

## **Bimonthly Report**

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

**December 2016**

## Highlights

- **Abu Hasan al-Muhajir**, the new official spokesman for the **Islamic State**, praises the organization's operatives for their steadfastness against their enemies. According to him, they face a wide front of enemies that seek to wipe out Islam and Muslims, including the US, Russia, Iran, Turkey, the Kurds, the Shi'ites, the Alawites, the Sahawat, the militias, the rulers of Arab countries, and more. Therefore, it is imperative to sanctify war against each of these enemies and not to flee from battle. According to him, special focus should be placed on targeting Turkey anywhere in the world. In addition, al-Muhajir calls for attacks against established Sunni clerics as they provide backing and legitimization to tyrannical regimes and are, therefore, considered the worst infidels in the world who must be killed. As a result of the speech, there was a marked increase in publications and calls by the organization's supporters to attack Turkish targets around the world.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent** and the **Taliban in Pakistan** intensify the propaganda campaign against the Pakistani regime and encourage the Pakistani people to revolt against it. According to them, the Pakistani regime is prisoner to the network of interests of non-Muslim countries, as expressed in the persecution of the mujahideen and the oppression of Islam. Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent also calls on Pakistani army soldiers to defect and join the ranks of the organization.
- A series of Salafi-jihadist clerics, including **Abdullah al-Muhaysini**, **Abu Maria al Qahtani** and others publish a ruling calling on Syrian factions to quickly unite, among them **Jabhat Fateh al-Sham**, **Ahrar al-Sham**, **Nour al-Din al-Zenki**, **Ajnad al-Sham**, **Liwa al-Haqq**, **The Turkistan Islamic Party** and **Ansar al-Din**. According to them, unity is more important than ever before in order to maintain the Syrian revolution and bring about its victory. In the context of the unity issue, **Jabhat Fateh al-Sham** emphasizes that it views itself as committed to unity and is willing to relinquish leadership of the union for the sake of the Syrian revolution's success against the Syrian regime.
- **Al-Mourabitoun**, which is affiliated with **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb**, claims responsibility for an attack at the Gao military airport used by French forces. According to the organization, the attack was carried out in the framework of opposition to the French presence in Mali.
- The **Islamic State** calls for attacks to be carried out in Bahrain due to the country's cooperation

with Britain and other western superpowers and its encouragement of improper phenomena, such as the sale of alcohol. The Shi'ite population in Bahrain is also accused of subversion and attempts to seize power.

- The **Islamic State** claims responsibility for the ramming attack in Berlin and describes the terrorist, Anis al-Amri, as “a soldier of the Islamic State who carried out the attack in response to calls for attacks against the subjects of the international coalition countries”. Following al-Amri’s death, the Amaq news agency publishes a video in which he swears allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and calls for attacks in Europe.

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## New Publications

### Ideology

- Al-Furqan jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published an audio clip titled, “Remember What I Say to You” by Abu Hasan al-Muhajir, the new official spokesman of the Islamic State. Al-Muhajir began by praising members of the organization for their steadfastness against their enemies and emphasized that the difficult period of time they are experiencing is actually the precursor to a better time. According to him, it is an unprecedented historical event because “the US, Communist Russia, Zoroastrian Iran together with secular Turkey, the infidel Kurds, the Shi’ites, the Alawites, the Sahawat, the militias, the tyrants of Arab [countries] and their armies” have all joined together in order to eliminate Islam and the Muslims. Therefore, war against each of them must be sanctified and one should not run from the battle. Al-Muhajir called specifically for attacks against Turkey: “We call on all those who cling to the principle of the Oneness of God to attack the branches of the infidel secular Turkish government in every place, security, military, economic and media [targets], and even all of the embassies and consulates that represent it around the world.”

Al-Muhajir also sharply condemned the clerics who work in the service of the local regimes. According to him, the clerics of the establishment legitimize the actions of the regime that are opposed to Islam in order to paint it as a legitimate regime. Through their platforms in mosques, they spread ideas and sermons aimed at establishing a base of support for the tyrannical ruler. Therefore, these clerics are considered the worst heretics and must be killed. Later, al-Muhajir called on supporters of the Caliphate around the world to sow fear and attack the infidels in their homes, markets, roads and forums.<sup>1</sup>



The banner of the speech by the spokesman for the IS, Abu Hasan al-Muhajir

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<sup>1</sup> <https://archive.org/download/motadht/motadht.mp3>

- Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a senior member of the Salafi-jihadist movement, published a document calling for unity among the warring factions in Syria titled, “The Balance between Unity and Fundamental Principles”. In the document, he claimed that unity does not mean neglecting the principles of the factions or operating in a democratic manner, as is the case in Turkey.<sup>2</sup>
- Al-Battar jihadist media institution, which is involved in media for the IS, published an article by the writer, Ahlam al-Nasr, titled, “Who Allowed them to be Innocent?” In the article, the writer complained about those who express “pity for the infidels” after attacks in the West against Christians or Jews. The writer claimed that citizens of “infidel countries” are not innocent since the IS has not provided them with a “security contract” that protects them from harm. The writer concluded that anyone who does not convert to Islam or subjugate himself to Islam (for example, through a *dhimma* contract) is to blame for his own death.<sup>3</sup>
- Several writers on jihadist forums published articles against Turkey, led by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. A writer known as Al-Musammim al-Ansari published a two-part article titled, “Erdoğan – between Betrayal and Secularism”, in which he claimed that Erdoğan wears the cloak of Islam but is, in fact, a secular leader who continues the path of Atatürk and not that of the Ottoman Empire sultans.<sup>4</sup> The writer, Abu Muadh al-Maqdisi, published a post in which he listed the reasons why he believes Erdoğan is a heretic.<sup>5</sup> Another writer published an article through Al-Wafa jihadist media institution in which he claimed that from the moment Turkey began to attack inside Syria, it became – according to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi’s directive – a legitimate target for the “soldiers of the Caliphate”. The writer even encouraged the execution of “lone wolf” attacks in Turkey against security forces and “Crusader” tourists.<sup>6</sup> Similar ideas were expressed in “a message to supporters of the Caliphate in Turkey” by a writer known as Abu Ilaf al-Baghdadi who called for stabbing and poisoning attacks in Turkey as well as the torching of houses and vehicles.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://justpaste.it/11wog>

<sup>3</sup> <https://justpaste.it/114jc>

<sup>4</sup> <https://justpaste.it/10swu>; <https://justpaste.it/10sxi>

<sup>5</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>6</sup> <http://up.top4top.net/downloadf-357wdrfx1-pdf.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).



### A series of articles against Erdoğan against the backdrop of Turkey's involvement in Syria

- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum named Abu al-Qa'qa' al-Zubaydi published a post attacking IS supporters who had criticized Mert Altıntaş (the police officer who assassinated the Russian Ambassador in Turkey on December 19) for serving as an officer in the “police of tyrants” and for not publishing a video in advance declaring allegiance to the organization. Al-Zubaydi explained that such criticism discourages “lone wolves” and explained that Altıntaş was a mujahid and a martyr for all intents and purposes, not only because of the act that he carried out but also because of his declaration following the assassination in which he swore allegiance to the Prophet Muhammad and noted that he carried out the assassination because of Syria.<sup>8</sup>
- The Midad jihadist media institution published a video titled, “Sheikhs in the Lap of the Cross” in which he criticized various clerics – especially Saudi clerics – who spoke out against the IS. The video combined images and video clips of these clerics standing alongside Christian clergy, calling for cooperation between the religions or dissolving the principle of “Loyalty to Islam and Rejection of Infidels (*Al-Wala wal-Baraa*)”.<sup>9</sup>
- A group of visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum held a discussion on the topic of the “team of reporters” that, according to them, leaks the Islamic State’s news before it is published by the organization’s official media institutions, led by the Amaq news agency. The visitors warned IS supporters not to be tempted to believe the information disseminated by this group and called on them to only follow the organization’s official media institutions.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>9</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>10</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).



- The Dawa al-Haq Islamic news agency published several articles attacking the Syrian opposition factions that supported the ceasefire with the Syrian regime brokered by Russia and Turkey. They accused these factions of betraying Muslims in Syria, especially in light of the large number of civilians killed by Russian bombardments in the country. The video also claimed that had it not been for the betrayal of these factions, the IS would have succeeded in capturing two Shi'ite neighborhoods in the city of Aleppo.<sup>11</sup>
- The writer Abu Mua'dh al-Maqdisi published an article in response to accusations concerning the origin of IS leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Al-Maqdisi responded to an article by a writer who claimed that al-Baghdadi was not a descendant of the Prophet and he presented proof from various sources in order to refute these claims.<sup>12</sup>
- Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent published two videos containing shari'a lessons taught by Ustaz Ahmad Faruq.<sup>13</sup>
- The family of Sheikh Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, who has been incarcerated in a US prison for 20 years, published a statement in which he criticized the Egyptian media for describing of him as having extremist opinions and of being responsible for the bombing of churches in Egypt as a result of the influence of his opinions.<sup>14</sup>
- The Nukhbat al-Fikr media group, which is involved in propaganda for Al-Qaeda, published the second and revised edition of an article written by Sami al-Aridi, a former member of Al-Nusra Front's Shura Council, regarding the high moral character and religious piety of jihad leaders. According to him, jihad leaders are widely criticized because they lack proper judgment and justify the fulfilment of the obligation of jihad while improperly using holy Islamic sources. The present essay was, therefore, intended to refute these accusations and prove that jihad leaders are acting in a proper and faithful manner to the commands of God.<sup>15</sup>
- Sheikh Abu al-Mundhitr al-Shinqiti, a Salafi-jihadist cleric who supports Al-Qaeda, published an article titled, "A Terrorist in Time of Peace" In the article, al-Shinqiti mocked the use of the term

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<sup>11</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/60481>

<sup>12</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>13</sup> <https://justpaste.it/11gra>

<sup>14</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C5DVu6dWMAA3SSz.jpg>

<sup>15</sup> <https://fotooh.net/>

“terrorist” by opponents of the mujahideen. For example, he drew attention to the American aggression in Iraq as proof that they are the ones carrying out terrorist acts.<sup>16</sup>

- Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini, a senior member of the Salafi-jihadist movement, referred to the sentence of the Turkish policeman who murdered the Russian ambassador to Turkey. Al-Filistini claimed that the policeman was given two sentences - one relating to the verdict of members of the hypocritic sect (a group of Muslims who refrain from fulfilling even one of the basic precepts of Islam and for which reason it is imperative to fight them to the end), and the second verdict concerning the charge of heresy. He added that those who serve in the army or police must be judged according to the laws of the hypocritic sect, and that they must leave the army or police in order to return to the straight path of Islam and stop serving the former under the pretext of hunting criminals. He added that in the situation in which a soldier leaves the army, he would no longer be subject to laws of the hypocritic sect.<sup>17</sup>

## Women and Jihad

- The Nusra jihadist media institution published a video regarding the prisoner, Haila al-Qaseer, an Al-Qaeda activist who raised funds and distributed propaganda for the organization, and has been jailed in a Saudi prison for seven years. The video described the dismal condition of al-Qaseer in the prison dungeon and called on her supporters not to settle for tweets on Twitter, but rather to act violently for her release, and called implicitly for the execution of terrorist attacks in the country.<sup>18</sup>

## Strategy

- A visitor to the Dawa al-Haq Islamic news agency published a collection of tips on neutralizing parked aircraft using quadcopters and hexacopters. In the framework of a response to one of the articles on the site, the visitor advised IS fighters in Iraq and Syria who are located next to military airfields to attach explosive charges to the drones and detonate them against the aircraft parked

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<sup>16</sup> <https://fotooh.net>

<sup>17</sup> <https://justpaste.it/11lqj>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x54p1mz>

in the field via remote control or mobile phone. The visitor recommended operating at night or at dusk and even noted that the same method can be applied in “Crusader” airports in Europe and the US while operating the device in the air by means of a delay mechanism against "Zionist and Crusader" airlines.<sup>19</sup>

- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum recommended establishing study and training frameworks on the use of weapons for civilians in the Islamic State. The visitor presented various examples from Islamic history and explained that civilians must know how to use basic weapons use and how to fight so that they can repel enemy attacks when necessary without relying solely on the soldiers of the Caliphate.<sup>20</sup>
- The Amaq news agency published an infographic poster summarizing the suicide attacks that were carried out in Syria and Iraq during the month of November. According to the poster, a total of 132 suicide attacks were carried out, 112 in Iraq and 20 in Syria. The poster also listed the provinces in which the attacks were carried out, the methods used (car bomb, explosives belt, etc.) and the target (Iraqi forces, Shi’ite pilgrims, Peshmerga, PKK, Syrian opposition and Turkish army).<sup>21</sup>

## Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published issue no. 129 of its magazine, *Al-Somood*.<sup>22</sup>



The banner page of the issue

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<sup>19</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/58186>

<sup>20</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>21</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Mon05122016.jpg>

<sup>22</sup> <https://ia601504.us.archive.org/4/items/alsomod129>

- Issues no. 32-34 were published of the magazine, *Al-Masra*, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda. Among the topics covered in the current issues were: a review of the main developments in various arenas of jihad and the major publications of Al-Qaeda branches; an article by Sami al-Aridi, a senior cleric in Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, regarding the importance of being cautious when it comes to the unethical use of *takfiri* (labeling Muslims as heretics); an article by Ibrahim al-Qosi (aka Abu Khabib al-Sudani), a member of AQAP's Shura Council, on various topics, such as his experience in jihad, the importance of focusing on the US as a central target of attack as the head of the axis fighting against Islam and the Muslims, and more.<sup>23</sup>



The banner pages of *Al-Masra* magazine

- Issues no. 57-61 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published by the Islamic State. In addition to reports about the organization's attacks and operations in several arenas, the magazine's articles dealt with various topics, including: a warning against wireless tracking and locating; an interview with the supervisor of *hisbah* activities in Sinai Province regarding the issue of the Suffis; the transcript of a speech by Abul-Hasan Al-Muhajir, the spokesman for the organization; a review of Turkish military losses; an article reviewing the oath of allegiance to the caliph in Islamic history; an interview with Sheikh Abu Hajer al-Hashemi, the Governor of Sinai Province; an article regarding the importance of encryption (alongside a warning about fake encryption); an article

<sup>23</sup> <https://fotooh.net/>

addressing the widows of martyrs and a review of a propaganda video against Turkey, “The Shield of the Cross” (see below).<sup>24</sup>

- Issue no. 4 was published in English of the magazine, *Rumiyah*, by the IS. Among the topics covered in the current issue were: A speech by Abul-Hasan Al-Muhajir , the spokesman for the organization, translated into English; encouragement for Muslims to carry out “lone wolf” terrorist attacks using knives; an interview with the Governor of Tripoli in Libya, Sheikh Abu Hudhayfah al-Muhajir; criticism against clerics who are cooperating with the Arab regimes; the importance of the oath of allegiance to the leader of the Islamic Caliphate; encouragement for widows who were married to jihadists to remarry.<sup>25</sup>



The banner page of *Rumiyah* magazine

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<sup>24</sup>[https://ia601504.us.archive.org/14/items/gsdgyezrt\\_mail\\_57/57.pdf](https://ia601504.us.archive.org/14/items/gsdgyezrt_mail_57/57.pdf); <https://archive.org/details/naba581438>;  
[https://ia601909.us.archive.org/6/items/aasdfgh\\_tutanota\\_59/59.pdf](https://ia601909.us.archive.org/6/items/aasdfgh_tutanota_59/59.pdf);  
[https://ia601907.us.archive.org/18/items/dsgrsdatsrhursrua\\_gmail\\_60/60.pdf](https://ia601907.us.archive.org/18/items/dsgrsdatsrhursrua_gmail_60/60.pdf);  
[https://ia601906.us.archive.org/34/items/hswKpqjwjdslk7262sjk\\_gmail\\_61/61.pdf](https://ia601906.us.archive.org/34/items/hswKpqjwjdslk7262sjk_gmail_61/61.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> Telegram

## Reports from the Field

### Afghanistan-Pakistan

#### *The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan*

- The Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan published the following:
  - A video clip titled, “The Nation’s Bond with the Mujahideen”. The video clip opened with the Taliban’s refusal to conduct peace talks with the West while playing part of a speech by the Taliban’s former leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, who described the peace process and reconciliation as “enemy talk” that should not be listened to because it is meant to weaken jihad and dismantle the union of the mujahideen. Later in the video, it shows the translation of a text from the Quran designed to emphasize the relationship between local Afghans and the mujahideen who migrated to Afghanistan for the sake of jihad. In this context, additional senior Al-Qaeda and Taliban members were shown emphasizing the importance of the connection between the people and the mujahideen since, according to them, the public cannot succeed without the mujahideen’s help and vice versa. Therefore, the mujahideen must treat Muslims with love and patience. The video later showed a clip from a speech by Sirajuddin Haqqani, the deputy leader of the organization, who claimed that while there will likely be disputes between among mujahideen, these disputes should not be exacerbated to the level that they will affect the overall struggle being waged by the organization. He added that Muslims who follow the organization from inside and outside Afghanistan appreciate their methodology and this indicates that they are performing their duty effectively.<sup>26</sup>
  - An announcement regarding the ongoing tragedy in Aleppo, Syria. In the announcement, the organization called on the sides involved in the conflict to stop harming unarmed Muslim civilians. The announcement also stated that intervention by foreign powers in Syria will only exacerbate the catastrophe.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> <http://www.shahamat-video.com/archives/1333>

<sup>27</sup> <https://justpaste.it/11dx4>

- An announcement in which the organization denied that Iran had invited representatives from the Taliban in Afghanistan to participate in the global Islamic Unity Conference.<sup>28</sup>
- An announcement regarding the killing of a woman in Badghis Province, in northwest Afghanistan. In the announcement, the organization denied that the woman had been killed as per the Taliban’s ruling, as was published in the media.<sup>29</sup>
- The biography of the leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Haibatullah Akhundzada. The biography referred to the place of Akhundzada’s birth in Afghanistan, his family, the religious education that he received and the roles that he filled in the organization. The biography noted that during the Taliban’s rule, Akhundzada served as the chairman of the organization’s military court in Kabul and later in eastern Afghanistan, and judged according to shari’a. Later, following Mullah Omar’s death, he was appointed as deputy to the new leader of the organization, Mullah Mansour. The biography emphasized that, over the years, Akhundzada worked for Islamic unity in the organization. It also described him as a brave and determined leader who inspired the mujahideen and the Afghan people. The biography added that Akhundzada won sweeping support from all 34 provinces in Afghanistan that swore allegiance to him.<sup>30</sup>
- An announcement denying a disagreement among the leadership of the Islamic Emirate regarding financial matters, as was published on Radio Liberty, and presenting it as enemy propaganda. The announcement also stated that all employees and managers obey the leader of the organization, Hibatullah Akhundzada, and that the organization has a strong administrative body that manages its finances.<sup>31</sup>
- A video clip showing a pair of tourists – an American woman and a Canadian man – who were kidnapped by the organization in 2012 while they were hiking in Afghanistan. In addition, the video showed two of their children who were born in captivity. Later in the video, the couple described their life in captivity as a nightmare and pleaded with US

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<sup>28</sup> <http://alemara1.net/?p=35240>

<sup>29</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=8590> (English).

<sup>30</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=8406> (English).

<sup>31</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=8787> (English).

President Barack Obama and presidential candidate Donald Trump to meet the Taliban's demands in order to release them from captivity.<sup>32</sup>

- An announcement marking 37 years since the Soviet invasion into Afghanistan. In the announcement, the organization praised the jihad in Afghanistan that defeated the Soviets and threatened that the Americans will suffer defeat just like the Soviets. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on the Americans to end their invasion of Afghanistan as quickly as possible.<sup>33</sup>
- A denial of a report that was published by the New York Times, according to which a Norwegian diplomat spoke by phone with the former leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Mullah Omar, and even met with him in Pakistan in 2009. The organization added that Mullah Omar had not visited Pakistan in over 25 years, and did not meet with foreign diplomats or speak to them by phone after the American invasion of Afghanistan.<sup>34</sup>
- An announcement regarding the tripartite meeting between Russia, China and Pakistan that took place in Moscow. In the beginning of the announcement, the organization praised the fact that the countries of the region recognize the Taliban as a military and political force. In addition, the organization welcomed the decision that was made at the conference regarding the removal of the Taliban in Afghanistan from the global sanctions list in order to bring peace and security to Afghanistan. Nevertheless, the organization stressed that in order to achieve real peace, basic rights must be restored to the Afghan people so that they can establish an independent state with an Islamic government.<sup>35</sup>
- A video on Al Emarah News titled, "The Conquest of Nawa"<sup>36</sup>. The video showed the mujahideen carrying out attacks against enemy forces. It highlighted their technological prowess by showing the audience their use of drone cameras to capture pictures of explosions against enemy targets. The video also included a brief interview with one of the martyrs involved in one of these operations in which he expressed his happiness at being given the chance to carry out this honorable operation. His message to all

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<sup>32</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEuSF-Bgamg>

<sup>33</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=8882> (English)

<sup>34</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=9002> (English).

<sup>35</sup> <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=9052> (English).

<sup>36</sup> <http://jihadology.net/category/al-emara/>



mujahideen was that they face numerous tests by Allah, and they should be strong because they are all for Allah's sake. His message to his family and the Muslim Nation was to rejoice when they hear of his martyrdom and to help the ultimate Muslim cause of freeing the Muslim Nation. He wanted the enemy forces to know that their technology is not enough to beat the Muslims, and that their tanks and equipment are in the Muslim army's possession and are now being used against them. The enemy forces have time to retreat now, and they should take this opportunity to repent and do so or suffer complete defeat at the hands of the Muslim army of Allah. His final message in the video was "victory is close".

- An article titled, "The Media Remains Non-Neutral"<sup>37</sup> in which it urged the public to not trust the media that is endorsed by the government in Afghanistan and funded by foreign and imperial forces. According to the article, the local mainstream media has been portraying the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in a negative light at the behest of the imperial and foreign powers.
- An article titled "Enemy Defeat in Various Areas", in which it discussed how Kabul and imperial forces have tried to weaken the mujahideen by attacking their posts in various districts of Afghanistan. However, the attacking forces did not succeed and, in fact, have suffered a humiliating defeat in Kunduz and Paktia Provinces. The enemy forces have named these operations "Pamir" and "Shafaq", and are repeatedly publicizing their success in the media even though this is far from the truth and they are actually facing defeat.<sup>38</sup>

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

- The Taliban in Pakistan published the following:
  - An announcement by the spokesperson for the Taliban in Pakistan, Muhammad Khorasani, regarding the situation in Aleppo. In the beginning of the announcement, Khorasani expressed sorrow over the current situation in Syria and Iraq, especially over

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<sup>37</sup> Voice of Jihad Magazine. <http://urdu-alemarah.com/?p=17>

<sup>38</sup> Shariat Magazine. <http://urdu-alemarah.com/?p=17005>

the massacre of civilians in Aleppo, Syria. Later in the announcement, he claimed that Muslims are living in horrible conditions everywhere, and explained that Muslim countries are at war with tyrannical rulers or are allied with the Christians and enslaved to them. He then accused Muslim countries of preferring the Christians over their Muslim brethren, and he criticized Muslims who are willing to do anything for the sake of their country, even if it includes the killing of other Muslims. The spokesman further added that the infidels began to slaughter Muslims under the banner of the “war on terror” in Iraq and Afghanistan, but Muslims were silent and some of them even became allied with the infidels against the Muslims. Finally, Khorasani criticized the clerics who are living their lives under the democratic infidel system and do not fulfill their role, but rather only call for jihad in their soul. He further claimed that some clerics do not call for a war of jihad and instead believe that it is possible to implement religion within a political framework despite the fact that the Quran orders a battle for the sake of Allah in order to get rid of the destructive and corrupt.<sup>39</sup> In addition, the organization published a letter written by a member of the organization to the residents of Aleppo in which she expressed solidarity and empathy with their difficult situation.<sup>40</sup>

- An article criticizing the Pakistani regime for their persecutory policies against jihadist factions. According to the organization, the Pakistani regime previously supported jihadist factions in the region but due to pressure from the Indian government, which harshly condemned Pakistan’s involvement in Kashmir, the Pakistani regime chose to renounce jihadists in Kashmir and even to pursue them.<sup>41</sup>
- A propaganda video regarding “war crimes” by the Pakistani regime against the civilian population in Balochistan Province.<sup>42</sup>
- Jamaat ul Ahrar, a sub-group of Tehrik-E-Taliban, published a poster titled, “Contact us via telegram @CmediaC and give your participation in Jihad”, in its newspaper, *Saut Al Ahrar*, a sub-agency of its main media outlet, Ihyae Khilafat.<sup>43</sup> The poster called on all jihad

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<sup>39</sup> [https://justpaste.it/halb\\_kh\\_eng](https://justpaste.it/halb_kh_eng) (English).

<sup>40</sup> [https://justpaste.it/msg\\_frm\\_khurasan\\_eng](https://justpaste.it/msg_frm_khurasan_eng) (English).

<sup>41</sup> [https://justpaste.it/real\\_face\\_pak\\_orgz](https://justpaste.it/real_face_pak_orgz)

<sup>42</sup> <https://fotooh.net>

<sup>43</sup> <https://twitter.com/SoutulAhrarU>

supporters to join the Jamaat Ul Ahrar media team in its video studios, radio stations and other media publications, and sought Urdu, Arabic and Pashto speakers. The group also published a poster titled, “Breaking News: Operation Al Raad - Murder of a Major in Bajaur Headquarter”<sup>44</sup>. It announced the murder of the Major of Khasadar Camp by the brave mujahedeen of Jaamat-ul-Ahrar at 8:00 on December 25, 2016.

- Through its main media outlet, Ihyae Khilafat, the group published a poster titled, “Thank You Raheel Sharif”<sup>45</sup> in which it condemned the Pakistani army (referred to sarcastically as the “Indian-British Army”), namely the ex-Chief of Army Staff, Raheel Sharif, for removing former President Musharraf’s name from the Exit Control List and allowing him to ‘escape’ to Dubai. Former President Musharraf was instrumental in the Lal Masjid Operation. The group also published a video titled, “Ihyae Khilafat Presents: Mujahedeen of Jamaat-ul-Ahrar”<sup>46</sup> which showed Jamaat ul Ahrar carrying out remote-controlled bomb attacks on an ‘impure’ army in Mohmand Agency.
- In another poster, the group glorified Mevlut Mert Altintas, the killer of the Russian Ambassador,<sup>47</sup> and criticized the Pakistani liberals in the Pakistani media and government who lamented the loss of the Russian Ambassador. The poster called them shameless and criticized the Pakistani government’s actions in the past for handing over Mullah Abdul Saleem Zaeef, the former Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, to the Americans.

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

- Khorasan Province: A video titled, “Fight All the Polytheists”, which called for continued battle against the Shi’ites. The video opened with a historical review of Sunni Islam’s entrance to Afghanistan and referred to the Shi’ite stream that entered later and composes 10-15% of Afghanistan’s population. In the video, an IS fighter explained that Shi’ites must be considered idolaters due to their worship of some of the companions of the Prophet whom they treat as

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<sup>44</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/ihyaekhilafat2>. Bajaur is located in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan.

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/ihyaekhilafat2>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/ihyaekhilafat2>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/ihyaekhilafat2>. Jamaat-ul-Ahrar ("Assembly of the Free") is a militant [Sunni Islamic](#) Deobandi group that split away from the [Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan](#) in August 2014 but later rejoined. Its close allies include IS-Khorasan Province.

gods. The video also included accusations against the Shi'ites for their cooperation with the Crusaders and against the Taliban, which it also accused of maintaining ties with the Shia. The video ended with a call to fight against the Shi'ite Hazaras minority in Afghanistan or to convert its members to the Sunni stream.<sup>48</sup>



**Anti-Shi'ite propaganda from Khorasan Province in Afghanistan**

- The IS claimed responsibility for an attack against a base of Afghan security forces south of Jalalabad. Seven people were killed in the attack and four hummer vehicles were destroyed.<sup>49</sup>
- An announcement regarding the downing of a camera drone by the organization in Nangarhar Province.<sup>50</sup>

## **The Arabian Peninsula**

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

- Ansar al-Sharia, which is affiliated with AQAP, clarified that several media outlets are mistakenly associating *Al-Masra* magazine with Ansar al-Sharia in Yemen. According to him, it is an independent magazine that does not belong to an organization. Nevertheless, the organization thanked everyone entrusted with the work of publishing the paper.<sup>51</sup>

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

- The IS published the following:

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<sup>48</sup> <https://archive.org/details/wqatelo.all>

<sup>49</sup> [https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/img\\_20161229\\_235845.jpg](https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/img_20161229_235845.jpg)

<sup>50</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/59260>

<sup>51</sup> <https://fotooh.net/>

- In Yemen, the IS claimed responsibility for the destruction of vehicles belonging to Houthis and for an attack on a Houthi site in the area of Qifa-Baydaa.<sup>52</sup>
- A filmed review regarding a suicide attack against Yemeni security forces northeast of Aden.<sup>53</sup>
- A filmed review regarding the training of *inghimas* fighters at the Abu Muhammad al-Adnani training camp in Al-Baydaa. The images showed fighters training in face-to-face combat and light weapons fire in a mountainous desert environment.<sup>54</sup>



The Abu Muhammad al-Adnani training camp in Al-Baydaa

## Iraq

### *The Islamic State*

- The Amaq news agency, which belongs to the IS, published the following:
  - A video containing a letter from kidnapped British journalist, John Cantlie, which reviewed the destruction caused by coalition forces in Mosul, such as the destruction of bridges, and the cessation of water and electricity. In the video, Cantlie interviewed residents about the destruction in the city.<sup>55</sup> In another video, Cantlie praised the success of IS forces in facing the armored forces and tanks of the Iraqi army.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>52</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/60215> ; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/60273>

<sup>53</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/59520>

<sup>54</sup> [http://marebpress.net/news\\_details.php?sid=124436](http://marebpress.net/news_details.php?sid=124436)

<sup>55</sup> <https://jikki.de/2016/12/07/اجون-كانتلي-يتحدث-عن-قصف-الجسور-وقطع-الم/>

<sup>56</sup> <https://jikki.de/>



**John Cantlie interviews an Iraqi resident regarding the destruction in Mosul**

- Visual information regarding the scope of the organization’s activities in Syria and Iraq during the month of November 2016: **132 suicide attacks in Syria and Iraq** (car bombs, explosive belts); **112 attacks in Iraq** (in Nineveh Province especially – 94 attacks); **20 attacks in Syria** (in Aleppo especially – 14 attacks); **Casualties:** 112 Iraqi army and Shi’ite militia forces, seven PKK members, 13 Turkish army and Syrian opposition forces.



**Visual information regarding suicide attacks carried out by the IS in November 2016**

- 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:
    - Dozens of reports regarding battles in and around the city of Mosul, including: the penetration of the Tall Zallat village west of Mosul; gun

battles against army forces in the neighborhoods of Al-Qadisiyya in eastern Mosul; a suicide attack against SWAT forces in the neighbourhood of Al-Bakr; and attacks against PMF sites near Tall Afar.<sup>57</sup>

- *Various provinces and Amaq news agency*: Reviews and videos regarding various operational topics, including: battles against army and Peshmerga forces in Al-Jazira Province; a report of over 100 Shi'ites killed in an attack by five fighters against security forces south of Najaf; approximately 80 people killed and injured in a car bomb explosion south of Baghdad; two suicide attacks against army and police forces in Fallujah; the downing of an RQ-7 UAV near the Haditha Dam; and a video regarding battles in Al-Anbar Province.<sup>58</sup>

B. Propaganda and Media:

- Several videos and filmed reviews were published regarding the ongoing provision of services to civilians in the city of Mosul despite the battle. Among other things, it was reported that *zakat* payments continued to be distributed in the city and a children's hospital continued to operate.<sup>59</sup>

## Al-Sham [The Levant]

### Syria

#### *Jabhat Fateh al-Sham*

- The Yaqut jihadist media institution, which belongs to Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, published the following:
  - An announcement in which the organization claimed responsibility for the murder of the Russian Ambassador to Turkey, Andrei Karlov. The announcement stated that a member of Jaysh al-Fatah, who worked in cooperation with the Grey Wolves Party and the Turkestan Islamic Party, killed the Russian Ambassador to Turkey in revenge for the

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<sup>57</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

<sup>58</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

<sup>59</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

massacre of civilians in Aleppo and the bloodshed of Muslims everywhere in the world, and against the backdrop of the world's silence regarding the situation in Aleppo. In the announcement, the organization claimed that this was the first act of revenge for what is happening in Aleppo and threatened similar attacks in the future.<sup>60</sup>

- A video titled, "The Sunnah of Allah". The video reviewed the organization's military operations in Syria as well as its achievements in a combination of interviews with senior members of the organization, including Abu 'Abdallah al-Shami, the head of the organization's Shura Council, and Abu 'Ubayda al-Shami, a member of the military council.<sup>61</sup>
- A ruling published by 16 sheikhs, including Abdullah al-Muhaysini, Abu Maria al Qahtani, Abu al-Fath al-Fighali, and Abu Muhammad al Sadiq, which called for hastening the merger of Syrian factions, including: Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, Ahrar al-Sham, Nour al-Din al-Zenki, Afnan al-Sham, Liwa al-Haqq, the Turkestan Islamic Party and Ansar al-Din. The announcement emphasized that there is a need for unity in order to maintain the Syrian revolution and to achieve victory. It also stated in the announcement that this merger will have an active military force, leadership and a political wing to be run according to shari'a, and that it will realize the aspirations of the Syrians, and consolidate rulings and security activities.<sup>62</sup> This ruling was welcomed by many jihadists, including Afnan al-Kavkaz.<sup>63</sup>
- An announcement by the spokesman for the organization, Hussam al-Shafi'i, that the organization is committed to the merger that was agreed upon between it and other Syrian factions, led by Ahrar al-Sham and Nour al-Din al-Zenki. In the framework of the announcement, al-Shafi'i explained that Jabhat Fateh al-Sham had relinquished leadership of the soon-to-be-established organization to Sheikh Abu Ammar al-Uma, the leader of Ahrar al-Sham, and emphasized that the purpose of the agreement was to maintain the Syrian revolution and bring about the downfall of the Assad regime. He also called on all factions to join the new organization to be established following the merger.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/COOAR5EWgAEfDDM.jpg>

<sup>61</sup> [https://ia601504.us.archive.org/34/items/Yaqoot\\_SonatoAllah](https://ia601504.us.archive.org/34/items/Yaqoot_SonatoAllah)

<sup>62</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C1A63dNUkAESvUY.jpg>

<sup>63</sup> <https://fotooh.net/>

<sup>64</sup> <https://fotooh.net/>



- An announcement by the spokesman for the organization, Hussam al-Shafi'i, regarding the ceasefire in Syria. In the announcement, al-Shafi'i claimed that the organization was not present at the negotiations meeting and did not sign the ceasefire agreement. He added that the agreement does not include the Iranian militias and Russia, despite the fact that Russia is one of the guarantors to the agreement. Al-Shafi'i further claimed that the fate of al-Assad was not mentioned in the agreement since, according to him, the agreement was designed to revive the Assad's regime. Finally, al-Shafi'i emphasized that the solution in Syria is a military solution that includes the fall of the Assad regime through jihad, and claimed that any political solution only strengthens the regime and constitutes a betrayal of the Syrian revolution.<sup>65</sup>
- Sheikh 'Abd al-Razzaq Mahdi, a prominent Salafi-jihadist sheikh in Syria, made an emotional appeal to the leaders of jihadist factions in Syria to rise above the differences and divisions between them, and open their hearts to the tragedy that has befallen the besieged residents of Aleppo. According to him, Syrian regime forces are continuing the systematic slaughter of the Sunni population and, therefore, the jihadist factions must unite and focus joint effort on the Syrian regime.<sup>66</sup>



**Sheikh 'Abd al-Razzaq Mahdi makes an emotional appeal to jihadist factions in Syria to unite**

### ***Al-Muhajiroun***

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<sup>65</sup> <http://www.all4syria.info/Archive/376114>; <https://goo.gl/3hvlIq>

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hFkdjRGF90>

- Al-Muhajiroun published a video emphasizing the importance of unity among the ranks of the mujahideen and of focusing the battle on the enemies of Islam, including the Shi'ites, the Crusaders and the Jews. In addition, it pleaded with Muslims around the world to help the mujahideen in Syria in any way possible.<sup>67</sup>

### ***The Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham***

- In December, the Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham published propaganda videos regarding the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad, the glorification of martyrdom, documentation of its fighters' battles on the battlefield, and more.<sup>68</sup>

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

- The official spokesperson for Ahrar al-Sham, Ahmad Qara Ali, denied that the organization had signed a ceasefire agreement in Syria and claimed that the organization has reservations about this agreement. Sources from within the organization added that the reservations about the ceasefire had to do with the fact that the proposed political activity was vague and liable to cause a change to the foundations on which the political solution was based.<sup>69</sup>

### ***Jabhat Ansar al-Din***

- Jabhat Ansar al-Din published an announcement regarding the merger of two factions taking part in Jabhat Ansar al-Din. According to the announcement, Fajr al-Sham al-Islamiya, led by Abu Abdullah al-Shami, and Sham al-Islam, led by Abu Muhammad al Baydawi, decided to fully merge the two organizations. The announcement added that the new organization will be led by Abu Abdullah al-Shami, and emphasized that this step was taken in order to bring about the downfall of the Assad regime and the establishment of a Muslim government.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> <https://fotooh.net/>

<sup>68</sup> <https://fotooh.net/>

<sup>69</sup> <http://eldorar.com/node/107215>

<sup>70</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CzVrdLpXcAQrZqc.jpg>

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

- Al-Battar jihadist media institution published an announcement titled, “Messages to the Residents of Aleppo”, which included propaganda against the Sahawat forces operating in the area. In the framework of the announcement, residents of the city were warned not to support the Sahawat factions since they are in a ceasefire with the Syrian regime, which is bombing Aleppo day and night. In addition, residents were warned that the Sahawat are supported by the “Crusaders and apostates” and that they distort the image of the IS under their guidance. The announcement ended with a call on the Sahawat themselves to “repent” so that IS forces can turn their battle against the Alawite Syrian regime.<sup>71</sup>
- A video was disseminated on social networks showing two Syrian parents who sent their 7 and 9 year-old daughters to join jihad against the regime. In the video, the father was shown instructing his daughter to carry out a suicide attack in the capital of Damascus, and then the mother was shown also encouraging her daughters to go out on a mission. When asked if her daughters were not too young to join jihad, she responded that in light of the current situation, the obligation of jihad falls on everyone, adults and children alike. According to media reports, the nine-year-old girl did blow herself up at a police station in Damascus.<sup>72</sup>



**A Syrian father sends his young daughter to carry out a suicide attack in Damascus**

- The IS published a claim of responsibility for an attack in the city of Karak in Jordan, which killed ten members of the security forces and “a member of the Crusader coalition” (a Canadian citizen).

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<sup>71</sup> [https://baytalmasadircom.files.wordpress.com/2016/12/asset\\_rsh.png](https://baytalmasadircom.files.wordpress.com/2016/12/asset_rsh.png)

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KG6LgNIOALE>; <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2016/12/16/young-girl-detonates-suicide-bomb-in-damascus-police-station>

According to the announcement, four “soldiers of the Caliphate” took part in the attack, which used machine guns and hand grenades. It was also noted that among those killed in the attack was Lieutenant Colonel Saed Mayateh, Commander of the Jordanian Special Forces Unit.<sup>73</sup>

- The Khayr Umma jihadist media institution published a video documenting a training camp for women in the area of Aleppo in Syria. The video showed masked and armed women who presented themselves as a group of Syrian women who established the camp in order to be fit to defend Islam and resist the forces of the “tyrant” (Bashar al-Assad). The testimonies of the participants at the camp indicated that women study religious studies alongside training in the use of weapons and guns. In the video, effort was made to emphasize the woman’s contribution to the fight, which is no less than that of the man.<sup>74</sup>



**A training camp for women in Aleppo**

- 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 issues:
  - B. Battles and Military Deployments:
    - Various provinces and Amaq news agency: Reviews and videos on operational topics, including: the re-capture of the city of Palmyra by the organization; battles in the Al-Mahr oilfield in Homs Province; attacks against Syrian army sites south of the Kuweires airport; attacks against PKK sites in the areas of Manbij and Aleppo; *ribat* activities near the military airport in Deir Ezzor; the destruction of Turkish army vehicles using guided

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<sup>73</sup> [https://baytalmasadircom.files.wordpress.com/2016/12/asset\\_jrd.png?w=768](https://baytalmasadircom.files.wordpress.com/2016/12/asset_jrd.png?w=768)

<sup>74</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ovJYPsm4rU>





**The execution of two Turkish soldiers in Aleppo Province**

- *Aleppo Province*: A video titled, “The Cupbearers of Death”, which allegedly exposed the cooperation between opposition factions and the Syrian regime against the IS. In the video – which included photographs of the exchange of fire between the organization and the factions – documented the execution of five people accused of spying for the “new Syria forces”. The video also included accusations directed at Syrian opposition factions regarding cooperation with the Syrian regime, and its transfer to the regime of a Syrian pilot whose plane was successfully downed by the IS.<sup>77</sup>
- *Al-Khayr Province*: A video titled, “These are my Fathers”, which documented the fathers of four suicide terrorists who were members of the organization and proudly spoke of their sons’ actions. The four fathers – who said that their sons carried out suicide attacks against Syrian regime and YPG forces in Deir Ezzor and Al-Hasaka Provinces - were honored by the organization by being called to serve as the executioners of four people accused of spying for the coalition. The fathers were presented in the video as exemplary parents who encouraged their sons to sacrifice themselves in the framework of jihad for Allah’s sake in contrast to many parents in Arab countries who educate their children to pursue money and a life of luxury.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/58691>

<sup>78</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/58306>

- Raqqah Province published a filmed review regarding the execution and crucifixion of a man accused of spying for the “Crusader coalition”. Aleppo Province published a review regarding the execution of a man accused of having homosexual relations in the city of Maslama.<sup>79</sup>

C. Propaganda and Media:

- Homs Province: A video titled, “Where to, Bahrain?” in which threats were made against the government in Bahrain while the 37<sup>th</sup> GCC Summit was being held in the capital of Manama. The video showed fighters of Bahraini origin who accused the rulers of their homeland of betrayal and of handing the reins of power over to the British. In addition, the fighters calls on their people to fight the government and protested against what they viewed as unacceptable phenomena in Bahrain, such as selling alcohol and using drugs. Additional criticism was directed at the Shi’ite population in the country for ostensibly trying to carry out a coup and seize power. The video ended with encouragement to carry out attacks in Bahrain, Kuwait and Al-Ahsa Province in Saudi Arabia, including against US army bases.<sup>80</sup>



The video banner

- Raqqah Province: A video titled, “My Father Told Me”, which documented the activities of military training camps for children whose parents were killed in battle. The video reviewed the curriculum, which included religion classes, physical education, and training for infiltration into military posts and buildings. In addition, the video documented how children in an

<sup>79</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

<sup>80</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/58467>

abandoned building executed prisoners accused of membership in Syrian opposition factions, the YPG and the Syrian army.<sup>81</sup>



### Orphans whose parents were killed in battles become the next generation of IS fighters

- Publications on various civilian topics, such as: the collection of *zakat* payments and their distribution to the needy in Homs Province, *dawah* activities for children in Al-Mayadin in Deir Ezzor Province, and renewed *hisbah* activities in the city of Palmyra. The publications were designed to demonstrate the organization's resilience and its continued functioning as a state despite the state of war that it is under.<sup>82</sup>

### Other Jihadist Organizations

- The Fursan al-Sham jihadist media institution published an article in English regarding how Uighur Muslims arrived from eastern Turkestan to Syria as a result of their desire to fulfill the commandment of jihad. The article referred to the difficulties that they faced during their journey to the arena of jihad in Syria.<sup>83</sup>

### The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula

- The Ibn Taymiyya Media Center, which focuses on the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist movement and supports the IS, published several articles and statements condemning Hamas for its persecution of Salafi jihadists in the Gaza Strip. For example, Hamas was accused of attempting to kill a

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<sup>81</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/60441>

<sup>82</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

<sup>83</sup> <http://fursanshammedia.net/2016/12/15/yearning-the-call-to-jihad-from-uyghur-to-sham/>



member of the Salafi-jihadist movement.<sup>84</sup> A writer named Mus'ab al-Ansari tried to encourage members of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Gaza in a statement that he wrote titled, "Reasons for Perseverance" in the face of their persecution. According to him, continued adherence to, and preservation of, the correct faith are a guarantee of their success in the near future, as in the end the wicked (meaning Hamas) will collapse.<sup>85</sup>

- A writer known as Gharib al-Ghuraba published several articles against Hamas. He explained that the golden age of Hamas during the days of Imad Aql and Yahya Ayyash are gone and that Hamas' declarations regarding the application of Quranic laws in Gaza at the beginning of its course have faded. The writer protested Hamas' actions against the Salafi-jihadist movement and its links with Iran and Hezbollah. Other posts that were disseminated referred to the torture of the mujahideen in Hamas prisons and Hamas' restraint in the face of Israel's attacks.<sup>86</sup>
- The Dawa al-Haq Islamic news agency published several articles condemning Hamas. One article criticized the declaration by Hamas' legislative council of its approval of 58 new laws that were not based on shari'a. Another article claimed that acts of murder in Gaza are on the rise because Hamas is not applying Islamic law. Another article reviewed the terrible situation of young people in Gaza who suffer from unemployment and are unable to find a future under Hamas' rule.<sup>87</sup>
- An IS supporter known as Tameh al-Ghazwi posted on his Twitter account the names and photos of those he presented as senior Hamas officials who imprisoned and tortured members of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Gaza. Al-Ghawzi explained that he published the information in order to support "the Salafists who were tortured" and he vowed to expose the "crimes of senior members of Hamas' internal apparatus".<sup>88</sup>
- The Nasir Salah al-Din Battalion (Liwa al-Tawhid) jihadist media institution published a pamphlet in which it warned Muslims not to celebrate the holiday of non-believers against the backdrop of the approach of Christmas on the grounds that it is against Islam.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/CyyEbDRWIAAib9T1.jpg>

<sup>85</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

<sup>86</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>87</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/58880>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/58873>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/58538>

<sup>88</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/59419>

<sup>89</sup> Telegram



The banner of the pamphlet “A warning to Muslims not to take part in the holiday of non-believers”

### ***The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula***

- The IS in the Sinai Peninsula published a video titled, “Their Throats Shall be Slit”. The video dealt with the battle being fought by IS fighters against Egyptian army forces and accused the latter of collaborating with the Jews against the mujahideen. The main part of the video focused on several spies who were caught by the organization. The spies talked about how they were recruited by Egyptian army forces and about the information that they transmitted. The video later documented the execution of the spies by members of the organization, some of whom had their throats slit.<sup>90</sup>
- The Amaq news agency, which belongs to the IS published an infographic regarding the scope and nature of activities in the Sinai Peninsula during the month of November 2016, such as the killing the 60 Egyptian army forces.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> Telegram

<sup>91</sup> Telegram



## Africa

### *The Maghreb*

#### *Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb*

- The jihadist media institution of AQIM, Al-Andalus, published the following:
  - A video titled, “Blade of Swords: Lions of Kairouan”, which was dedicated to the youth of Tunisia and to the mujahideen who operate within its borders, including the Uqaba bin Nafi Battalion. The video reviewed the battalion and the mujahideen’s activities against the Tunisian army. In addition, the video accused Tunisia of cooperating with the West, looting the country’s treasures, arresting Muslim women, and more. The video emphasized the obligation to fight against Tunisian security forces and legitimized such action.<sup>92</sup>
  - A video titled, “And Encourage the Believers” by Sheikh Abu Hasan Rashid al-Bulaydi, a former senior leader of the organization. The video focused on a speech that al-Bulaydi gave to members of the organization regarding the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad.<sup>93</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> <https://justpaste.it/1112d>

<sup>93</sup> Telegram

## Libya

### *The Benghazi Defense Brigades*

- The Benghazi Defense Brigades published several announcements in which it urged the Libyan people to resist Haftar's forces due to the wave of attacks carried out by the latter against the rebels. According to the organization, Haftar aspires to break the strength and spirit of the rebels and, therefore, one must beware of this trend.<sup>94</sup>

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

- The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna published the following:
  - A call on Muslims, especially in Libya, to help in the battle against the tyrants waging a bitter war against the mujahideen in order to suppress Islam.<sup>95</sup>

### *The Islamic State*

- The IS published several reports on operational topics in Libya, such as: the firing of rockets at Khalifa Haftar's forces in Benghazi and a suicide attack against Haftar's forces in the western part of the city.<sup>96</sup>
- Tripoli Province published an announcement about eight members of Libya's unity government forces who were killed and injured in an ambush by the organization west of the city of Sirte.<sup>97</sup> Another announcement reported 20 killed and injured from among those forces in a gunfire exchange.<sup>98</sup>

## Mali

### *Al-Murabitun*

- Al-Rabat jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Murabitun, published the following:

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<sup>94</sup> Telegram

<sup>95</sup> Telegram

<sup>96</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

<sup>97</sup> [https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/CzGGM\\_vXAAkRIT8.jpg](https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/CzGGM_vXAAkRIT8.jpg)

<sup>98</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/CzAlnV6WQAAPeBy1.jpg>

- A claim of responsibility for an attack on Gao Airport, which is “considered the largest military base of the Crusaders in Mali”, on November 29, 2016. In a statement that was published regarding the attack, it was emphasized that the organization strongly opposes any French presence, especially military. Five fighters took part in the attack and 47 members of armed groups loyal to the government in Mali were killed.<sup>99</sup>



Photos of members of Al-Murabitun who took part in an attack against a military base in Gao

## Egypt

### *Hassam Movement*

- The Hassam movement claimed responsibility for several assassinations of Egyptian security forces in various areas in Egypt. For example, it claimed responsibility for the planting of explosive devices in buildings belonging to the Egyptian Ministry of Internal Security. In addition, the organization emphasized that it is careful not to injure the innocent, such as children, women and the elderly, but rather only Egyptian security forces in revenge for the bloodshed of the Egyptian people.<sup>100</sup>

<sup>99</sup> [https://twitter.com/El\\_ribat3](https://twitter.com/El_ribat3)

<sup>100</sup> <https://hasamegypt.com/>

- The IS claimed responsibility for a suicide attack that one of its members carried out at a Coptic church in Cairo. According to the organization, the attack – which was carried out by Abu Abdallah al-Masri – killed and wounded 80 people.<sup>101</sup>

## Nigeria

- The IS in West Africa Province published an announcement regarding the repelled advancement of “Crusader African coalition” forces in the area of Lake Chad. The announcement stated that eight coalition forces were killed when they tried to pass mujahideen sites in the border area of northeast Nigeria.<sup>102</sup> Other publications included a filmed review of *ribat* activities by “Caliphate soldiers” at posts next to Lake Chad,<sup>103</sup> and a report of an attack against African coalition forces near the town of Kangarwa in northeast Nigeria.<sup>104</sup>

## Somalia

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen published another video in the series titled, “From Memory”, which included remarks made by Sheikh Ali Mahmoud Ragi aka Ali Dheere, the organization’s former spokesman.<sup>105</sup>

## The Caucasus

- The IS published a video titled, “Now, Now the Time Has Come to Fight!” about Chechen mujahideen who attacked security and police centers loyal to Russia. The video showed several *inghimas* fighters, most of whom were killed in the framework of these attacks. While armed with knives, the fighters directed threatening messages at Putin and the Russian people, clarified that there were other dormant cells loyal to the organization in Chechnya and Russia, and swore allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi before going out to wage their attacks.<sup>106</sup>

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<sup>101</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/CzIGpItXgAluchm.jpg>

<sup>102</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Czy6y7WXEAAUvW6.jpg>

<sup>103</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/58775>

<sup>104</sup> [https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/panar\\_small-1.jpg](https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/panar_small-1.jpg)

<sup>105</sup> <https://fotooh.net/>

<sup>106</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/60239>

- The IS in Caucasus Province published a claim of responsibility for three attacks against police forces in Dagestan in which several police officers were hurt and killed. According to the announcement, two of the attacks were carried out at police checkpoints in the city of Khasavyurt and the third attack was carried out against a police patrol in the city of Kaspiysk.<sup>107</sup> In another announcement, the organization claimed responsibility for two attacks at police checkpoints in the cities of Makhachkala and Kizilyurt.<sup>108</sup>
- A claim of responsibility for an *inghimas* attack against security forces in the city of Grozny in central Chechnya, which lasted two days and killed and injured several people.<sup>109</sup>

### The Indian Subcontinent

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for the publications of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, published the following:
  - “A Tribute to jihadists in the sub-continent killed by US drone strikes and the Pakistani army”, which contained a compilation of songs and clips of old interviews with martyrs in Pakistan and Afghanistan encouraging jihad. The messages emphasized that in order to reunite with the Imam Mehdi (the second coming of Jesus) they must fight today, and they conveyed a sense of success to future generations of jihadists that death is only the beginning of the battle.<sup>110</sup>
  - A psalm calling on Pakistani soldiers to defect and join the ranks of the organization.<sup>111</sup>
  - A booklet in Urdu titled, “You Must Continue Jihad in Pakistan” by Ustad Ahmad Farooq, the leader of the organization. In the booklet, Farook explained why the Pakistani regime and Pakistani army forces are considered a legitimate target of attack. In addition, Farooq called on the Pakistani people to wage armed jihad against the regime because of the threat to Islam and to their lives.<sup>112</sup>

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<sup>107</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/C08ck45WIAInjyr1.jpg>

<sup>108</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/C0jhVOsXcAAZ5gr1.jpg>

<sup>109</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/59628>

<sup>110</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bz48NKIYfAWaMUdMdWsyQjk0WTQ/view>

<sup>111</sup> Telegram

<sup>112</sup> <https://fotooh.net/>

## The West

- The Amaq news agency published a claim of responsibility for a ramming attack in Berlin and identified the terrorist, Anis al-Amri, as “a soldier of the Islamic State who carried out the attack in response to calls for attacks against the subjects of the international coalition countries”. Following al-Amri’s death, the news agency published a video in which he swore allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and called for attacks to be carried out in Europe.<sup>113</sup> In addition, the news agency published an infographic about the central attacks carried out by Muslims inspired by the organization against targets in the West.



Anis al-Amri

<sup>113</sup> <https://dawaalhq.com/post/59776>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWnOlkfTNnk>



## ABOUT THE ICT

Founded in 1996, the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) is one of the leading academic institutes for counter-terrorism in the world, facilitating international cooperation in the global struggle against terrorism. ICT is an independent think tank providing expertise in terrorism, counter-terrorism, homeland security, threat vulnerability and risk assessment, intelligence analysis and national security and defense policy. ICT is a non-profit organization located at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya, Israel which relies exclusively on private donations and revenue from events, projects and programs.

## ABOUT THE JIHADI MONITORING GROUP

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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