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PERIODIC REVIEW

Monthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

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Highlights

- The **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** addresses the American nation, NGO's and members of Congress interested in peace and clarifies that it is willing to conduct peace talks on the condition that the American side accept the legitimate demands of the Afghan nation. In addition, it notes that the US did not keep its promises to bring order to Afghanistan and instead led to a security deterioration. The Emirate calls on the American people to wake up and put pressure on the government to end the US occupation of Afghanistan in light of the latter's loss of life and property.
- Sheikh **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, the leader of **Al-Qaeda**, criticizes the support of Muslims in Egypt for the Egyptian regime led by al-Sisi. According to him, the regime is investing efforts in blurring the Muslim identity, acting against the principles of Islam and cooperating with the enemies of the religion. For this reason, it is incumbent upon Muslims in Egypt to rebel against the current regime and act to change the existing reality. In another speech, al-Zawahiri notes that the war in Syria is liable to continue for many years and, therefore, they must show patience. According to him, two things will help the mujahideen achieve victory in Syria – clinging to their faith and maintaining unity among the ranks of the mujahideen.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb** eulogizes the head of the organization's media wing, Sheikh **Abu Rawaha Al-Qusantini**. According to the organization, al-Qusantini stood out in the field of media for the organization and combined it with jihad activities against the enemies.
- **Abu 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sanhaji**, the general qadi of **Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin**, a Salafi-jihadist umbrella organization in Mali affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), calls for a boycott of the upcoming elections in Mali because the regime in Mali cooperates with the enemy of Islam, such as France, does not take care of the welfare of the people, and exploits democracy to cover its crimes. Moreover, democracy is incompatible with shari'a and Islam. In addition, al-Sanhaji calls on Muslims to rebel against the forces of power that oppress Muslims and Islam, namely the regime in Mali and French forces.
- **Zakir Musa**, the leader of **Ansar Ghazwat al-Hind**, a Salafi-jihadist organization in Kashmir that is probably affiliated with Al-Qaeda, praises the Pakistani people for their moral, physical and economic support of jihad in Kashmir. At the same time, he pleads with them to stop accepting

Pakistan's aid in Kashmir because it is contaminated by a foreign influence and is not helpful to the jihad war effort. Musa also calls for the concentration of efforts to attack Indian security forces and any entity that helps them.

- The **Islamic State (IS)** offers religious justification for women's fighting and participation in jihad against the enemy. According to the organization, during the period of ancient Islam, women participated in the battle alongside the Prophet Muhammad, hence the justification for women's participation in the fighting today.

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New Publications

Ideology

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda leadership, published the following:
 - A speech titled, “Tidings of Victory to Our People in Egypt” by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of the organization. In his speech, al-Zawahiri addressed the Egyptian nation and noted that the popular uprising that began in 2011 in Egypt failed due to the willingness of Muslims to cooperate with the Egyptian regime while renouncing their Muslim identity and the intention to apply shari’a. It appears that the criticism was directed at political Islam in Egypt, namely the Salafist Al-Nour party, Al-jamā’ah al-islāmīyah and others. In addition, al-Zawahiri accused the Egyptian regime of trying to please the US and Israel, pillaging Egypt’s natural resources and harming Islam in various ways. Later, he called on Muslims “to a new beginning that will shake off all past mistakes”, a beginning that will be expressed in their desire to apply shari'a and uproot the current regime in any way. The timing of the speech was apparently related to the elections scheduled for the Egyptian presidency at the end of March this year.¹



The banner of Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri’s speech

Regarding the arena of jihad in Syria, al-Zawahiri stated that the war in Syria is extremely important and they must be patient and prepared for the Syrian campaign to continue for many years. In addition, he noted that two things will help the mujahideen achieve victory

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

in Syria: clinging to their faith in Islam and maintaining unity among the ranks of the mujahideen.²

- A video in memory of Aby Layth al-Libi (1967-2008), a former senior leader in Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. The video is the second in a series titled, “Candles of Light”. In the video, al-Libi praised adherence to jihad and emphasized that it is the only guarantee for the victory of Islam over its enemies.³
- Markaz al-Nour jihadist media institution, which is involved in media for Al-Qaeda, published a new series of publications titled, “One Hundred [Things] That Corrupt the Brothers”. The first part of the series was titled, “Sins and Transgressions” by Sheikh Abu al-Bara al-Abi, and it emphasized that the absence of unity among the ranks of jihad fighters is considered a serious sin. The second part dealt with defective traits in a person, such as lies and dishonesty. The third part condemned the surrender of man to worldly desires.⁴
- Al-Wafaa jihadist media institution, which is involved in media for the Islamic State, published two articles regarding extremists (*ghulat*) among the ranks of the IS. In an article by Abu Hayaa al-Misri, the author presented extremists as militants who undermine the foundations of the organization by accusing the IS leadership of heresy, but made it clear that their departure against the organization, and from inside it, only strengthened it by bringing about 'purification of the ranks'.⁵

In an article by Abu Zayd al-Maleki, the author explained that even though the Islamic State is not free from mistakes and wrong-doings, it is working to purge its ranks of people contaminated by extremism, as it did in the removal of extremist members from the organization’s Delegated Committee. Al-Maleki’s main argument was that the various elements that compose the IS are not made of one piece, and since each one has a different level of piety and loyalty, each case should be judged on its own merits and general conclusions should not be drawn. In addition, al-Maleki emphasized that the only official body that represents the ideology and methodology of

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

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

⁴ <https://risala.ga/dc9k/>; <http://risala.ga/kyl8/>; <https://risala.ga/jmm1/>

⁵ <https://shamukh.net/vb/> (Arabic).

the Islamic State is the Committee of Research and Fatwas, and that any other body expresses only its own personal opinion.⁶

Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum also held a discussion on the subject of the “extremists” within the IS. One visitor noted that these extremists have no future and the only possibilities they face are a return to the IS ideology or defection from its ranks. Visitors criticized the extremists for boycotting prayer in mosques on the grounds that they were institutions belonging to "tyrannical" regimes.⁷

- The Khattab jihadist media institution published an article by an author known as Abu al-Abbas al-Iraqi regarding talks in the city of Sochi in Russia concerning the situation in Syria. The author criticized the talks, claimed that the opposition’s demands were not met (there was no agreement regarding arrests, a ceasefire, or Bashar’s removal from the throne of power) and mentioned Turkish sponsorship of the talks, which he said would not lead to a lasting outcome.⁸
- Additional publications by Al-Wafaa jihadist media institution included the following:
 - An article by Abu Maria al-Asyaf titled, “He Whose House Is Made of Glass Should Not Throw Stones at People”. In the framework of the article, al-Asyaf referred to an article by another author who claimed that Al-Wafaa is speaking ill of the Caliphate and even cooperating with a Moroccan spy named Abd al-Razzaq Ajha. After laying out the entire sequence of events, al-Asyaf explained that Al-Wafaa media institution renounced Ajha and that the author is only trying to deal with false accusations against Al-Wafaa.⁹
 - An article by Sheikh Abu al-Mundhir al-Harabi in which he praised the Prophet’s Companions (*Al-Sahaba*) from the early days of Islam and criticized today’s clerics who may demonstrate exemplary knowledge and proficiency in religious practices but are embarrassed when they have to apply this in practice. Al-Harabi explained that there are clear guidelines in the Quran regarding waging jihad, retreating for the sake of the Muslims Nation and defending places holy to Islam. Therefore, Muslims must act correctly

⁶ https://archive.org/details/isololo_20180222

⁷ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁹ <https://justpaste.it/1hcvz>

according to the Quran without resorting to the views of contemporary religious scholars.¹⁰

- A group of migrants of Saudi origin residing in Syria, and operating under the guidelines and leadership of Sheikh Abdullah al-Muhaysini and his deputy, Sheikh Musleh Aliani, announced its union under the name, “The Group of Proud Refuseniks” (*Tajamu al-Ubah*). In the announcement, which was published in the group’s name, it explained the principles according to which the group will operate: to make every effort – through manpower and funding – in order to help the people of Syria, to avoid internal conflicts between the local factions, to act to maintain ties of friendship between jihad factions in Syria, to avoid intervening in the internal matters of the Syrian people, and to try to make rulings on ethnic groups and people in Syria only by relying on senior clerics.¹¹
- A poet known as Ahlam al-Nasr (Dreams of Victory), or Umm Usama al-Dimashqiyya, published a rhyming eulogy in memory of Abu Talha al-Almani, a jihadist of German origin whose real name was Denis Cuspert and who was killed in Syria in January 2018. The eulogy – which won al-Almani praise for his contribution to jihad – was composed by “his brother and partner on the path”, Abu Usama al-Gharib, and was edited into a poem by al-Nasr.¹²



A eulogy in memory of Abu Talha al-Almani (aka Denis Cuspert)

Opinion Leaders in the Jihadist Discourse

This section deals with the statements of opinion of several clerics, military commanders and publicists affiliated with Salafi-jihadist terrorist organizations seeking to shape the jihadist

¹⁰ <https://www.gulf-up.com/downloadf-1518308641081-pdf.html>

¹¹ Telegram

¹² <https://shamukh.net/vb/>

discourse and influence thoughts and actions in the field. The statements and their publication received a large number of views among global jihad activists, hence their importance.

- The Khayr al-Umma media group, which is involved in media for Al-Qaeda, published a banner in praise of several Al-Qaeda leaders and Salafi-jihadist clerics associated with it. Among these clerics, who were described as “knowledgeable...our lighthouse in the dark”, the following were mentioned: Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda; Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a prominent Salafi-jihadist cleric in Jordan; Khalid bin Umar Batarfi, a senior AQAP leader; Sheikh Dr. Sami Uraydi, a Salafi-jihadist cleric affiliated with Al-Qaeda in Syria; Abdelmalek Droukdel, the leader of AQIM; Sheikh Hani al-Siba’i, a Salafi-jihadist cleric who supports Al-Qaeda and resides in London; Abu Qatada al-Filistini, a Salafi-jihadist cleric who supports Al-Qaeda and resides in London; Dr Tariq Abdelhaleem, a Salafi-jihadist cleric who supports Al-Qaeda and resides in Canada.



The banner that was produced in praise of Salafi-jihadist clerics associated with Al-Qaeda

- The correspondence of Sheikh **Dr. Hani al-Siba’i**, a Salafi-jihadist cleric of Egyptian origin who is affiliated with Al-Qaeda and resides in London, included the following:¹³
 - Friday sermons regarding the Chinese regime's oppression of the Muslim minority in Xinjiang Province, known as East Turkestan, which is located in western China; criticism of world’s silence in light of the massacre carried out by the Russian forces in eastern Ghouta; an accusation against the Egyptian regime, led by al-Sisi, of persecuting the citizens of Egypt, repression and more.

¹³ Telegram

- The correspondence of Sheikh **Dr. Sami Uraydi**, a Salafi-jihadist cleric affiliated with Al-Qaeda in Syria, included the following:
 - Encouragement for fighters in the battlefield against the enemy. According to al-Uraydi, the guarantee of victory over the infidels is closely linked to the extent of the mujahideen’s belief in God and their willingness to sacrifice themselves for His sake. He mentioned the “Battle of the Trench” (Al-Khandaq), which took place in 627 CE, as a symbol of the success of Muslims led by the Prophet Muhammad to thwart the siege imposed by the Quraysh on the city of Medina. According to him, thanks to their strong faith in God and willingness to sacrifice themselves, they succeeded in breaking the siege and, therefore, we must learn from this event for the present reality.¹⁴
- The correspondence of Sheikh **Dr. Abdullah al-Muhatsini**, a Salafi-jihadist cleric of Saudi origin affiliated with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and apparently with Al-Qaeda as well, included the following:¹⁵
 - A call on jihad factions in Syria to unite the ranks since the arguments between them are the root of the weakness in the jihad system against the Syrian regime and its allies.
 - A call on Muslims to help the jihad of fighters in the Turkestan Islamic Party, a jihadist faction in Syria composed of members of the Uyghur nation in China, through financial contributions, enlistment to their ranks and media activities. In a banner that was published in the framework of this campaign titled, “Join us in Victory”, several Telegram and WhatsApp accounts were listed in order to contact the organization's activists.

¹⁴ Telegram

¹⁵ Telegram



The official banner of the campaign, “Join Us in Victory”

- The correspondence of Sheikh ‘**Abd al-Razzaq al-Mahdi**, a prominent Salafi-jihadist cleric in Syria affiliated with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, included the following:¹⁶
 - A call on rebel factions to mobilize immediately for military action against enemy forces in the area of al-Dhuhur and not to sit idly by. According to him, the lack of such action causes people to lose their faith in the factions. Al-Mahdi warned that if the rebel factions do not block the Syrian regime forces and Iranian Shi’ite militias in al-Dhuhur, it will reflect immediate danger to additional areas, including Saraqib, Al-Fua, Kafriyya and Idlib. He added that women have answered the call to fulfill the commandment of jihad and are prepared for battle to preserve their honor and religion. In another correspondence, al-Mahdi warned that Russia intended to capture the Idlib area with the blessing of the United States.
 - A call on rebel factions to maintain unity among the ranks since this is the only guarantee of victory in battle against enemy forces.
 - Reference to Iran's efforts to turn into Shi’a territory those Syrian territories "in the areas under its control and in areas of conflict in which the Sunnis are located. When will the Sunnis wake up from their sleep?”.
 - Condemnation of the Estonia Conference in which representatives of Syrian opposition factions were present in order to find a political solution to the Syrian issue.

¹⁶ Telegram

According to al-Mahdi, it is a Russian conspiracy against the revolution that seeks to use the Estonia conference and others to achieve calm and ceasefires in certain areas in order to focus on the Idlib region and eliminate its inhabitants. In light of this, al-Mahdi called on the rebel factions to re-ignite the other fronts in the Syrian arena in order to thwart this Russian intention.

- An accusation against IS fighters of killing and murdering Sunnis, and thwarting the Syrian revolution. According to him, it is needless to call them “al-Baghdadi’s gang” but it should be remembered that due to their indiscriminate killing of Sunni Muslims and their conduct, they contributed greatly to the Syrian regime instead of the rebel forces.
- Reference to the French president's announcement that France will intervene in Syria if it turns out that Syria used chemical weapons against its citizens. According to al-Mahdi, this is a blatant lie, “Macron is a liar. He wants to show muscle. He knows that he can do nothing if the US, which controls, him does not agree to this and so does Russia [...]”.
- A call on Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and the Nour al-Din al-Zenki movement to resolve the disagreements between them by appointing mediators. According to him, the two organizations must direct their soldiers to fight against Assad's regime and not to quarrel with one another.
- An interview that al-Mahdi gave to the OGN media channel, led by ‘Abd al-Karim Bilal, an American journalist who converted to Islam and seeks to bring to the West a balanced picture of what is happening in areas of conflict in the Muslim world, especially in Syria.¹⁷ In the interview, al-Mahdi noted that the revolution in Syria is in danger due to several factors. The first factor is the absence of one leadership to direct the course of the fighting; rather, there are multiple rebel factions, some of which are subject to mutual skirmishes. According to him, unity must be maintained among the ranks of the rebel factions in order to succeed in battle, not only against the Syrian regime but against the allies helping it, such as the Iranian regime and Russia. Later in

¹⁷The interview was published on both a Telegram channel and on social networks, see: <https://vimeo.com/257359715>

the interview, al-Mahdi appealed to the Nour al-Din al-Zenki movement to rise above the disagreements and to stop fighting with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham.

In the interview, al-Mahdi addressed the influence of the entry of Turkish army forces into Syrian territory on the continuation of jihad in Syria. He mentioned hearing from several youths that they had decided to abandon jihad and that, as far as they were concerned, jihad in Syria was eliminated because of the takeover of several positions in Syria by the Turks and the Russians. According to al-Mahdi, jihad in Syria did not end at all, but is continuing. According to him, the Syrian regime and the Russians seek to achieve calm in certain territory in order to concentrate on another and eliminate the pockets of resistance found there. For example, he noted that as a result of the ceasefire agreement that was reached by the Syrian regime with Russia's blessing, a certain calm was achieved in the city of Hamat; a respite that they are exploiting in order to transfer forces to Ghouta. According to al-Mahdi, when the Syrian regime and Russia complete the military attack in Ghouta, they will return to Idlib and Hamat to continue purging the area of rebels. Therefore, al-Mahdi claimed that if the mujahideen continue to ignite all fronts and not be tempted by ceasefire agreements, such as the Astana agreement, and do not clash with one another, then they will succeed in the battle.



A picture from the interview - 'Abd al-Karim Bilal on the left and Sheikh 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Mahdi on the right

- The correspondence of Sheikh Abu al-Fath al-Feghali, a member of the Shura Council of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a Salafi-jihadist umbrella group in Syria, included the following:

- A lecture titled, “Religious Policy between Softness and Hardness”. In the framework of the lecture, the sheikh explained the concept of religious policy and its rules, and referred to the religious issue of activity against the Turkish army.¹⁸

Strategy

- Al-Hayat jihadist media institution published video no. 7 in a series titled, “Inside the Caliphate”.¹⁹ The video, which included narration in English, dealt with the following topics: the steadfastness of the mujahideen despite the bombardments, criticism of the Kurdish “apostates” who are trying to establish a secular state, and a description of “the Battle to Avenge the Chaste Women”, a coordinated attack by the organization’s forces against several locations along the Euphrates River.

The video presented several suicide terrorists in explosives-ridden vehicles who took part in the attack, including a fighter known as Abu Abdullah al-Shami who carried out a suicide attack against Kurdish forces despite being confined to a wheelchair. It is worth noting that the video featured female fighters for the first time who took part in battle alongside male fighters. The religious justification for women's fighting was provided in an article titled, "The Role of Women in Jihad against the Enemy," which appeared in issue no. 100 of *Al-Naba* magazine (October 2017). In the article, it was explained that women have an obligation to support the mujahideen in jihad, including physically, based on the example of female fighters from the early days of Islam.



“Inside the Caliphate 7”

¹⁸ Telegram

¹⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/80108>

- A visitor to the Akhbar al-Muslimin Web site directed the attention of his fellow visitors to the fitness application, STRAVA. The visitor referred to the famous global heat map on the site from which it is possible to learn about places where physical activity was performed around the world, and explained that if one looks at Syria and Iraq one can see that the activity is concentrated in or near American military bases. The visitor noted that the site is "a treasure trove of information to monitor the movements of American forces and the other forces acting with them".²⁰
- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a post regarding the creation of software used as a database that aspires to centralize all reports ever published by the IS. The software includes a serial number for each report next to the name of the county and the name of the report. The visitor explained that this database makes it easy to search for a particular report and, more importantly, does not allow the deletion of posts as it does on social networks and other general sharing sites. The visitor asked the other participants in the forum to join the effort and upload missing reports to the database.²¹

| ID | ولاية | اسم التقرير |
|------|------------------|--|
| 9995 | ولاية الجزيرة | إقامة حاكم الله على سارفي من أموال المسلمين في مدينة تلغفر |
| 9996 | ولاية الجزيرة | إطلاق كمية من سحائر في قاطع الفيروان |
| 9997 | ولاية الأنبار | جانب من الاشتباكات في منطقة البغدادي |
| 9998 | ولاية الأنبار | مفر الصكار قبل وبعد تسعة بعملية استشهادية يوم أمس والله الحمد |
| 9999 | ولاية الأنبار | البرق في سماء الرطبة |
| 100 | ولاية القلوجة | توزيع بشرة أحجار البيان في منطقة الكريمة |
| 100 | ولاية القلوجة | عاجل ذلك تتحقق كبير للجيش المتكوي والمليشيات الرافضية في لواء المنشي أبي عريب بغداد من صور |
| 100 | ولاية صلاح الدين | صور عاجلة ذلك معائل الجيش الرافضي بوابل من صورايح فحلبه الصرع غرب مدينة سامراء |
| 100 | ولاية الجنوب | توزيع بشرة النبا الاسيوية في منطقة ربيع |
| 100 | ولاية حلب | جانب من أعمال ديوان الركاة بمنطقة هسليمه |
| 100 | ولاية الرقة | صور لتفجير دراجة نارية مركونة عند مدخل مدينة رأس العين |
| 100 | ولاية الرقة | استهداف الـ PKK المرتدين بالأسلحة المتوسطة قرب جبل عبدالقريب |
| 100 | ولاية الخبر | بداية موسم الخير في ولاية الخبر |

A database that centralizes reports by the IS

- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum stated that he tried to prepare explosives from potassium nitrate, sugar and glucose but encountered a problem. Another visitor in the same section of the forum published instructions on preparing lead azide, a chemical compound

²⁰ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.isisonline.top/36157>

²¹ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

used as a primary explosive. The visitor listed the components necessary and provided instructions for its preparation.²²

- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum uploaded a post in which he reviewed the activities of the "Crusader spy planes" in Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Sinai based on data collected from flightradar24. The visitor posted photos on an almost daily basis of the flight routes of what he claimed were Western aircraft, alongside pictures of the same aircraft. Most of the pictures showed maps of Libya and, according to him, attested to the fact that American aerial activity over its skies on flights that had departed from Sicily and Tunisia.²³



Analysis of a screenshot from flightradar24 by a visitor to a jihadist Web forum

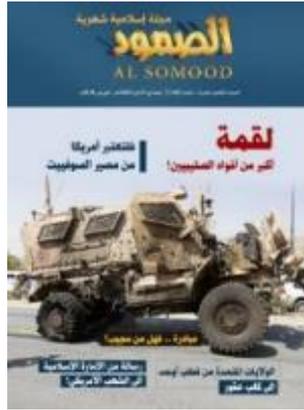
Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published issue no. 144 of *Al-Somood* magazine.²⁴

²² <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

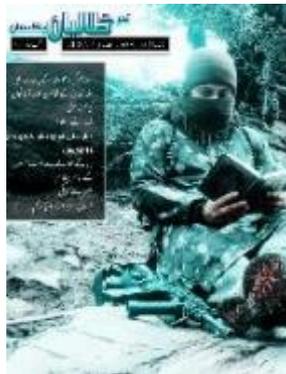
²³ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

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



The banner page of *Al-Somood*

- Issue no. 5 of the magazine, *Taliban Pakistan*, was published in Urdu.²⁵



The banner of *Taliban Pakistan*

- Issues no. 21-23 of the periodical, *Al-Nafir*, were published by Al-Qaeda. In issue no. 21, the organization discussed the US war strategy against its enemies, especially against the Muslim world. This strategy includes several arenas and if one of them fails, the US moves on to the next level and so forth. Thus, it stated that the US attaches great importance to collecting information about its enemies in order to know which weak point to attack, be it religious, political, economic, security, social or military. For the purpose of information gathering, it is assisted by its various institutions such as security, intelligence, diplomatic, missionary, humanitarian and other institutions, as well as through its members operating in

²⁵ Telegram

neighboring countries or with its allies. In the religious arena, the US is trying to influence thought by intervening in educational programs, demonizing religious institutions in the Muslim world, and promoting and nurturing Muslims belonging to the Sufi stream. In the political arena, the US is concerned about signing agreements and alliances, and using the media as an influencing and shaping force of public opinion. In the military arena, the US uses espionage, whether by sending spies or by using technological means intended to eavesdrop and monitor relevant factors. At the same time, it conducts security activities that include assassinations, kidnappings, etc. According to the organization, Saudi Arabia is considered on the largest suppliers of intelligence to the US. In the social arena, the US is working hard to destroy the family unit, and is particularly trying to harm children by eliminating men in wars or by assassinations that cause suffering and crises among family members. Therefore, it stated that if the US fails in the military arena, it turns to other arenas in an attempt to harm the family composition. In the economic arena, the US is working to impose a closure on sea and air crossings, to dry up sources of funding, and to eliminate private and public companies in order to prevent the supply of raw materials and more.²⁶

Issue no. 22 focused on the importance of harming the enemy's economy out of its perception as a central pillar of the enemy's power and, therefore, harming this pillar will lead to the collapse of the enemy. The background to this publication was related to the decline in US stocks during the month of February this year. The author of the issue attributed the weakening of the economy in the West to the September 11, 2001 attacks and then to the US wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. It was emphasized that the war of attrition by the organization and the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan against the United States would ultimately lead to the victory of the Muslims due to the huge sums invested by the US and other Western countries in the fight against the Muslims. Issue no. 23 dealt with the importance of conducting a balanced and moderate debate in accordance with shari'a. In this context, the author of the article called on clerics to hold sessions and workshops where Muslims will learn how to conduct an argument and how to express opinions about others' sentiments in a pleasant manner. At the end of the article, the author

²⁶ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb/> (Arabic).

called for honoring the clerics, especially those who paid a price with their blood or who lost their freedom because they dared to express their thoughts and opinions.

- Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent published a new issue of its magazine, *Nawai Afghan Jihad* in Urdu.²⁷



The banner page of *Nawai Afghan Jihad*

- Issue no. 3 of *Al-Haqiqa* was published in English by Salafi-jihadist groups associated with Al-Qaeda in Syria. In the opening article, it stated that the main theme of the issue was "commitment" and loyalty to the defense of the Muslim Nation, fighting for the sake of Allah's path, and the religion of Islam. Among the topics covered in the issue were: stories of martyrs; the importance of *ribat*; a military presence in the frontier in order to defend Muslim lands and as a base for embarking on an attack against the enemy; an expression of solidarity with the Muslim Rohingya minority in Myanmar in light of the disturbances experienced at the hands of the regime; the importance of media in favour of jihad fighters on social networks and on the Internet; an introductory article about the bitcoin currency; a story of marriage with a jihad fighter.²⁸

²⁷ Telegram

²⁸ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb/> (Arabic).



From left to right: introduction to the bitcoin currency; the banner page of *Al-Haqiqa*

- Issue no. 3 was published of the magazine, *Baytuki* (“Your Home”), a women’s magazine published by the Khayr al-Umma media group, which is involved in media for Al-Qaeda. Among the topics covered in the issue were: advice on raising children and how to be a good spouse; the importance of religious education for children; and more.²⁹



The banner page of the magazine

- Issues no. 117-120 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published by the Islamic State. Among the topics covered in the articles were: reports on the organization’s attacks in various arenas;

²⁹ Telegram

infographic posters about attacks in Khorasan Province, Somalia, West Africa and Sinai; and articles regarding eschatological *hadiths* (that deal with the End of Days).³⁰



The banner page of issue no. 118 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*

- Issues no. 8-9 were published of *Al-Anfal* magazine, which is associated with the IS. Among the topics covered in the issues were: a selection of news items dealing with the organization's military operations in various arenas of jihad; articles condemning the Shi'ites; articles condemning Christianity; a guide to assembling pepper spray (contains capsaicin, which causes severe irritation and shortness of breath to the point of mortal danger) and advice on injecting it into passer-by in the West. According to the guidebook, the injection causes severe pain and soreness in the human body.³¹

³⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

³¹ Telegram



From left to right: a guide to assembling a pepper spray syringe; the banner page of issue no. 9

- A new magazine named *Mediation*, which is affiliated with the IS, was published in French. Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, which is affiliated with the IS, held a discussion regarding whether the above-mentioned magazine is an official publication and emphasized the difficulty of obtaining a copy of the magazine. Among the topics covered in the magazine were: the importance of intensifying the mujahideen’s propaganda in the media via the Internet; the importance of providing an Islamic education to children and family members; condemnation of the religion of Christianity; and more.³²



The banner page of *Mediation*

³² <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

- A new magazine named *Nida al-Masra*, which belongs to Jaysh al-Islam, a Salafi-jihadist organization operating in Syria, was published. Among the topics covered in the magazine were: the importance of belief in the Oneness of God; news regarding the organization's activities; and more.³³

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (the Taliban-Afghanistan) published the following:
 - A response by the spokesman for the organization, Zabihullah Mujahid, regarding the government's announcement about the planned execution of several prisoners in jail in Kabul against the backdrop of their connection to the mujahideen. The spokesman warned against executing the prisoners and threatened that if it is carried out, the Emirate will take revenge and noted that the organization is holding enemy captives, including foreigners.³⁴
 - An announcement by the spokesman for the organization, Zabihullah Mujahid, in which he denied reports by the government in Kabul according to which US and Afghan forces successfully freed 30 prisoners who were being held in one of the Taliban's jails in Laghman Province. Zabihullah confirmed that there had been an exchange of fire with these forces but made it clear that the encounter took place far from the prison area, and that no prisoner was freed.³⁵
 - An announcement by the spokesman for the Taliban, Qari Muhammad Yusuf Ahmadi, in which he referred to the annual report by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), a UN report regarding casualties in the country. The spokesman

³³ Telegram

³⁴ <http://alemaral.net/?p=57994>

³⁵ <http://alemaral.net/?p=58914>

claimed that the report is biased in favor of the American forces in Afghanistan and is an attempt to hide the crimes of the United States.³⁶

- A message directed to the “American nation, NGO’s and members of Congress interested in peace”. The document clarified that, despite its promises to improve the situation, the US instead led to a security deterioration in Afghanistan, promoted a corrupt regime, and did not prevent drug production from flourishing and developing. The document included a call on the American people to open their eyes and see how their government is spending a fortune on Afghanistan while encouraging them to put pressure on the government to end the war and the US occupation of Afghanistan.³⁷ Later, the organization’s political bureau published a reference to statements by the US that there is still an option for talks with the Taliban, and explained that it is willing to hold talks on condition that the American side accept the "legitimate demands of the Afghan people".³⁸
- A statement to mark 29 years since the end of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The statement included blessings and praise in memory of the event, reminding the US that the American presence will also be removed from Afghanistan in the end if the Americans do not withdraw from Afghanistan voluntarily.³⁹
- A statement on the TAPI gas pipeline project (which will pass through Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and India). The statement explained that the Taliban welcomes the project for its significant economic contribution to Afghanistan, but simultaneously warned against the corruption of the Kabul administration and American involvement, which it claimed could sabotage the project.⁴⁰
- Regular reports of attacks carried out by the organization throughout the country, including in Faryab, Laghman, Kunar, Nangarhar and other provinces. Photographs from the organization's training sessions in the snow in Kunduz Province were also published.⁴¹

³⁶ <http://alemara1.net/?p=57994>

³⁷ <http://alemara1.net/?p=58507>

³⁸ <http://alemara1.net/?p=59316>

³⁹ <http://alemara1.net/?p=58631>

⁴⁰ <http://alemara1.net/?p=59078>

⁴¹ Telegram

- An infographic poster regarding the Taliban Afghanistan’s military activities during the month of January 2018. According to the poster, 853 military operations were carried out during the month, including six suicide attacks, the downing of two aircraft and the destruction of 354 vehicles. The poster also listed the number of the dead and injured among the enemy’s ranks.⁴²



A summary of the Taliban Afghanistan’s military activities during January 2018

The Taliban Pakistan

- The Taliban Pakistan published the following:
 - A video titled, “Heroes of the Nation – Part 2”, which praised the organization’s fighters who were martyred in battles against the Pakistani security forces.⁴³

The Islamic State

⁴² Telegram

⁴³ Telegram

- The IS in Khorasan Province published a filmed review regarding the execution of a married man who was accused of adultery in Wazir Tanki in Nangarhar Province. The man was stoned to death but not before he delivered a *dawah* speech to the audience that was present.⁴⁴



The execution of an adulterer in Nangarhar Province

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 in which Sheikh Qassim al-Raymi, the leader of AQAP, referred to a book titled, “Summary of War Politics”, which deals with war tactics and was written in the 9th century CE by al-Harthamy for the Caliph, al-Mamun (786-833).⁴⁵
- The Markaz Al-Nur jihadist media institution, which is involved in media for Al-Qaeda, published the following:
 - A series of banners by Sheikh Abu Bartafi regarding the importance of Jerusalem to the Muslim world. For example, Bartafi noted that the Muslim world will never give up Jerusalem because, among other things, it is considered the first direction of prayer in Islam, and the third holiest place for Islam because of Al-Aqsa Mosque.⁴⁶

⁴⁴ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.isisonline.top/36282>

⁴⁵ Telegram

⁴⁶ Telegram



The banner produced by Markaz Al-Nur quoting Sheikh Bartafi about Jerusalem’s importance to Islam

- A visual graph detailing the total military operations of Ansar al-Sharia, which is affiliated with AQAP, during the month of January 2018. According to the graph, during this period the organization carried out 18 terrorist attacks, which included planting explosive devices, shooting, mortar fire, assassinations, ambushes, and more. The graph also provided information on the number of those killed among the enemy’s ranks, such as nine members of Houthi militias.⁴⁷



The banner detailing the organization’s total military operations

- A Telegram channel that supports AQAP published a banner containing a threat to eliminate anyone who cooperates with the US. The threat was made by Khabib al-Sudani, a senior member of the organization, who stated: “Anyone who acts under the banner of the Americans and

⁴⁷ Telegram

commits crimes against Muslims should know that the punishment will come to him. We tell the United States and its collaborators that war breeds war. He whose house is made of glass should not throw stones at people. The mujahideen will never forget to take revenge on behalf of their Muslim brethren”.⁴⁸



A banner containing a threat to eliminate those who collaborate with the US

The Islamic State

- *Aden-Abyan* Province: A claim of responsibility for an attack against the counter-terrorism bureau in Tawahi in the city of Aden. The announcement stated that the attack was carried out by four fighters – two as drivers of the explosives-ridden vehicles and the other two as *inghimās* who attacked bureau employees with firearms, killing and injuring dozens.⁴⁹

Iraq

The Islamic State

- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Amaq news agency published a range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following issues:
 - A. Battles and Military Deployments:
 - Filmed reviews on various military topics: the destruction of a PMF hummer using an explosive device in western Mosul; an attack against a

⁴⁸ Telegram

⁴⁹ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.isisonline.top/36273>

PMF post east of Tikrit; the killing of 30 Iraqi national security forces southwest of Riyadh in Kirkuk Province; and a suicide attack against the headquarters of the Ahl al-Haqq Shi'ite militia in Kirkuk.⁵⁰

B. Propaganda and Media

- Kirkuk Province: A filmed review titled, "Life of the Mujahid", which documented the lives of the mujahideen in the province, including weapons training, food preparation in a group, dawah discussions, and the planting of explosives against the "Shi'ite enemy".⁵¹

Al-Sham [The Levant]

Syria

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham

- Hayat Tahrir al-Sham published the following:⁵²
 - An announcement protesting the delivery of the body of the Russian pilot to Moscow without receiving an exchange. It was explained that on February 3, a battery in the air defense array belonging to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham downed a Sukhoi 25 over the city of Saraqeb, but that one of the factions kidnapped the pilot's body and returned it to the Russian forces without using it to bargain for the release of prisoners. At the end of the announcement, the organization issued a reminder that it was holding five more bodies of Russian pilots for which negotiations are being held with the "invading occupiers".
 - An announcement regarding a proposal by the Nour al-Din al-Zenki movement to appeal to a shari'a court in order to resolve the conflict between it and Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. The announcement clarified that the proposal was nothing more than a diversionary tactic designed to disguise the machinations of the Zenki movement and its attacks against Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (see further discussion on the subject below).
 - An announcement regarding the forced expulsion of IS fighters from Idlib Province after several months of fighting. The announcement explained that Hayat Tahrir al-Sham is

⁵⁰ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.isisonline.top>

⁵¹ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.isisonline.top/36173>

⁵² Telegram

continuing its security activities to uproot the remnants of the IS from all the ‘liberated areas’.

- The military wing of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham published an announcement by the recruitment department containing a call on anyone interested to register for courses and join the “convoy of jihad”. The announcement stated that one can make contact using a telephone number through Telegram or by visiting the department itself in the city of Idlib.
- The Ibaa’ news agency, which is associated with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, published a video regarding the arrests of fighters from the “rebel army”, which belongs to the international coalition. In the video, the fighters confessed that the Nour al-Din al-Zenki movement coordinated the bringing of groups of fighters from the "rebel army" from areas controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces and paid them to fight against Hayat Tahrir al-Sham.⁵³
- Sheikh Abd al-Rahim Atun, a senior cleric in Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, published a post on Telegram in which he referred to relations with Nour al-Din al-Zenki movement. Al-Atun protested that the latter’s shari’a office is publishing statements in which Tahrir al-Sham (Hayat Tahrir al-Sham) is presented as the attacker, and made it clear that his organization has nothing against the Nour al-Din al-Zenki soldiers fighting against the Assad regime, but rather only against the movement’s leadership and its fighters who are operating against Hayat Tahrir al-Sham.⁵⁴

In another post on Telegram, al-Atun addressed the issue of the proposal to appeal to the shari’a court to resolve the dispute between Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and the Nour al-Din al-Zenki movement, and explained that his organization did not accept the proposal because the court had no enforcement capability to prevent the movement from attacking Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. In addition, al-Atun criticized the Nour al-Din al-Zenki movement’s ties to entities abroad, especially the Americans.

Sheikh Muslih al-Alyani, who served as a cleric in Al-Nusra Front and now serves as deputy to Abdullah al-Muhaysini, also addressed the dispute between Tahrir al-Sham (Hayat Tahrir al-Sham) and Nour al-Din al-Zenki. Among other things, al-Alyani said that separate meetings had been held with each of the sides and that they expressed willingness to resolve the conflicts. According

⁵³ Telegram

⁵⁴ Telegram

to what al-Alyani reported, Nour al-Din al-Zenki was willing to go to a court that would decide the disputes between the two organizations, while Hayat Tahrir al-Sham made it clear that it did not consider the organization to be collaborators or apostates but still accused them of receiving external assistance and assassinating leaders and clerics of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham.⁵⁵

Turkestan Islamic Party

- The Turkestan Islamic Party in Syria published the following:
 - A statement regarding recent developments in Syria. The statement explained that the Turkestan Islamic Party has always sought to help Muslims in Syria and has refrained from intervening in rivalries between organizations, but that its people and its checkpoints had been attacked by a number of factions operating in the area, forcing it to respond and return fire. The statement expressed support for Tahrir al-Sham while condemning the attacks being waged against it.⁵⁶
 - A video praising the martyr's death and referring to paradise that is guaranteed to every jihad fighter who dies a martyr's death.⁵⁷

Huras al-Din

- Huras al-Din, a new organization associated with Al-Qaeda in Syria, published an announcement titled, "Save the Tent of the Muslims". The organization noted that during the current period, the Muslim residents of al-Ghouta in Syria were subjected to an unprecedented attack by the Assad regime with missiles and bombs. The organization called on Muslims not to sit idly by but to go out and carry arms to stop this attack. In addition, it noted that its fighters would work hard to break the siege of al-Ghouta and protect its residents. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on the other jihad factions to stop the fighting between them and unite in order to break the enemy's strength.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ Telegram

⁵⁶ Telegram

⁵⁷ Telegram.

⁵⁸ Telegram.

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-Furat Province*: A video titled, “Shadows of Spearheads 4”, which documented attacks by the organization’s fighters against PKK posts northeast of Al-Shu’fa.⁵⁹
- *Al-Baraka Province*: A video documenting battles in the province against PKK forces (gun battles, dispatch of suicide terrorists, etc.).⁶⁰
- Reviews and videos on various operational topics, such as: an attack against PKK sites northeast of Abu Hassan village in Al-Furat Province, a double suicide attack against the PKK in Al-Bahra village in Al-Baraka Province, a review of *ribat* activities in the city of Abu Kamal, and an attack by IS fighters against Hayat Tahrir al-Sham at Al-Yarmouk camp south of Damascus.⁶¹

B. Propaganda and Media:

- *Al-Khayr Province*: A video titled, “You Cannot Hurt It, Not Even a Tad”, which dealt with the issue of the decline of the organization’s prestige and the defection of its fighters. A fighter appeared in the video who noted that defection from the organization is equal to abandoning Islam, and he criticized the fighters who nullified their oaths of allegiance and discarded their weapons. According to the fighter, the reason for the weakening of the organization stemmed from those fighters who favored loyalty to the land and tribe over loyalty to Allah and religion, or alternately surrendered to their material desires and joined “the ranks of the infidels”. The phenomenon of withdrawal was presented as a process that does not

⁵⁹ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.isisonline.top/36280>

⁶⁰ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.isisonline.top/36259>

⁶¹ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.isisonline.top>

indicate the weakening of the organization but rather as a "purging of the fringes." Therefore, the real mujahideen must carry on without paying attention to the dissidents, and he promised that Allah will replace the dissidents with better ones. The second part of the video included documentation of an attack on Syrian army forces in the villages of Kabajeb and Sholah, and the execution of several people (including three prominent members of Al-Shaitat tribe, which is known to oppose the organization). It should be noted that, in contrast to the organization's usual publications, the militants in the video appeared anonymously (some even appeared with their faces blurred). Also notable was the absence of foreign fighters who had appeared more than once in previous publications of this province.⁶²



IS propaganda against the backdrop of the organization's decline in prestige

- *Al-Baraka Province*: A propaganda video to strengthen the spirits of the mujahideen. Through narration and filmed remarks by one of the militants, the film featured excerpts from the Hadith regarding the prohibition against turning back and withdrawing from battle, a step whose ramifications are negative as it encourages weakness and defeatism. It emphasized battles from the glory days of Islam in which the few won against the many, while clarifying that the loss of faith in the righteousness

⁶² <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.isisonline.top/36157>

of the path and adherence to religion is more severe than the loss of territory. The video can be seen as an attempt by the organization not to admit defeat, as well as a call on fighters to continue fighting until the last drop of blood.⁶³

- *Damascus Province*: A filmed review regarding the activities of a training camp for children and teens, including weapons training, physical training and the awarding of prizes to outstanding students.⁶⁴

Khalid ibn al-Walid Army

- The Khalid ibn al-Walid Army published a video titled, “Harvesting the Wormwood”, which documented battles against rival factions in the area of the Yarmouk Basin. The video presented these factions as collaborators operating under the auspices of the US, and effectively protecting Israel and the Druze. The video documented an attack at al-Ruba’i checkpoint followed by the taking of plunder.

The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula

The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula

- The IS in Sinai Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “Defenders of Shari’a”, which warned against participating in the elections in Egypt and documented the organization’s attacks against the Egyptian army (assassinations, suicide attacks, executions, etc.). The video emphasized the ideological opposition to “the elections of the polytheists”, which are considered a mechanism of apostasy and therefore Islamic elements participating in the democratic game (such as the Salafist Al-Nour party or the Muslim Brotherhood) are considered “apostates” who deny the principle of God’s rule. The video also discussed, at length, the activities of the Egyptian army in Sinai under the guidance of President al-Sisi, while presenting clips from house demolitions and arrests in an attempt to portray the organization's fighters as the

⁶³ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.isisonline.top/36230>

⁶⁴ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.isisonline.top/36149>

protectors of local residents. A significant portion of the video was devoted to presenting the story of Omar Ibrahim al-Dib, the son of one of the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood who joined the IS and was killed in its ranks. The video ended with a threat to carry out attacks at polling stations and a call for attacks against the “leaders of heresy” in Egypt.⁶⁵

- Announcements on various operational topics, including: a claim of responsibility for an ambush against Egyptian police forces in Rafah, an attack against an M-60 military vehicle using an explosive in the area of Bal’a in northern Rafah, an *inghimās* attack against an operational command center (battalion 101) in Al-Arish, a claim of responsibility for the killing and injuring of several Egyptian police officers in an ambush in Rafah, the killing of several more police officers in a series of bomb explosions in Al-Arish in the north of the province, the repelling of attacks by the Egyptian army south of Sheikh Zuweid, and the destruction of approximately 14 military vehicles at several sites.⁶⁶

Africa

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

- Al-Andalus jihadist media institution, which belongs to AQIM, published a eulogy in memory of Sheikh Abu Rawaha al-Qusantini, the head of AQIM’s media wing and one of the leaders of the media institution. In the statement, the organization published a short biography about him. It stated that al-Qusantini was born in 1971 in the city of Kasantina in eastern Algeria to a family with lineage to the family of the Prophet Muhammad. He graduated with honors in the field of electronic engineering in 1994 and he was given opportunities to integrate into state institutions, but he rejected this and preferred to follow the commandment of jihad. On November 11, 1994 he joined the jihad fighters on the Jijel Mountains in eastern Algeria. In 1996, he was injured in the knee as a result of an ambush by the Algerian army. In 2013, he was appointed the organization's communications officer and on January 30, 2018, he was killed following clashes with Algerian soldiers in the Jijel Mountains in eastern Algeria.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.isisonline.top/36259>

⁶⁶ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.isisonline.top>

⁶⁷ Telegram

The Global Islamic Media Front - The General Command (GIMF) jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda, also published a eulogy in memory of al-Qusantini and described him as someone who took part in many battles and as a leader in the organization's media system.⁶⁸



A banner produced by the GIMF media institution in memory of Sheikh Abu Rawaha al-Qusantini, the head of AQIM's media wing

Egypt

The Hasm Movement

- On February 9, 2018, the Hasm movement published a statement denouncing the Egyptian army spokesman's announcement of the launch of a military operation to purge the Sinai Peninsula of terror. According to the organization, the Egyptian regime added insult to injury. For example, the organization accused the regime of intending to empty the Sinai Peninsula of its residents, in partnership with Israel, with the aim of harming the Palestinians, and more. At the end of the statement, the organization called on the youth of Egypt and all its residents to unite and work to bring down the treacherous regime.⁶⁹

Al-Murabitoon

- Al-Balagh jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Murabitoon, an organization affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published the following:⁷⁰
 - An audio clip titled, "Al-Sisi is Egypt's Atatürk" by Abu Hamza al-Ansari, a senior member of the organization. Ahead of the upcoming presidential elections in Egypt at the end of March this year, al-Ansari appealed to Egypt's Muslim citizens to take any action against

⁶⁸ Telegram

⁶⁹ <https://hasamegypt.com/?p=503>

⁷⁰ Telegram

al-Sisi's policy of secularization. According to him, this trend is reflected in the oppression and persecution of Islamist activists, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, in cooperation with Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Israel and other countries in the war against the mujahideen, the violation of human rights, the enactment of penal laws against the detractors of the regime, etc. According to al-Ansari, this policy is very similar to that of Atatürk, the founder of secular Turkey who used various methods to marginalize Islam.⁷¹



The banner of al-Ansari's audio clip criticizing al-Sisi

- Condolences for the death of the mother of Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric affiliated with Al-Qaeda and residing in Jordan.

Libya

The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna

- The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna published a condemnation of the bombing of the Sa'd bin Abbada Mosque in Benghazi. In the announcement, condolences were sent to the families of those killed and wishes for the recovery of the injured, alongside threats against those responsible for the bombing. The authors of the announcement explained that the Shura Council absolutely renounces the bombing of the mosque and has no connection to it, and pointed the finger at “Haftar and his crime gangs” who accuse the rebels in vain of assassinations and explosions. Visitors to the Shumukh al-islam jihadist Web forum also addressed the bombing,

⁷¹ Telegram

condemned the attack on innocent Muslims in the mosque, and hinted that the intelligence agencies of Egypt or the Emirates were behind the bombing.⁷²

The Islamic State

- The IS in Baraka Province published an announcement regarding the death and injury of 15 of Khalifa Haftar's forces in a suicide attack in Jufra. According to the announcement, the attack was carried out by a suicide terrorist near a military checkpoint and also caused the destruction of two military vehicles.⁷³

Mali

Jamā'at Nuṣrat al-Islām Wa-l-Muslimīn

- Al-Zallaqa jihadist media institution, which belongs to Jamā'at Nuṣrat al-Islām Wa-l-Muslimīn, published the following:
 - An audio clip titled, "About the Elections" by Abu 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sanhaji, the general qadi of the organization. In the opening, al-Sanhaji noted that it has been 50 years since the occupying French forces left Mali, but the country is still under occupation by France and its allies in the region. He added that, despite receiving fictional independence, Mali experienced many crises. For example, Muslim identity was damaged and Muslims suffer from the arm of a small group that holds the reins of power. He criticized the upcoming democratic elections in Algeria, claiming that the results are known ahead of time and it is a "fixed game". Moreover, democracy is contrary to Islam. According to him, the "criminal gangs" that are exploiting democracy to strengthen their hold on the reins of power are operating against God's commandments and looking to continue their crimes. For example, they are determined to continue the acts of corruption and isolation of Muslims in Mali. This policy has a devastating effect on the social and economic lives of the Malian people, and any reasonable person knows that in democratic elections there is a desire to camouflage the failures and omissions of the policy in Mali.

⁷² https://web.archive.org/web/20180210145457if_/https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DVrMRQ7XUAALZ-V.jpg;
<https://shamukh.net/vb/>

⁷³ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosq.isisonline.top/36255>

In light of this, al-Sanhaji called on Muslims in Mali to boycott the elections and not take part in “this ugly game” that seeks to cover up the corruption of the current regime and “to prevent the nation from freeing itself from the international heretical system”. According to him, the corrupt regime seeks to engage the minds of the Muslims in the elections rather than to improve life and fight against the French occupiers. Hence, al-Sanhaji emphasized the obligation of Muslims to act to change the current reality in any way possible, such as by revolting against these infidels, thwarting the continued looting of Mali's natural resources by the enemies of Islam, renouncing the system of laws imported from the West, namely democracy, and more. Al-Sanhaji emphasized that jihad and martyrdom are the only guarantee to cause change and defeat the enemy.⁷⁴



The banner of the audio clip

- A series of banners, including a call on Muslims to enlist in the war against the enemies of Islam, especially French and Malian security forces. Alongside these calls, it published a series of photos of the organization’s fighters preparing for battle against the enemies, such as the motorcycle unit (see photo).

⁷⁴ Telegram



The motorcycle unit of the organization preparing for battle against French and Malian security forces

The Islamic State

- Several jihadist sources reported that a group of militants in Mali calling itself the Saladdin Brigade (or the Sultan Ould Badi Brigade) had sworn allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. According to the report on the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, Sultan Ould Badi was one of the founders of a tawheed and jihad group in West Africa in 2011, after which he became the commander of a brigade belonging to Ansar al-Din in 2013 and swore allegiance to the IS in 2017.⁷⁵
- A report on the deaths of five “Caliphate soldiers” subordinate to Abu Walid al-Sahrawi in a surprise attack carried out by GATIA forces (a Tuareg-Arab militia that supports the government in northern Mali) and MSA forces (the movement to save Azawad) in Inkadagotane in eastern Mali. According to the report, the attacking forces took weapons, ammunition, motorcycles and a military vehicle that had originally belonged to the Niger army.⁷⁶

Somalia

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- Al Kataib jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Qaeda’s branch in Somalia, published the following:

⁷⁵ <https://shamukh.net/vb/> (Arabic).

⁷⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb/> (Arabic).

- An online archive for download to a PC that includes videos that were published by the organization.⁷⁷



The banner announcing the possibility of downloading videos posted by the organization to a PC

- The Shahada jihadist news agency, which is involved in media for Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published the following:
 - A claim of responsibility for: the capture of three US drones that circles over the skies of Somalia;⁷⁸ the assassination of a Somali intelligence officer named 'Abd al-Qadir Aflo in the heart of Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia; the assassination of an intelligence officer in Puntland; the destruction of a Burundi military vehicle using an explosive device near the capital of Mogadishu; an attack against militias affiliated with the government at a military checkpoint in the lower reaches of the southern part of the country; a double suicide attack in which dozens were killed in the capital of Mogadishu; an ambush on an American-African military convoy in Kismayo; and more.



A photo of a US drone that fell into the hands of Al-Shabab fighters in Somalia

⁷⁷ Telegram

⁷⁸ <http://shahadanews.com/?p=1240> ;Telegram

The banner in memory of Mohammad Afzal Guru

- A video titled, “Kashmir Will Become Part of the House of Islam” by Zakir Musa, the leader of Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind. According to Musa, jihad in Kashmir has been going on for three decades thanks to, among other things, the Pakistani people who donate funds and send their children to Kashmir to fight. However, Musa believes that it is important to cut off Pakistan’s involvement in what happens in Kashmir since the former is an ally of the US and an enemy of the mujahideen. He called on the residents of Kashmir to be patient with the knowledge that the mujahideen will continue jihad in Kashmir until they achieve victory. According to him, Pakistan’s involvement in Kashmir is not helpful. Towards the end, Musa explained that India is the top enemy on whom the war effort should concentrate. According to him, the convoys of the Indian security forces and anyone assisting India must be attacked.⁸²



The video banner

The Islamic State

- Al-Qarār jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the IS in Kashmir, published the following:

⁸² Telegram

- A photo of a group of fighters identified as “soldiers of the Caliphate in Kashmir”. The group, which consisted of eight fighters, was taken with the accompanying caption reading "somewhere in the jungles of Kashmir".⁸³



A group of IS fighters in Kashmir

- A photo of a man named Faruq Ahmed Yato, who was presented as a police officer in the city of Srinagar, who was killed by an IS cell in Kashmir.⁸⁴

The Caucasus

- It was reported on the Shumukh al-islam jihadist Web forum that a commander in the “Caucasus Emirate” had been killed in a gun battle against security forces. According to the announcement, the commander - Asadulayev Kuramagomed Mukhidinovich – was on the wanted list since 2011, and a member of the security forces was killed in the same battle.⁸⁵ According to another report, two additional fighters from the “soldiers of the Caliphate” in Ingushetia in the northern Caucasus.⁸⁶

The West

⁸³ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁴ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁵ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum discussed an incident that was reported in the American media regarding the removal of the American flag from a high school in Utah and its replacement with the IS flag. The visitors praised the act and called on more comrades not to fear the “infidels” and to carry out similar acts in order to sow fear in the “lands of heresy”.⁸⁷
- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum addressed publications in the Russian media regarding the death of one of the “soldiers of the Caliphate” in Russia who was killed during an attempt by security forces to arrest him in the city of Nizhny Novgorod. According to one visitor in the forum, the fighter who was killed planned to carry out an attack during the presidential election in Russia, and weapons, explosive devices and materials for the manufacture of explosives were found in his home.⁸⁸

⁸⁷ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

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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.

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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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