Ibn Tamiyya Media Center published the following:
  - An announcement regarding the suicide attack that was carried out at a Hamas checkpoint at the Rafah crossing. After listing Hamas’s various crimes against the Salafists in the Gaza Strip, the announcement emphasized that the attack was a consequence and counter-reaction to Hamas’s pressure and persecutory policies against them. The announcement ended with a promise to Muslims that the fight against the "Jewish enemy" would be the top priority of the Salafist-jihadist movement in Gaza.<sup>77</sup>
  - An article titled, “The Chains will be Broken with Allah’s Help”, which contained testimony from a former prisoner in one of Hamas’s jails. In the document, the prisoner detailed

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<sup>75</sup> Telegram

<sup>76</sup> Telegram

<sup>77</sup> Telegram

incidents of torture and abuse of prisoners by Hamas and he wished for their imminent release.<sup>78</sup>

## **Africa**

### ***Libya***

#### **The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna**

- The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna published the following:
  - An announcement of apology for publishing a photo of the corpse of Adel al-Jahani, a pilot in the Libyan National Army under the command of Khalifa Haftar who was killed in a MiG-23 crash south of Derna. The announcement stated that although the pilot had received "the just divine punishment for his actions against Allah and against his people," photographing the corpse was an improper act. The announcement emphasized that, based on Islamic tradition and the actions of the Prophet, the Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna forbids photographing bodies and does so only in case of need and for documentation purposes. It stated that the person who took the photograph was punished for his mistake. In the announcement, the group went on to explain that it continued to keep possession of the pilot's body due to the holding and abuse of a mujahid's corpse.<sup>79</sup>
  - An announcement signed by Atiyya Said al-Sha'eri regarding the appointment of Muhammad al-Mansouri as the official spokesman of the group.<sup>80</sup>

### ***Tunisia***

- A writer known as Abu al-Ashbal al-Maghribi published an article criticizing the call by Tunisia's President, Beji Caid Essebsi, to promote equal rights for men and women in inheritance law and to allow Tunisian women to marry foreign men regardless of their religion. Al-Maghribi likened

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<sup>78</sup> Telegram

<sup>79</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DGa81EDXsAITLXQ.jpg>

<sup>80</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DHnWi7BW0AEVrWE.jpg>

Essebsi to Tunisia's first president, Habib Bourguiba, and wished for his death along with that of the rest of the 'Arab tyrants'.<sup>81</sup>

## **Mali**

### ***Jamā'at Nuṣrat al-Islām Wa-l-Muslimīn***

- Jamā'at Nuṣrat al-Islām Wa-l-Muslimīn published a video documenting an attack by the organization's fighters against a Malian army post in Bintagoungou.<sup>82</sup>

## **Egypt**

### **The Hasm Movement**

- The Hasm movement published an announcement in which it vowed to continue the path of jihad and resistance against the Egyptian regime and its symbols.<sup>83</sup>

### ***The Islamic State***

- The Amaq news agency published a report about the damage caused to an armored vehicle that served the 'militias faithful to the Egyptian regime' using an explosive device near the city of Sheikh Zuweid. Meanwhile, Egyptian media sources reported the death of a battalion commander in the Egyptian army in an exchange of fire against IS forces in Qena Province in southern Egypt.<sup>84</sup>

## **Nigeria**

### ***Jama'at Ahl al-Sunnah Lil Dawā Wal Jihad***

- Jama'at Ahl al-Sunnah Lil Dawā Wal Jihad, which is led by Abubakar Shekau, published a new video in Arabic in which Shekau mocked Nigerian President Muhammad Buhari, former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, and Chief of Staff Yusuf Buratai for boasting that they had successfully defeated the organization. According to the organization, it continues to operate and

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<sup>81</sup> <https://justpaste.it/1a1qn>

<sup>82</sup> Telegram

<sup>83</sup> <https://hasamegypt.com/?p=460>

<sup>84</sup> Telegram

carry out terrorist attacks in the country. The video was published a short time after the group attacked the Borno State community of Amarwa.<sup>85</sup>

## **Somalia**

### **Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen**

- Al-Kataib, which belongs to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published the following:
  - The second part of an interview with Al-Shabab's spokesman in Kenya, Ahman Iman Ali, regarding the elections in Kenya. In this part, Ahman Iman Ali responded to questions concerning excuses by clerics who justify participation in the democratic election process.<sup>86</sup>
  - A video that was published several days before the elections in Kenya. In the video, the organization called on Muslims in Kenya to avoid voting in the upcoming elections set to take place in Kenya. The organization further claimed in the video that Muslims in Kenya are being oppressed and encouraged them to migrate to Somalia and join Al-Shabab.<sup>87</sup>
  - A video containing a final message from a Kenyan hostage held by Al-Shabab before he was executed. In the video, the Kenyan captive claimed that the Kenyan government had sent him to fight in Somalia and then abandoned him after he was taken captive by Al-Shabab. The hostage further claimed that the President of Kenya lied when he claimed that no one had been taken captive by Al-Shabab and, therefore, he is not fit to serve as the President of Kenya. The video was published as part of Al-Shabab's propaganda in an attempt to influence the elections in Kenya.<sup>88</sup>
  - A video in which a Canadian fighter, Mahad Ali Dhore, threatened Kenya and called on his comrades to kill Kenyan soldiers and civilians.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>85</sup> Telegram

<sup>86</sup> Telegram

<sup>87</sup> <http://risala.ga/rorv>

<sup>88</sup> <http://risala.ga/i7u4>

<sup>89</sup> <https://justpaste.it/19qpj>

- An announcement of condolences over the death of the governor of Banaadir Province in southern Somalia, Ali Muhammad Hussein (also known as Ali Jabal), who was killed in a US bombing in Somalia.<sup>90</sup>
- Al-Hijra jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published exclusive details regarding the surrender of former Al-Shabab spokesman, Mukhtar Abu Mansur, to the government of Somalia. The announcement stated that, against the backdrop of the conflict that developed between Mansur and the Al-Shabab leadership, a disconnect was created between him and the organization in 2011. Nevertheless, according to the announcement, despite the disconnect, the organization provided Abu Mansur with 30 fighters to guard him because he was wanted by the US. The announcement added that fighters continued to guard Abu Mansur even when reports started to come in regarding existing relations between him and officials in the US, Qatar and Somalia. Nevertheless, the announcement stated that the situation changed about six months ago when Abu Mansur began to surround himself with people and act against Al-Shabab in the village where he lived in Somalia, and even killed a member of the organization. According to the organization, at the same time as his attack against the organization, his name was removed from the US list of terrorists. The announcement also stated that Somali security forces helped Abu Mansur leave the village and transported him to Mogadishu, where he was moved to the presidential palace in order to meet with senior Somali officials.<sup>91</sup>

## **The Indian Subcontinent**

### ***Al-Qaeda in 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:

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<sup>90</sup> <https://ia601500.us.archive.org/29/items/WatarajalaAlshekhCaliJabal>

<sup>91</sup> Telegram

- An audio sermon by Ustad Usamah Mahmud titled, “This lamp will not be blown out by small breaths”. The sermon was a tribute to jihad in Pakistan and the Indian Subcontinent. In the sermon, Mahmud discussed how jihad has been going through a transformation over the last few years and has been given a bad name by traitors who have joined enemy ranks. This is the age of *fitna* as prophesied by the Prophet’s *hadith*, where one is Muslim in the day and turns into an infidel by night, and where lies will reign. Jihad is the ultimate sacrifice and the test for true Muslims. Mahmud implored his listeners to not take jihad lightly and claimed that it is the necessary defense today for all Muslims. Mahmud provided support for all of his statements with *ayats* from the Quran.<sup>92</sup>
- Parts 5, 6 and 7 of Maulana Khubayb’s series of lectures on Surat al-Hijrat, the 49<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran. The main message of the Surah concerns the norms to be observed in the Muslim community, including the proper conduct toward the Prophet, a ruling against acting on news without verification, defamation and backstabbing. The Surah also declares a widespread camaraderie among Muslims.<sup>93</sup>

### ***Ansar Ghazwat al-Hind***

- The Hurr jihadist media institution announced the establishment of a new jihadist group in Kashmir called Ansar Ghazwat al-Hind (Supporters of the raid on India). According to the announcement, the group will promote jihadist activity from Kashmir to India until Islam’s victory in Kashmir and India. In addition, the group called on Muslims in Kashmir and around the world to join the jihad war against India whether by joining the fight through physical combat or through financial support. The group also clarified the principles upon which its world view is based, including the rejection of polytheism and the principle of the Oneness of God, fulfilling the commandment of jihad and battle against the infidels, the application of the laws of shari’a, and armed activity against the Indian army and police as well as any person involved in oppressing Muslims in Kashmir and India.<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> Telegram

<sup>93</sup> Telegram

<sup>94</sup> Telegram



In an audio clip that was published at the end of August 2017, the leader of the organization, Zakir Musa, threatened to capture “occupied Hindustan” from the regime of Hindu ‘cow worshippers’ and implement shari’a. In addition, he threatened the Indian regime not to expel the Rohingyans who had taken refuge from the Burmese regime in the city of Jammu in India. Zakir also criticized the Pakistani regime for closing training camps for jihad fighters and imprisoning them.<sup>95</sup>



The banner of the audio clip

## The Philippines

- Al-Hayat jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published a video titled, “Inside the Caliphate #3”, regarding the takeover of the city of Marawi in the Philippines by IS fighters. The video included photos from battles between the organization’s fighters and Philippines army forces, and the destruction of churches in the city alongside mocking and threats by fighters against the President of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte. The video emphasized the steadfastness of the mujahideen in the Philippines in the face of enemy attacks, glorified the image of martyrs, and sent a message of encouragement to Muslims in Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand and Singapore to carry out *hijra* to Marawi.<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>95</sup> Telegram

<sup>96</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).



**A review of IS activities in Marawi**

- The Amaq news agency published several news items regarding the Philippines:
  - A video documenting Philippines army forces killed in the city of Marawi, alongside weapons and ammunition that were taken by IS fighters.<sup>97</sup>
  - Reports about the deaths of eight Filipino soldiers in an exchange of fire and explosives detonation in the city of Marawi.<sup>98</sup>
  - A report about seven members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front killed and 11 others injured in an exchange of fire in the area of Maguindanao in the southern Philippines.<sup>99</sup> Another report stated that 19 members of the Front were killed in battles against IS fighters in the same area.<sup>100</sup>
- A news agency named “Deterring the Sahawat” published an article by a writer known as Abu Abdullah titled, “To Our People in the Philippines: Go Forth, Whether Light or Heavy”. The article included incitement by Muslims in the Philippines against the US and encouragement to join the mujahideen operating in the country. In addition, the writer addressed the article to the mujahideen in East Asia in general, and offered encouragement for their battle against the Crusaders and their steadfastness in facing them.<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76159>

<sup>98</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76259>

<sup>99</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76259>

<sup>100</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76748>

<sup>101</sup> <https://up.top4top.net/downloadf-598xjvkd0-rar.html>

## The West

- The IS claimed responsibility for a ramming attack in Las Ramblas, Barcelona. According to the announcement, IS soldiers killed and injured over 120 Christians and Jews.



### The claim of responsibility for the attack in Spain

- As a result of the ramming attack in Barcelona, there was a significant increase in the number of threats made by IS supporters on social networks in western countries, especially against Spain. Media institutions in the service of the organization also published a series of articles praising the attack and calling for continued terrorist activities against civilians in the West.
- Al-Wafa jihadist media institution published “Message to the Citizens of France (2)” by a writer known as Abu al-Baraa bin Malik (servant of the Caliphate). The writer accused the Spanish government and Spanish army forces of carrying out a massacre against innocent Muslims in Iraq, Syria and Libya, and of invading Muslim lands. He also accused the Spanish government of providing assistance to the Zionist lobby. He went on to claim that the attack in Spain was a sign of things to come, namely the flooding of Spain with additional attacks, including the areas of Gibraltar and Catalonia. In addition, he threatened to activate the semi-nuclear bombs located in the area of Gibraltar since the Second World War, which could result in ‘Spain’s obliteration from the world map’. At the end of the message, the writer threatened that the Spanish government must withdraw all of its forces taking part in the battle against the IS in all of the Caliphate’s

territories and ‘definitively dismantle all logistical and military support within and outside Andalusia [...]’, otherwise “there will be no one to receive the third message on the land of Andalusia”.<sup>102</sup> In the context of the bombings mentioned in the article, it seems that the writer was referring to rumors that the British are storing nuclear weapons in Gibraltar.<sup>103</sup>



### “Message to the Citizens of Spain (2)”

- Another writer known as “The Immigrant from Cordova” accused the Spaniards of a bloody history in their war against Islam and the Muslims, and their conquest of Muslim lands. He noted that the attack in Barcelona will be remembered for generations and will be recorded in the jihadist pantheon as a heroic act alongside the terrorist attack in Madrid in March 2003. The writer threatened that all of Spain’s territory will be turned into an widespread arena of jihad and its cities will be subject to additional attacks unless the Spanish government meets two main demands: A. “Withdrawal from the Crusader alliance against the IS, and the end of the military and media battle against the organization, as well as the security battle against its supporters in Andalus”. B. “The release of Muslim prisoners in your jails and their transfer to IS areas”.<sup>104</sup>

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<sup>102</sup> Telegram

<sup>103</sup> <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2001/04/shaking-up-the-rock/376408/>

<sup>104</sup> Telegram



The banner of the article, “Message to the Spanish Nation: The Raid on Barcelona”

Below are examples of banners that were posted on networks that included threats against the West, and especially against Spain:



The Islamic Championship – Round One. The IS vs Spain. Place – Barcelona Andalus. Time – Hour, Thursday



“Just as the occupier murdered our sons and wives so we will murder their sons and wives ..! An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth”<sup>105</sup>

#### The attack in Russia:



- The FURAT jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published a video titled, “Surgut: Blood for Blood”, which shows – as the video claims – the perpetrator of a stabbing attack in the city of Surgut in Siberia. In the filmed message, the terrorist – who is referred to as Mas'ud al-Surguti – swore allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, called on Muslims living in ‘infidel lands’ to

<sup>105</sup> Telegram;

<https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76212>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76295>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76256>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76490>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76486>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76676>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/76718>; <http://jihadology.net/2017/08/01/new-magazine-released-from-the-te%E1%B8%A5rik-i-%E1%B9%ADaliban-pakistan-sunnat-khawlrah-issue-1/>; <http://jihadology.net/2017/08/04/new-video-message-from-%e1%b8%a5arokat-al-shabab-al-mujahidin-message-to-the-muslims-in-kenya-a-few-days-before-the-general-elections/>

carry out attacks against them using simple means, such as knives or screwdrivers, or alternatively, “to burn the earth under their feet”.<sup>106</sup>



The oath of allegiance by the perpetrator of the attack in Surgut

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<sup>106</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<http://jihadology.net/2017/08/13/new-release-from-jihad-%e1%b9%a3ali%e1%b8%a5-a-first-step-in-the-success-of-al-gaidah/>;

<http://jihadology.net/2017/08/14/new-release-from-al-gaidahs-dr-sami-al-uraydi-the-jihadi-movements-the-muslim-people-and-the-impasse/>;

<http://jihadology.net/2017/08/15/new-release-from-al-gaidahs-dr-sami-al-uraydi-jihad-of-the-nation-and-the-methodology-of-the-jihadi-movement/>;

<https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/al-risacc84lah-magazine-2-syria.pdf>;

<http://jihadology.net/2017/08/29/new-issue-of-%E1%B8%A5izb-al-islami-al-turkistanis-magazine-turkistan-al-islamiyyah-21/>;

<https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/masicc84rah-shahr-22unicity-of-god-and-fighting-the-jurisprudence-of-jihacc84d22.pdf>

## 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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