

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The First Half of August 2016

Highlights

This report summarizes notable events discussed on jihadist Web forums during the first half of August 2016. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- Sheikh **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, the leader of Al-Qaeda, refers to the efforts made by the Muslim Brotherhood to integrate into the political system in Egypt since the days of its founder, Hassan al-Banna, and calls them a mistake and an obstacle to Egypt's transformation into an Islamic state. According to him, the Salafists in Egypt are also sinning and erring in their attempts to please the regime. In his opinion, violence is the way to guarantee a change in the reality rather than integration in the political system.
- **Abu Hamza**, a member of **Al-Qaeda**, and the son of the organization's former leader, Sheikh Osama bin Laden, calls on Muslims to wage an intifada against the Saudi regime. According to him, the Saudi regime and army serve as the "agents of the Americans" due to their extensive economic and military cooperation expressed in the persecution of Muslims. Moreover, the Saudi regime is in a state of weakness in light of Houthi defeats in Yemen and their failure to block the Shi'ite advancement into Mecca and Medina. Therefore, the downfall of the Saudi regime will enable the liberation of Arabian Peninsula lands from the Crusaders, the protection of Mecca and Medina from the Shi'ites, and the establishment of a new regime whose constitution will be shari'a. In order to achieve this goal, Hamza calls on Muslims to aid in the PR process against the Saudi regime and to help topple it.
- **Abu Muhammad al-Julani**, the leader of **Jabhat Fateh al-Sham**, addresses battles in Aleppo and explained that recent victories have opened the road leading to the besieged Aleppo. He adds that the results of the battle in Aleppo will change the scales of the conflict in the Syrian arena and draw new lines in the Syrian battle.
- The **Islamic State in Sinai Peninsula** accuses Egypt of cooperating with the enemies of Islam, especially the US and Israel. According to the organization, al-Sisi's regime protects its borders with Israel, carries out crimes against the Muslim residents of Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula, and denies the Islamic religion. In the framework of the organization's psychological warfare, it credits itself with a series of military victories against Egyptian security forces in the Sinai Peninsula.

- The **Islamic State** reveals that **Abu Musab al-Barnawi** was appointed as the new leader of the **Islamic State in West Africa**. In an interview that al-Barnawi gives to the organization's *Al-Naba* magazine, he emphasizes that his organization is a significant force in the region and a magnet for new recruits. In addition, he vows to continue the tenacious battle against the regimes in West Africa and to avoid harming ordinary Muslims whether they are in mosques or markets. In response to the interview, **Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Shekau**, the former leader of the **Islamic State in West Africa**, emphasizes that he is continuing to serve as leader of **Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad** (the original name of **Boko Haram**) and reveals that he complained about al-Barnawi and his followers' poor level of devotion to Islam in several letters that he sent to the Caliph, **Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi**, but did not receive a reply from the latter.
- The **Global Islamic Media Front**, which serves **Al-Qaeda**, declares the establishment of a new media institution called, "**The Global Islamic Media Front in the Indian Subcontinent**", which will include **Al-Qadisiyyah** media institution and **GIMF Bangla Team**, and will be entrusted with the official publications of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent as well as other jihadist organizations in Arabic, Bengali, English, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil and more.

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New Publications

Ideology

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda, published a video titled, “Who will defend the Quran: Short Messages to the Muslim Nation – Part 1” by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of the organization. Al-Zawahiri first referred to the failure of the Arab Spring revolutions in Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen, with emphasis on the former. According to him, Hassan al-Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, failed to bring young Muslims closer to Islam and away from the clubs and the superstitions that prevail in Sufism (a mystical dimension of Islam) and simultaneously made several serious mistakes - one of the worst mistakes being his support for Egyptian King Fuad and his son, Farouk, who serve as a tool in the hands of the British. Moreover, al-Banna supported the secular constitution of King Fuad, designated him protector of the Quran, and allowed the members of his movement to take part in the Egyptian parliamentary elections. Al-Zawahiri noted that only towards the end of his life did al-Banna understand that integration in the country’s political life and in the Egyptian Parliament would not turn Egypt into an Islamic state. In his opinion, the Muslim Brotherhood continued to err even after al-Banna’s death when it formed alliances with Egyptian leaders, including Gamal Abdel Nasser, Hosni Mubarak and Anwar Sadat, out of the belief that doing so would help promote their agenda. However, in actuality, Egypt's leaders denounced them and some even turned against them. According to him, those Salafists - who he accused of pretending to be Salafists – were not acting correctly and preferred to find favour with the authorities. In light of this, al-Zawahiri emphasized that Muslims must correct their way, and adhere to their religion and their faith.¹

Al-Zawahiri’s speech represented an attempt to court members of the Muslim Brotherhood who are disappointed with the Egyptian authorities, and a call on them to sober up, abandon the political path and adopt the path of violence in order to change the reality while learning from the mistakes of the Muslim Brotherhood.

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pt2uHJDHhw>



Al-Zawahiri in the video clip

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda, published a video titled, “About the Intifada by the People of the Holy Place [meaning Mecca] – Part 1” by Hamza bin Laden, a member of the organization and the son of Osama bin Laden, the former leader of Al-Qaeda. According to Hamza, the Saudi authorities are carrying out oppressive policies towards the Sunni residents of the Arabian Peninsula through killings, arrests, torture, etc. Moreover, the Saudi authorities are accused of opening marine and land bases as well as airports for Western countries. Even worse, they executed a series of Sunni scholars in the beginning of 2016 for opposing these policies. In light of this, Hamza called on Muslims to revolt against the Saudi authorities, which it referred to as “agents of the Americans”, and to topple them, liberate Muslim lands from American control and impose shari’a. In addition, Hamza called on them to topple other tyrannical regimes, intensify the campaign among Muslims to get them to join PR efforts against the Saudi regime, act to free prisoners, and more.

Hamza went on to explain that the Saudi regime is considered an enemy of Islam and Muslims, and that its downfall would benefit Muslims not only due to the religious importance of the region but also due to its strategic, geographical and economic importance. According to him, the Saudi regime and army are in a state of weakness for two main reasons: a) their inability to defend the two places holy to Islam – Mecca and Medina – as evidenced by the Saudi regime’s defeat by the Houthis in Yemen and the failure of the Arab coalition, led by Saudi Arabia, to achieve its goals in Yemen; b) the continued advancement of Shi’ites towards Islam’s two holy places. The solution, therefore, lies with the overthrow of the Saudi regime and change to the existing order. Once this is achieved, it will be possible to liberate Saudi Arabia from the Crusaders, defend the two holy places from Shi’ites, and establish a new regime with shari’a as

its constitution. In order to achieve this, “we call on all Muslims in the Arabian Peninsula to take part in the change through the tongue, the pen, publicity and tweets”. According to him, a selected group should be established from among scholars, preachers, youth and others to work to promote this issue on social networks. Towards the end of his speech, he called on Muslims who have the physical and mental ability to join the ranks of the mujahideen and fulfil the commandment of jihad.²



The banner of Hamza bin Laden’s speech

- Sheikh Hani al-Sibai, an Egyptian Salafi-jihadist cleric exiled in London who supports Al-Qaeda, published a video clip in which he condemned Iran’s execution of Sunnis, attacks by Russian planes in Aleppo, Syria, and attacks by the US in the Libyan city of Sirte.³
- Al-Malahim jihadist media institution, which is linked to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), published another chapter (part 14) in a series of publications titled, “Understandings”. In the current chapter, Abu Basir Nasir al-Wahishi, the former leader of the organization, discussed the conditions and circumstances in which it is forbidden and permitted to kill Muslims.⁴
- A writer known as Abu al-Yaman al-Ghazzi published an article titled, “The Lost Sheikhs” in which he attacked clerics who support the “tyrants”. Without mentioning a specific country, al-Ghazzi criticized these clerics, accused them of remaining silent in the face the injustices being

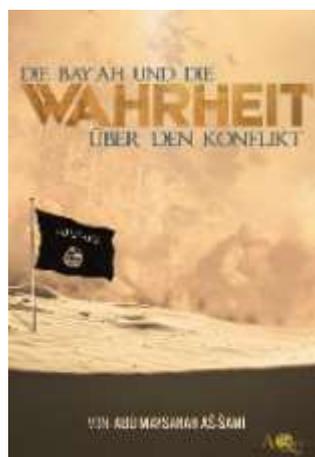
² <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

³ https://twitter.com/Dr_H_Sebai/status/761718646909591552

⁴ <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

committed against Muslims in various arenas (such as Burma, Central Africa and Palestine), and emphasized that those same sheikhs stand alongside the “tyrants” and try to justify their loyalty to those infidels.⁵

- The Baqiyya jihadist media institution, which is involved in PR for the Islamic State in German, published an article titled, “Oath of Allegiance and the Truth of the Conflict” by Abu Maysara al-Shami. In the article, the writer emphasized that the Caliphate, led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, is legitimate in the full sense of the word, and the oath of allegiance to the Caliphate remains valid despite the withdrawal of the Caliphate’s soldiers and the loss of territories. According to him, Abu Bakr, the first Caliph of Islam, also lost territories to the infidels yet his position as ruler was given legitimacy.⁶



The article banner

- Maktabat al-Himma, the Islamic State’s publishing house, published two letters titled, “Evidence Regarding the Law of Faithfulness to Polytheism” and “The Strongest Link to Faith” by Muhammad ibn ‘Abd al-Wahhab, the founder of the Wahhabi movement in the 18th century. In the introduction, the organization emphasized that the principle of Wala wal-Bara, loyalty to Muslims and disavowal of non-Muslims, is a sacred value. According to it, local regimes have not succeeded in preserving this principle and instead are creating alliances with non-Muslim infidels and sanctifying the nation instead of Islam. In light of this, the organization saw fit to

⁵ <http://up.top4top.net/downloadf-214rhmk1-pdf.html>

⁶ <https://web.telegram.org/#/im?p=@Bushrayat3>

publish two letters by al-Wahhab that address the importance of the principle of Wala wal-bara.⁷

The Internal Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State

- Various articles were published on the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, which serves as a platform for messages from the IS, regarding Abu Mohammad al-Julani, the leader of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham whose real name is Ahmad Husayn al-Shar', against the backdrop of the organization's split from Al-Qaeda. One article detailed al-Julani's biographical background and stressed the fact that his knowledge of jihad and shari'a was only acquired during the time he was imprisoned in Iraq and Syria. Some articles criticized the split while presenting it as a step to appease the US and reconcile with it,⁸ while others claimed that it was a pointless and unreliable step that will not persuade the US to remove the organization from its list of terrorist organizations.⁹ In the context of the split, reports were also published about defections from the ranks of Jabhat Fatah al-Sham, including a judge and dozens of fighters who joined Jund al-Aqsa.¹⁰

Strategy

- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum held a discussion on the topic of promoting information about the air strikes in Iraq and Syria, and the damage and casualties that they leave in their wake. In the framework of the discussion, one visitor recommended that the main IS media institutions, Al-Furqan and Al-Hayat, produce a comprehensive publication on the topic while presenting the organization's attacks in the West as a response to the shellings. The same visitor even recommended that the publication be exclusively distributed by an Arabic or foreign communication channel, but other visitors claimed that this idea is doomed to fail since foreign networks censor and edit the organization's publications.¹¹

⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com> (Arabic).

⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁹ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

- Hadm al-Aswar jihadist media institution, which supports the IS, published a warning article about migration to Caliphate territories. The article explained that it is important to migrate to IS territory while taking the necessary precautions and adhering to shari'a. For instance, it criticized women who embark on the journey without a relative to escort as well as women who are tempted to believe dubious accounts on social networks that really belong to authorities or other opponents of the organization.¹²

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- Ibn Taymiyya jihadist media institution, which focuses on the Palestinian Salafi jihadist movement and supports the IS, published a video titled, "Convoys of Sacrifice (part 2): The Biography and Last Will and testament of the Mujahid, Comrade Khalil 'Ataa al-Najjar".¹³



The video banner

Magazines

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published issues no. 18-19 of its magazine, *Al-Masra*. The periodical reviewed the activities of AQAP fighters in various arenas of jihad. For example, issue no. 19 included a statement by Abu Khabib al-Sudanu Ibrahim Aal-Uusi, a member of Al-Qaeda's Shura Council. In the interview, al-Uusi sought to encourage jihad fighters in Syria against the Syrian regime and emphasized that the path to liberating Al-Aqsa Mosque is through Syria.¹⁴

¹² <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/4950>

¹⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com>



The banner pages of issues no. 19 and 20 of *Al-Masra*

- Issues no. 41-42 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published by the Islamic State.¹⁵ The issues reviewed IS fighters’ activities in various arenas of jihad, stories of martyrs, propaganda campaigns condemning the organization’s enemies, such as Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, and more. Especially prominent was an interview held with Abu Musab al-Barnawi, the new leader of the IS in West Africa, in issue no. 41. In the interview, al-Barnawi discussed at-length the history of the organization since Boko Haram founder, Mohammed Yusuf. In addition, he noted that in 2009 he took the place of Abubakar Shekau but did not refer to his current position. Al-Barnawi even tried to present a more moderate image of the organization by noting that the IS does not want to harm ordinary Muslims and vowed to stop attacking mosques and markets where there are Muslims. Al-Barnawi further noted that the Christian population in Nigeria is growing at a fast pace and he warned Muslims of their attempts to poison their minds and convert them to Christianity. Al-Barnawi emphasized that his organization continues to be a significant source force in the region and a draw for new recruits, and that it will continue to battle against the regimes of West African countries.

¹⁵ <https://ia801509.us.archive.org/34/items/AnNaba42>



The banner pages of issues no. 41 and 42 of *Al-Naba*

- Issue no. 3 of the magazine, *Al-Risala* (30 pp.), was published in English by jihad fighters in Syria with apparent ties to Jabhat Fateh al-Sham. Among the articles included in the issue: a condemnation of the murder of the civilian population in Syria by the Assad regime and its allies; a promise of victory for jihad fighters in Syria; glorification and encouragement of suicide attacks; personal stories of several jihad fighters; an interview with a British jihad fighter belonging to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen (Al-Qaeda’s branch in Somalia); rules for secure surfing on mobile phones; interviews with jihad fighters in Syria about the various types of weapons that they use; and more.¹⁶



The issue banner

¹⁶ <https://justpaste.it/wuv6>

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The first half of August opened with an attack by the Taliban in Afghanistan using a truck bomb at a residential complex of foreign civilian and military organizations in Kabul.¹⁷ In addition, Taliban fighters attacked a bus of foreign tourists from Britain, the US and Germany in Herat Province, in western Afghanistan.¹⁸ Meanwhile, the organization managed to seize control of Beghlan Province, which is located in northern Afghanistan.¹⁹ Meanwhile, clashes continued between the organization's fighters and Afghan security forces in Helmand Province, in southern Afghanistan. Approximately 30,000 civilians have already fled from their homes as a result of the battles and there is grave concern that the Taliban, which already controls 10 out of 14 areas located in the province, will also succeed in conquering the capital of the province, Lashkar Gah.²⁰ Against the backdrop of these victories by the Taliban in Afghanistan, conflicts arose between the Afghan Prime Minister and President in which the former criticized the latter and accused him of not cooperating.²¹

Meanwhile, a Pakistani government helicopter crashed in eastern Afghanistan in an area controlled by the Taliban and the crew was feared kidnapped by the organization.²² In addition, a suicide attack was carried out at a hospital in Quetta, in western Pakistan, which killed over 70 people. It should be noted that both the Taliban in Pakistan and the IS claimed responsibility for the attack.²³

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

¹⁷ <https://goo.gl/bSrarS>

¹⁸ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/08/foreign-tourists-convoy-attacked-afghanistan-160804081708739.html> (English).

¹⁹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/08/taliban-overruns-district-afghanistan-baghlan-160815073521937.html> (English).

²⁰ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/08/thousands-flee-fierce-fighting-afghanistan-helmand-160809151954639.html> (English).

²¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/08/afghanistan-abdullah-abdullah-chides-ashraf-ghani-160812064503457.html> (English).

²² <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/08/pakistan-helicopter-crash-lands-taliban-held-area-160805040429850.html> (English).

²³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/08/pakistan-blast-quetta-hospital-lawyer-killed-160808050839643.html> (English).

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the following:
 - Condolences for the death of Muhammad Umar Hanif, a member of the Central Committee of Scholars of the Islamic Emirate, as a result of illness.²⁴
 - Condolences for the death of Muhammad Yusuf Agha, a member of the organization, who was killed in a car accident.²⁵
 - An announcement in which Mulla Baz Muhmmad, deputy to the leader of the faction that split from the Taliban and joined the IS, swore allegiance to the new leader of the Taliban, Haibatullah Akhundzada.²⁶
 - A video regarding the organization’s recent victories in the Shilgar region, located in Ghazni Province in southeast Afghanistan.²⁷
 - A video in which the family of Mulla Dadullah, a senior Taliban in Afghanistan leader who was killed in 2007, swore allegiance to the organization’s new leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada.²⁸
 - A video regarding the surrender of 46 enemy fighters in Nad Ali District, which is located in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan.²⁹ Later in the month, the organization published another video regarding the organization’s advancement in that area.³⁰

The Taliban in Pakistan

- The Taliban in Pakistan published an announcement in which it explained why it stopped fighting in Kashmir, a region under Indian control. In the announcement, the organization told the story of Ilyas Kashmiri, a senior Al-Qaeda member who was killed in 2011, who had fought in Kashmir but was forced to return to Pakistan in order to fight against the infidels who invaded Afghanistan as a result of 9/11. The organization further emphasized that it is necessary to fight

²⁴ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=2503> (English).

²⁵ <http://alemarah-arabic.com/?p=26651> (Arabic).

²⁶ <https://justpaste.it/x49p>

²⁷ <https://archive.org/download/GhazniAnder-mobile>

²⁸ <http://alemara1.org/?p=59418>

²⁹ al-Imarah’s Telegram Channel

³⁰ <https://ia801507.us.archive.org/26/items/HelmandNewReportVideo>

against the Pakistani regime and army first, before fighting in Kashmir in order to liberate it from the Indian army.³¹

The Islamic State in Khorasan Province

- The IS in Khorasan Province published the following:
 - An announcement about the capture of three Afghan army posts after repelling an attack by the army in Shadal, which is located in Nangarhar Province. According to the announcement, two soldiers were killed and several others were injured in the operation while the rest fled, leaving behind weapons and ammunition that were taken as plunder. A filmed review of the plundered items was also published.³²
 - An announcement regarding the killing of a US commander and two Afghan army officers in the city of Kabul as a result of an explosive device that was planted in their vehicle.³³
 - A collection of photos of the loot that was plundered by IS fighters from the Afghan army in eastern Nangarhar.³⁴



Photos of the loot that was plundered by IS fighters

The Arabian Peninsula

The civil war in Yemen continued with force and did not seem close to stopping anytime soon. UN-brokered peace talks failed as a result of the announced intention of the Houthis to establish a

³¹ https://justpaste.it/KJ_TTP

³² <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CpMsmdnW8AAmWUS.jpg>;
<https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49464>

³³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Cp6NwifXgAEho4p.jpg>

³⁴ <https://justpaste.it/x8uh>

new ruling body together with the forces belonging to former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.³⁵ As a result, battles renewed including air strikes carried out by coalition forces, led by Saudi Arabia, which did not spare AQAP fighters. The Yemeni army, backed by coalition planes, killed 40 militants in Jaar and Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan Province, and expelled the remaining fighters from those cities. An AQAP suicide bomber blew himself up in a car bomb explosion in Zinjibar in a failed attempt to attack army forces.³⁶

Iraq

During first half of August, the IS continued to carry out attacks against Iraqi security forces and Shi'ite militias, especially in Baghdad, southern Mosul and throughout Al-Anbar Province.³⁷

In contrast, the Iraqi army managed to liberate the area of Al-Khalidiyah, the final IS stronghold in eastern Al-Anbar Province. The capture of Al-Khalidiyah led to the re-opening of the main road between the cities of Al-Fallujah and Al-Ramadi in Al-Anbar Province.³⁸ Furthermore, the Iraqi army managed to capture Al-Waleed border crossing from Syria to Iraq from the IS.³⁹ Meanwhile, the Iraqi army continued to prepare to capture Mosul. In this framework, the Iraqi army – along with Kurdish forces – managed to capture four villages south of the city.⁴⁰ In addition, the US promised to provide Iraq with assistance in the battle to conquer the city.⁴¹ Meanwhile, in the framework of a joint operation by Kurdish and US forces near the Syria-Iraq border, Sami Jassem Al-Juburi, an IS financier⁴² and the person responsible for its natural resources,⁴³ was killed.

The Islamic State

- The Amaq news agency published the following:

³⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/08/yemen-peace-talks-collapse-fighting-intensifies-160807042106210.html> (English).

³⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security-qaeda-idUSKCN10P0GJ> (English).

³⁷ <https://goo.gl/nVTZ9u>

³⁸ <https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/iraqi-army-liberated-last-isis-bastion-east-anbar> (English).

³⁹ <https://goo.gl/zsNjEP>

⁴⁰ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/08/iraq-troops-advance-isis-held-mosul-160814054001692.html> (English).

⁴¹ <https://goo.gl/92uiVo>

⁴² http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2016/08/160811_iraq_mcgirk_visits (Arabic).

⁴³ <https://goo.gl/MP9vQ2>

- An infographic poster summarizing the suicide attacks carried out by the organization in Iraq, Syria and Libya during the month of July 2016. According to the poster, a total of 59 suicide attacks were carried out during this period, most of which were carried out using explosives-ridden vehicles and others using explosive vests. 30 the attacks were carried out in Iraq, 26 in Syria and three in Libya.⁴⁴



A summary of IS suicide attacks during the month of July in Iraq, Syria and Libya

- The Amaq news agency in Iraq published the following:
 - Videos regarding the death and destruction caused as a result of US Air Force bombardments on the city of Al-Qaim in western Al-Anbar Province and on the area of Ba'wiza in Mosul. Announcements were also published regarding US strikes on various targets in Iraq, such as the Faculty of Science in Mosul and cement factory warehouses in Badush.⁴⁵
 - Announcements regarding various operational issues, such as: the killing of three army personnel in Tarimiyya in northern Baghdad,⁴⁶ the destruction of two Iraqi army hummers in Qayyarah,⁴⁷ the killing of eight Iraqi soldiers in a booby-trap explosion near Qayyarah,⁴⁸ the capture of military vehicles and weapons in Al-Khaldiya,⁴⁹ the downing

⁴⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Co0SYWHW8AEbeqc.jpg>

⁴⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48653>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48881>

⁴⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Co9CUnSWcAAF2bC.jpg>

⁴⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Co9CUnSWcAAF2bC.jpg>

⁴⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CpBoErBXgAATk9o.jpg>

⁴⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CpMvRcbWYAAI7Nt.jpg>

of a Peshmerga camera drone in Tal Afar,⁵⁰ and the killing and wounding of approximately 170 PMF militia members in a suicide attack that was carried out near Al-Adhaim Dam in Diyala.⁵¹



A graph detailing details the total losses suffered by the Iraqi army in the area of Khalidiyyah in Iraq

- A report according to which the Islamic State’s Education Department announced the need to recruit 3,000 teachers for schools in Nineveh Province, out of which 750 were accepted so far. According to the announcement, candidates must participate in a 14-day shari’a course.⁵²
- A video regarding the activities of IS hospitals in Mosul.⁵³
- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Iraq published a range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following issues:
 1. Battles and Military Deployments:
 - Nineveh Province: A video titled, “The Men of the Trenches” regarding the digging of tunnels by the organization. The video opened with the traditional story of the “Battle of the Trench”, which tells how the Prophet Muhammad decided to dig a moat around the city of Al-Medina in order to protect it from the armies of the Quraysh and Ghatafa tribes. After anchoring the history of modern

⁵⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49337>

⁵¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CpMwTvAXYAEaDCI.jpg>

⁵² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49486>

⁵³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49567>

warfare in Islamic history, the video included documentation of tunnel digging as well as interviews with fighters who welcomed their involvement in this activity. In one such interview, it came to light that the tunnels were intended to serve as a bomb shelter from air strikes, rocket fire and shellings, and as a base for launching attacks against the enemy.⁵⁴



Tunnel digging activity by the IS in Nineveh Province

- *Kirkuk Province*: A video titled, “The Towering Mountains”, which reviewed the battles between the IS, and army and PMF forces in the area of Jabal Himrin. The video explained the strategic importance of the area in which the Allas and Ajeel oil fields are located, and it emphasized the mountainous area features that demand more advanced warfare capabilities on the part of the mujahideen. The battle itself included mortar fire, sniper fire, light and heavy weapons fire, and the destruction of a tank using a guided missile. The video ended with photos of the corpses of the soldiers who were killed and the weapons that were plundered, as well as encouragement for terrorist attacks in the West, especially in France.⁵⁵
- *Diyala Province*: A video titled, “The Land of Epic Battles #2”, which documented battles between the IS, and police, army and SWAT forces in the area of Imam Ways and Shahraban. The video also included images from a raid that was

⁵⁴ <http://vidbom.com/6o280huta9j3.html>

⁵⁵ https://archive.org/details/jah52_mail_20160804_0418

carried out by IS fighters on police and army structures, and the execution of those who were inside.⁵⁶

- Various provinces: Filmed reviews and videos regarding various operational issues, including reports about: 18 Iraqi army and militia forces killed and others injured east of Ramadi,⁵⁷ two suicide attacks carried out against Iraqi army posts near the villages of Dabs and Shaykh Ali in Saladdin Province,⁵⁸ seven suicide attacks using car bombs against army and PMF forces in Qayara and Sharqat in Dijla Province,⁵⁹ a suicide attack at a military camp in Al-Furat Province,⁶⁰ photos of Turkestani and Tajik terrorists who carried out attacks against military camps at Sharqat Junction,⁶¹ a suicide attack at a military camp near Qayara Junction,⁶² mortar and Grad rocket fire directed at military camps west of Makhmur and south of Qayara,⁶³ the destruction of two Abrams tanks southwest of Qayara,⁶⁴ damage to a T-72 tank using a guided missile in Makhul,⁶⁵ damage and destruction to nine armored vehicles in Jazirat al-Khalediya,⁶⁶ the destruction of an army post and everyone inside near Al-Azim Dam north of Baqubah,⁶⁷ the deployment of an “Air Defense Battery” in Kirkuk Province,⁶⁸ an attack on Peshmerga posts on the Tikrit-Tuz Khurmatu Road,⁶⁹ and the killing of more than 21 Iraqi soldiers in an attack north of Al-Rutba in Al-Furat Province.⁷⁰

⁵⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49535>

⁵⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CpLpJQqVUAEhQA6.jpg>

⁵⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48532>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49335>

⁵⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CoyJiQuXgAAmpIT.jpg>

⁶⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48525>

⁶¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48638>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48636>

⁶² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48633>

⁶³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48637>

⁶⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Cpw2qy7WgAAS0Z-.jpg>

⁶⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48717>

⁶⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48871>

⁶⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CpBHFeDWAAAI1Zo.jpg>

⁶⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48819>

⁶⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CpqyNr4VIAAltL4.jpg>

⁷⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Cp67H4-WAAlANfa.jpg>



Battles in Dijla Province between the IS and the Iraqi army

2. Executions:

- *Nineveh Province*: A video titled, “Deterring the Hired”, which documented the executions of six men who were accused of spying for the army and writing graffiti against it. In the video – which included confessions of their activities – it was explained that the accused had received money in exchange for their participation in an opposition campaign against the organization that was launched in Mosul in February 2016 (the campaign included spraying over the first letter of the word “opposition” in Arabic in order to defy the organization).⁷¹
- *Al-Furat Province*: A filmed review regarding the executions of several residents of the province who were accused of smuggling out families from IS territories to “infidel countries”. The accused were shot to death and their crucified bodies were placed in the town square for all to see.⁷²

3. Propaganda and PR:

- *Dijla Province*: A video encouraging Muslims in general and the mujahideen in particular to be patient and stand firm in the face of the hardships and difficulties that have befallen them, including attacks by coalition forces. In the video, an IS fighter explained that those difficulties are part of a test of faith for Muslims and he provided examples of this from the times of the Prophet Muhammad.⁷³
- *Al-Jazira Province*:

⁷¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49465>

⁷² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49411>

⁷³ <https://ia601207.us.archive.org/26/items/watwasa/watwasa.mp4>

- A video titled, “The Rule of Shari’a”, regarding the enforcement of shari’a and its punishments throughout the province. The video reviewed the early days of Islam, and the eradication of Jahiliyya and polytheism by the Prophet Muhammad, a process being renewed by the IS in today’s day and age. The video stressed the message according to which the Islamic State is working to apply shari’a on two levels: on the one hand, by providing assistance to citizens through various departments (the Department of Services deals with infrastructure, the Department of Zakat distributes money to the needy, the Islamic Police and Hisbah maintain public order), and on the other hand, by carrying out punishments and executions of those who pose a threat to society and spread corruption (such as homosexuals, adulterers and former soldiers).⁷⁴
- Al-Furat Province: A video regarding the spread of the proper creed, the concept of “tawhid”, and the study of the Quran among tens of thousands of people. The video provided an explanation about shari’a courses that were held for the general public, the distribution of pamphlets about religious law, dawah activities in villages, children’s Quran memorization classes, the distribution of gifts by the Hisbah to girls wearing the hijab, and the acceptance of “stray groups”, such as Khaznawi Sufis, who repent and return to Islam.⁷⁵



The declared repentance of a group of Sufis in Al-Furat Province

Al-Sham [The Levant]

⁷⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49318>

⁷⁵ <https://ia601205.us.archive.org/6/items/trtkm/trtkm.mp4>

Syria

In the framework of the continuing battles in Syria, it was reported that Syrian Democratic Forces had managed to expel the IS from the city of Manbij in Aleppo Province,⁷⁶ and it was announced that the city of Al-Bab was the next target that forces planned to liberate.⁷⁷ It should be noted that during its retreat from the city, the IS was attributed with the abduction of approximately 2,000 civilians.⁷⁸ Meanwhile, from the Damascus countryside it was reported that Jaysh al-Islam had regained control over several sites,⁷⁹ and from Idlib and Aleppo it was reported that tens of people had been killed in shellings by the Syrian regime and Air Force. In the political arena, several statesmen released statements regarding the situation in Syria.⁸⁰ The British Foreign Minister emphasized the need to reach a political solution in Syria without Assad,⁸¹ the President of Russia noted the common interest shared by Russia and Turkey regarding the Syrian arena,⁸² and the Prime Minister of Turkey himself vowed that his country would continue with its efforts to resolve the problems in the region and noted that “positive developments” are expected for Syria.⁸³

Jabhat Fateh al-Sham

- Al-Bunyan jihadist media institution, which belongs to Jabhat Fateh al-Sham (formerly Al-Nusra Front), published the following:
 - An announcement regarding a chemical attack using chlorine gas that was carried out against residents of the city of Saraqib, located east of Idlib. According to the announcement, the attack was carried out by Assad’s forces as revenge, 24 hours after a Russian helicopter flying over the area belonging to revolutionary forces was downed in northern Syria, killing five Russian soldiers. In the announcement, the

⁷⁶ <http://arabic.cnn.com/middleeast/2016/08/09/me-090816-battle-manbij>

⁷⁷ <https://goo.gl/8d17hd>

⁷⁸ <https://goo.gl/QHVoDz>

⁷⁹ <https://goo.gl/9arbCO>

⁸⁰ <https://goo.gl/EiUkDw>

⁸¹ <https://goo.gl/HIGXoG>

⁸² <https://goo.gl/SSA85c>

⁸³ <http://elaph.com/Web/News/2016/8/1103370.html>

organization emphasized that al-Assad is avenging the deaths of foreign parties by carrying out war crimes against the Syrian nation.⁸⁴

- Two videos regarding the start of the third stage of the campaign to remove the siege on Aleppo, known as “The Raid of Ibrahim al-Yusuf”.⁸⁵
- An audio clip by the leader of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, Abu Muhammad al-Julani, in which he referred to the battles in Aleppo and addressed the city’s residents. In the announcement, al-Julani stated that the recent victories of the Muslim Nation in Aleppo are opening the way for Christians in Aleppo. He added that the results of the battle in Aleppo will change the balance of the conflict in the Syrian arena and will draw new lines for the battle in Syria. Al-Julani went on to praise the cohesion among the factions, which could be clearly seen in this battle. He also called on residents of Aleppo to stand firm and promised them that the mujahideen would not leave them.⁸⁶ It should be noted that this is the first time that al-Julani published an audio clip outside of Al-Manara Al-Bayda jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda.



The banner of al-Julani’s speech

- A speech by a member of the organization’s military council praising the organization for its success in resisting its enemies.⁸⁷

⁸⁴ https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Co8_pSoXYAAWq0c.jpg

⁸⁵ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqEw_6_Dzpo

⁸⁶ https://ia601506.us.archive.org/12/items/Halab_JFSham

⁸⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

- Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini, a prominent Salafi-jihadist cleric and supporter of Al-Qaeda residing in Jordan, published a statement titled, “Advice to My Sons and Brothers the Mujahideen in Jabhat Fateh al-Sham”. Al-Filistini began by mentioning that members of the organization are a stone’s throw from Jerusalem and are creating a new history in the region. He called on them not to waste time on interpersonal disputes, but rather to dedicate their energy to knowledge, instruction, jihad and the establishment of a military force.⁸⁸

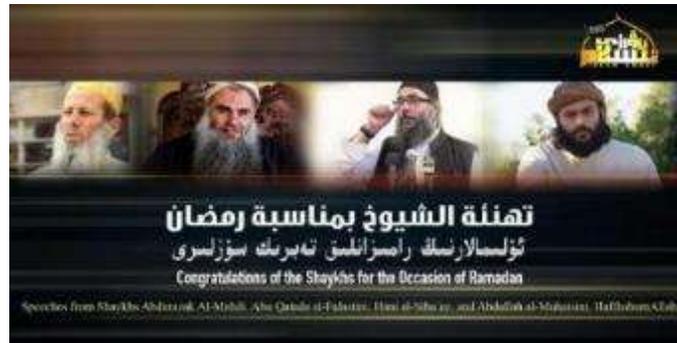
The Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham

- The Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham, which is composed of Uigur fighters from western China operating in Syria alongside Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, published the following:
 - An announcement regarding an attempt by the Chinese regime to sabotage the organization’s propaganda campaign on social networks. In the announcement, the organization noted that it has been engaged for many years in publicity designed to highlight the oppression experienced by Muslims in eastern Turkestan, the Xinjiang region in China, by the Chinese authorities. For this reason, the organization established the Sawt al-Islam jihadist media institution, which quickly developed following its fighters’ move to the arena of jihad in Syria during the Arab Spring in Syria. The organization also noted that the Communist Chinese authorities have always invested resources and efforts in suppressing the organization’s publicity activities. For example, they shut down seven of the organization’s Telegram channels that dealt with the siege on Aleppo, Syria. In light of this, the organization called on sheikhs, social activists and Muslim media representatives to help with its PR campaign and distribute its messages on the networks.⁸⁹
 - An appeal by a group of Salafi-jihadist clerics, including Sheikh ‘Abd Razzaq al-Mahdi, Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini, Sheikh Hani al-Sibai and Abdullah al-Muhaysini, to members of the Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham to mark the fast of Ramadan. The

⁸⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

⁸⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

clerics blessed the fighters in honor of the holiday, expressed support for their determination in fulfilling jihad, wished them success in the battlefield, and more.⁹⁰



Blessings sent by several Salafi-jihadist clerics to members of the Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham in honor of Ramadan

Tavhid va Jihad

- Tavhid va Jihad, an organization composed of Uzbek fighters operating in Syria alongside Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, published a recorded interview with members of the organization. In the video, one member addressed residents of Aleppo, and emphasized that he and his friends had migrated from Uzbekistan to the arena of jihad in Syria in order to defend the Syrian nation from the Assad regime and its allies, and they expressed a willingness to sacrifice their lives for this purpose.⁹¹

Al-Muhajirun

- Al-Muhajirun, a Salafi-jihadist faction in Syria, published a video regarding the destruction wrought by Syrian army forces in the city.⁹²

Jamat Ansar al-Islam

- Jamat Ansar al-Islam published the following:

⁹⁰ <https://justpaste.it/xba8>

⁹¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGFmG7Dv0qA>

⁹² <https://dawaalhaq.com>

- An announcement welcoming the decision by Al-Nusra Front to cut ties with all external bodies and to change its name to Jabhat Fateh al-Sham for the sake of successful jihad against the Syrian regime and unity among the ranks of jihad fighters in Syria.⁹³
- An announcement condemning the siege around the city of Aleppo by the Syrian regime and its allies, and calling on all jihad fighters to work together to break the siege.⁹⁴
- An announcement condemning the execution of several Sunni clerics by the Iranian regime. According to Ansar al-Islam, since appearing on the stage of history, the Shi'ites have been characterized by treason, subversion and the execution of crimes against Sunnis by, among other things, collaborating with their enemies.⁹⁵

Jaysh al-Fatah

- Jaysh al-Fatah published the following:
 - An announcement in which the organization detailed the process by which a cell of five IS members was caught in Idlib. The end of the announcement stated that the organization will continue to protect the safety of the residents in the area and destroy any cell that intends to attack in Idlib.⁹⁶
 - An announcement regarding the battle in Aleppo. According to the announcement, the regime and its allies did not expect the siege on Aleppo to be broken within six days from the start of the battle. It also stated that a new stage had begun in the full conquest of Aleppo and that the number of fighters set to take part in the next battle will be doubled. Later in the announcement, the organization promised security to the residents of Aleppo, both Muslims and Christians, who do not help the regime, and emphasized that the goal of the organization is victory for the oppressed in Syria and the removal of the regime. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on Syrian army soldiers to repent and defect from the army before Syrian faction soldiers reach them.⁹⁷

⁹³ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

⁹⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

⁹⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

⁹⁶ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Co-KzZnWIAAV5T8.jpg>

⁹⁷ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CpSI7f1WgAEruk.jpg>

The Assembly of Al-Sham Scholars

- The Shura Council of the Assembly of Al-Sham Scholars published an announcement in which it called on residents of Hauran in southern Syria to launch their front against the Alawite regime in order to help their brothers fighting in the area of Aleppo and in the coastal region. Later in the announcement, the Shura Council presented commanders in the area of Hauran with an ultimatum according to which they must launch their front within three days or else be dismissed from their posts. At the end of the announcement, the Shura Council called for all of the mujahideen throughout Syria to unite under one leadership.⁹⁸

Ahrar al-Sham

- Ahrar al-Sham published the following:
 - A video clip in which it presented the activities of the dawah center in one of the Christian neighborhoods in the city of Homs.⁹⁹
 - A commander in Jaysh al-Eman, a group belonging to Ahrar al-Sham and operating in Hama, published an announcement regarding the appointment of Abu al-Adham as the organization's military commander.¹⁰⁰
 - Labib al-Nahas, the person responsible for Ahrar al-Sham's foreign relations, was interviewed for *Al-Hayat* newspaper regarding his organization's ties with Jabhat Fateh al-Sham. In the interview, al-Nahas claimed that Al-Nusra Front's split from Al-Qaeda was "a positive step in the fight direction" but added that this step was delayed even though it had been long demanded by Syrian revolutionary factions. He also claimed that the entrance by Jabhat Fateh al-Sham into the national project of the revolution must be everyone's top priority. Nevertheless, al-Nahas emphasized that Jabhat Fateh al-Sham must take practical measures in order to demonstrate that the split is not just organizational. Al-Nahas further claimed that Al-Nusra Front's change did not affect Jaysh al-Fatah since it serves as a military operations room that enables cooperation in

⁹⁸ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CpqKeN9WcAAydUv.jpg>

⁹⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oD2uckqruSM>

¹⁰⁰ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CphVgPcWcAARidT.jpg>

the field between all of the factions fighting against the Alawite regime. Regarding the different views of Ahrar al-Sham and Al-Nusra Front, al-Nahhas noted that it is still difficult to know what the new political outlook of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham will be since it has not yet been formulated, but he claimed that the main difference between Ahrar al-Sham and Al-Nusra is that the former's program was an Islamic program of the Syrian revolution only and did not have any agenda beyond Syria, while Al-Nusra had ties to external parties. Al-Nahhas added that Ahrar al-Sham opened various Islamic schools to serve as diverse sources of authority while Al-Nusra Front focused solely on Salafist jihad or on several people as a single source of authority. Al-Nahhas also noted that Al-Nusra Front was not involved in political activities and was only involved in military action, as opposed to Ahrar al-Sham. Regarding a democratic regime, al-Nahhas claimed that it is currently the most successful regime implemented in the world but that it is not necessarily appropriate for all countries and nations. He added that the next Syrian regime will be based on freedom, will allow the choice of leader and representatives, and will prevent the concentration of power. Regarding the difference between Russian and American intervention, al-Nahhas explained that the US can fill a more positive role in Syria in order to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people but its policies have not implemented this thus far, and therefore it is hurting the Syrian revolution just like Russia. He added that the purpose of the battle in Aleppo is to break the siege on the city and he claimed that it is an important battle since it proves that the regime has ended despite all of the support that it receives from Russia. He emphasized that the battle in Aleppo will change the political map of the conflict in Syria and force the international community to reconsider Assad's role in the political process.¹⁰¹

- The strategic research section of Ahrar al-Sham's political department published the following:
 - An article titled, "The Dialect of the Revolution and the Transition to a State Situation", which included two chapters: The first chapter defined the concept of "revolution", explained its stages, components and causes. This chapter noted that a revolution is usually the result of structural and political issues that exist in the ruling regime that lead

¹⁰¹ <http://www.ahraralsham.net/ar/news/337> (Arabic).

to a desire to replace the existing regime. The second chapter explained the two processes that take place after the revolution stage described in the first chapter – (1) transition; (2) the establishment of a stable state – which conclude with the establishment of a state led by a different regime as a result of the revolution.¹⁰²

- An article titled, “The Structure and Development of Turkey’s Government: Internal Structure, Trends and Foreign Policy”. The article examined Turkey’s foreign policy in the region and its role in several regional crises based on an analysis of the structure of its government institutions that influence decision makers on a geo-political level.¹⁰³

Jaysh al-Islam

- Jaysh al-Islam, an Islamist rebel organization in Syria, published a graph listing the total losses suffered by Assad’s army forces in eastern Ghawta and Qalmoun between May 1, 2016 and July 28, 2016.¹⁰⁴



¹⁰² <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6NDTu6ZCX8LCHVjeEctNGJTNIU/view>

¹⁰³ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

¹⁰⁴ <https://twitter.com/jaishalislam6>

An infographic listing the total losses suffered by Assad's army forces at the hands of Jaysh al-Islam in eastern Ghawta and Qalmoun between May 1, 2016 and July 28, 2016

The Islamic State

- Amaq news agency in Syria published the following:
 - A video regarding the issuing of temporary identification papers for residents of Raqqah. The video explained that the documents are issued for the public by the Personal Status Office, which is subject to the General Police.¹⁰⁵
 - Videos regarding the battles fought against Kurdish militias in Mabij,¹⁰⁶ including the destruction of a bulldozer using a guided missile north of the city.¹⁰⁷
 - A video regarding a shari'a course on the laws of selling that was held for merchants in the city of Raqqah.¹⁰⁸
 - Announcements regarding various operational issues, such as: the killing of five Kurdish militiamen in a motorcycle-bomb explosion in the town of Al-Arisha in northwest Al-Hasaka Province,¹⁰⁹ the killing of six Kurdish unit members in a gun battle in Manbij,¹¹⁰ and an attack by seven IS commandoes (*Inghimasiyun*) against a US barracks in the area of Al-Faruq Dam in Aleppo Province.¹¹¹

¹⁰⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49500>

¹⁰⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48865>

¹⁰⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Co9as89XYAAp8rz.jpg>

¹⁰⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48741>

¹⁰⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Co3j20wXgAAPtCm.jpg>

¹¹⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

¹¹¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49565>



A claim of responsibility for an attack by seven IS fighters against a US barracks in the area of Al-Faruq Dam in Aleppo Province

- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Syria published a wide range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following issues:
 - Battles and Military Deployments:
 - Homs Province: A video titled, “Charges of Redemption”, which documented battles against the Syrian army near the city of Palmyra and the downing of an MI MIL 35 Russian helicopter. The attacks included the dispatch of suicide terrorists in explosive-ridden vehicles to army posts, light and medium arms fire and storming attacks (inghimās). The end of the video documented the weapons that were plundered, the corpses of those killed and the killing of the remaining soldiers.¹¹²
 - Various provinces: Filmed reviews and videos regarding various operational issues, including: battles in northern Manbij against Kurdish forces,¹¹³ battles against the Syrian army southeast of Palmyra,¹¹⁴ a repelled attempt by Jabhat Fateh al-Sham to advance into western Qalmoun,¹¹⁵ a storming attack (inghimās) against the military base of an

¹¹² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49377>

¹¹³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48639>

¹¹⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48661>

¹¹⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48867>

opposition organization along the Syria-Jordan border,¹¹⁶ and documentation of the training undergone by the organization's fighters.¹¹⁷

○ Propaganda and PR:

- Raqqah Province: A video titled, "The Kurds – Between Monotheism and Atheism". The video reviewed the history of the Kurdish people, the various religions in which they believed (including Zoroastrianism, Yezidism and Islam), the hardships suffered by Kurdish Muslims, the proliferation of national and missionary movements that tried to undermine the Islamic values of the Kurdish people, and development of military ties between the Kurds and Israel. The video included a speech by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in which he listed the Islamic heroes of the Kurdish nation, especially Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub. In the video, several Kurdish fighters addressed their countrymen in their language and called on them to join the ranks of the IS. They also made semi-threats against Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the PKK and Masoud Barzani, the President of Iraqi Kurdistan.¹¹⁸



A message to Kurds from Raqqah Province

- Al-Khayr Province: A video titled, "The Demolished Structure", which attacked enemies of the IS in Libya. The title of the video is a word play on the name of the operation, "Solid Structure" [*Al-Bunyan al-Marsus*] that was declared by Libya's

¹¹⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49043>

¹¹⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49547>

¹¹⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49377>

Government of National Accord (GNA) against the organization's stronghold in Sirte. The video explained that since the fall of Gaddafi there are many factions operating in Libya that share the common denominator of hatred for the IS. The main criticism was directed at Libya Dawn in Tripoli Province for adopting the democratic rules of the game, and against the Libyan National Army led by Khalifa Haftar in Raqqah Province. Special criticism was directed against the collaboration between the "secular Haftar" and the Madkhalis, members of a Salafi movement based on the teachings of Saudi cleric, Rabee al-Madkhali. In the video, Egyptian and Tunisian fighters encouraged Muslims in Libya and expressed support for the mujahideen fighting on the front.¹¹⁹



A message from Al-Khayr Province to Muslims in Libya

The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula

The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula

- The IS in the Sinai Peninsula published a video titled, "Flames of the Desert". The video opened by stating that the Islamic Caliphate led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is fighting against its enemies but is mainly devoted to the battle against the Egyptian regime. For example, the Egyptian regime was accused of protecting its borders with Israel and collaborating with the US, the greatest enemy of Islam and Muslims. The video combined clips from a speech given by al-Baghdadi in which he threatened to liberate Palestine from the Jews and to turn it into a cemetery for the Jews. Later in the video, the organization accused al-Sisi's regime of a series of crimes against Muslim residents in the Sinai Peninsula and in Egypt itself, and presented the

¹¹⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49009>

organization's operations against Egyptian security forces.¹²⁰ In response, Egyptian authorities claimed that it was a false propaganda video that took credit for victories against the Egyptian army. According to them, the organization did not reveal that Egyptian forces had succeeded in killing 200 IS fighters two weeks prior to the publication of the video.¹²¹



A clip from the video, “Flames of the Desert”, by the IS in the Sinai Peninsula

- A Palestinian Salafi-jihadist fighter and prominent activist on social networks, Tanih al-Ghazawi, published several statements criticizing Hamas against the backdrop of increased tensions between the organization and Salafi-jihadists in the Gaza Strip in light of a series of arrests carried out against the latter. According to him, Samir al-Madhun, the Head of the Office of the Minister of the Interior, Fathi Hammad, and the one responsible for ties with the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades in the West Bank, is suspected of spying for Fatah's intelligence services in Ramallah. Al-Ghazawi claimed that al-Madhun's appointment was problematic from the start since he was not suited to the sensitive role. He noted that al-Madhun did not act alone and recruited additional people from the office. Al-Ghazawi further mocked Hamas for not noticing that al-Madhun had provided information to Fatah's intelligence services, and he added that the information was used to carry out security coordination with the Jews. Lastly, al-Ghazawi claimed that there are calls to execute al-Madhun for his actions.¹²²

¹²⁰ <https://archive.org/download/Flame840>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48640>

¹²¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48807>

¹²² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/49165>

It was further posted on al-Ghazawi's Facebook page that Hamas's Interior Minister, Fathi Hamad, was under house arrest and being transferred to complete the investigation at Al-Hashashin post, which belongs to the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades in Rafah.¹²³

Nasir Salah al-Din Brigades (Liwa al-Tawhid)

- Al-Buraq jihadist media institution, which belongs to Nasir Salah al-Din Brigades (Liwa al-Tawhid), a Salafi-jihadist group in the Gaza Strip, published a video documenting activities at the Fatiyya Nubala youth camp established by the organization. According to the organization, 130 youth between the ages of 10 and 15 from all Gaza districts participated in the camp activities that took place over a three-day period. These activities included sports games such as swimming, experiential activities and exposure to dawah materials that included, among other things, writings by Sheikh Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab, the founder of the Wahhabi movement in the 18th century.¹²⁴
- Jihad fighters in the Gaza Strip affiliated with the IS published a filmed review regarding the training of fighters with a PK machine gun. The review was published in the framework of a veteran campaign called "Jahizuna" ("Equip Us") – a fundraising campaign launched through various channels in order to purchase weapons and train the organization's fighters.¹²⁵



The training of fighters thanks to donations that were made to The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in the Environs of Jerusalem

¹²³ <https://www.facebook.com/tamehgaza1a/photos/pb.1764099790472995.-2207520000.1472000680./1812282178988089/?type=3&theater>

¹²⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuXvCkhsDs4>

¹²⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48763>

Africa

The Maghreb

In eastern Libya, tensions were renewed in the area of Crescent Petroleum between the Libyan National Army and the oil facilities guards, despite a declaration by an army official according to which the army's advancement in the area is only intended to secure the place and avoid terrorist infiltration.¹²⁶ The battle also continued in the western capital of Tripoli where it was reported that militants from the Tripoli Revolutionaries' Brigade had seized control of several government buildings in the city.¹²⁷ The battles in Sirte against the IS drew most of the attention – during this period US air strikes against IS targets were reported for the first time as was the advancement of unity government forces through their capture of the city.¹²⁸

Violent clashes also continued in Mali, where it was reported that a soldier from the UN Peacekeeping Forces was killed in a landmine explosion in the north of the country. It was also reported that five Malian army soldiers were declared missing following an ambush by Ansar al-Din in central Mali.¹²⁹

Meanwhile, other North African countries continued their counter-terrorism efforts. For instance, Tunisia reported having received armored vehicles from Turkey in order to strengthen security forces operating on the borders,¹³⁰ and in Algeria the alert level was raised on the border for fear of infiltration by IS fighters following US strikes in Libya.¹³¹

Libya

Ansar al-Sharia in Libya

- Al-Raya jihadist media institution, which belongs to Ansar al-Sharia in Libya, published a video titled, “Sacrifice Parade” about the first suicide attack that was carried out in Benghazi in 2011 against Libyan army forces.¹³²

¹²⁶ <http://www.aremnews.com/news/arab-word/541551>

¹²⁷ <https://goo.gl/QklfZH>

¹²⁸ <https://goo.gl/jsu1sN>; <https://goo.gl/2z4KjB>

¹²⁹ <http://www.aremnews.com/news/world/541047>; <https://goo.gl/i5BQ03>

¹³⁰ <http://www.almasryalyoum.com/news/details/991594>

¹³¹ <http://www.aremnews.com/news/arab-word/538386>

¹³² <https://dawaalhaq.com>

The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna

- Al-Sabeel jihadist media institution, which belongs to the Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna, published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the battles waged by the organization’s fighters against Haftar’s forces in the coastal region of Karsa in Derna. According to the organization, the fighters managed to repel an attack by Haftar’s army and to kill 15 soldiers. The organization added that it ended its battle for a period of time in order to allow Haftar’s army to release the civilians that it arrested during the attack.¹³³
 - A threat to take revenge on Haftar and his forces for their series of attacks against the citizens of Derna. According to the organization, its fighters managed to repel an attack by Haftar’s forces in western Derna and vowed to avenge those killed in this attack and in other attacks that were carried out from the air.¹³⁴

The Islamic State

- Ashhad jihadist media institution, which supports the IS, published a number of placards and articles in the framework of a campaign against the “Solid Structure” operation waged by Libya’s unity government forces against the IS in Sirte. Among the publications were the following:¹³⁵
 - A placard regarding Libya’s importance as a gateway to the conquest of Europe and Africa.
 - An article condemning the Sahawat operating in Libya and accusing them of cooperating with the US.
 - Verses in praise of the organization’s fighters in Libya.
- Amaq news agency, which belongs to the IS, published an infographic poster about the city of Sirte. The poster claimed that IS fighters were in control of four neighborhoods in the city and

¹³³ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

¹³⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

¹³⁵ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

that over 820 members of unity government forces had been killed in clashes that were already going on for 72 days.¹³⁶



An infographic about the city of Sirte

- The IS in Tripoli Province published the following:
 - A filmed review regarding the activities of IS sniper units in the city of Sirte in the framework of the battle against Libya Dawn.¹³⁷
 - An announcement regarding dozens of injured and killed among Libya's unity government forces in two suicide attacks in Sirte.¹³⁸
- Supporters of the IS in Libya published a video announcing the upgrade of the "Libya wa Izz al-Khilafa" ("Libya and the Courage of the Caliphate") Telegram channel to a media institution that will be entrusted with the publication of jihadist material regarding the organization as well as proof that the campaigns being waged against the organizations by the Sahawat are false.¹³⁹



¹³⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Cp14tNIWAAEgNiW.jpg>

¹³⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/48925>

¹³⁸ https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Cp6KZ_RWIAAI3tr.jpg

¹³⁹ https://web.telegram.org/#/im?p=c1055009415_15288670416676234383

The logo of the “Libya and the Courage of the Caliphate” media institution

Mali

Ansar al-Din

- The Rimah jihadist media institution, which belongs to Ansar al-Din, published the following:
 - A video in Arabic and English titled, “Prisoners of the Nampala Battle”. In the video, Malian army soldiers who were taken captive by the organization disclosed identifying information about their personal numbers and their role in the Malian army.¹⁴⁰



The video banner

- A claim of responsibility for an attack on two vehicles belonging to Chad soldiers in the Minusama force on August 5, 2016.¹⁴¹
- A claim of responsibility for the explosion of a device placed under a vehicle belonging to Minusama forces in Kidal, Mali, close to a base of the French army and Minusama forces.¹⁴²

Egypt

Al-Murabitun

¹⁴⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

¹⁴¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

¹⁴² <https://dawaalhaq.com>

- Al-Murabitun, a Salafi-jihadist organization supporting Al-Qaeda, published a series of videos about various religious legal issues.¹⁴³

Nigeria

The Islamic State in West Africa

- The IS in West Africa (formerly Boko Haram) published the following:
 - A video that reviewed the organization’s military operations in West Africa. The video combined an interview with one of the organization’s fighters, who called on Muslims living in “infidel countries” to migrate to the area and help in the battle against the corrupt regimes in West Africa. In addition, they appealed to IS fighters in Libya to be patient in preparation for victory over their enemies.¹⁴⁴



A member of the IS in West Africa calling on Muslims to migrate to the area and fulfil jihad

Jama'at Ahl al-Sunnah Lil Dawah Wal Jihad (Boko Haram)

- Jama'at Ahl al-Sunnah Lil Dawah Wal Jihad (originally called Boko Haram) published the following:
 - An audio clip by Abu Bakr Shekau, the leader of the organization and the former leader of the IS in West Africa, in which he explained - against the backdrop of a report in *Al-Naba* about the appointment of Abu Mus'ab al-Barnawi as the current leader of the organization – that he still continues to serve as the head of Jama'at Ahl al-Sunnah Lil Dawah Wal Jihad and that members of the organization are maintaining unity among the ranks. In another video, Abu Bakr Shekau added that Barnawi and his followers lacked a

¹⁴³ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

¹⁴⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

sufficient level of devotion and respect towards Muslims who did not adhere to the faith. He even stressed that he complained about this to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and sent him many letters about the issue but never received a response.¹⁴⁵

- A video titled, “A Message to the Families of the Chibok and FG Girls”.¹⁴⁶

Somalia

During the first half of August, attacks by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen continued in Somalia. In this framework, in the beginning of the month the organization attacked residential areas in the city of Baidoa, which is located west of Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.¹⁴⁷ Meanwhile in Kenya, Al-Shabab fighters attacked a Kenyan army base in Mandera, in northeast Kenya,¹⁴⁸ and a Kenyan army camp in the area of Lamu, in southeast Kenya.¹⁴⁹

In contrast, Somali security forces, with US assistance, carried out two operations in southern Somalia, which killed over 30 Al-Shabab fighters, including senior commanders of the organization. It is not clear if the organization’s leader, Abu Ubaidah, was among those killed in the attack.¹⁵⁰

The Indian Subcontinent

Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for the official publications of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, published the following:
 - A video titled, “Jihadi Memories – Part 12”, which reviewed training camp activities of members of the organization.¹⁵¹
 - A psalm criticizing the Pakistani regime and army in which it called for an armed struggle against them.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

¹⁴⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozAG1ZalRpU>

¹⁴⁷ <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2000211060/al-shabaab-attacks-residential-areas-in-somali-town-of-baidoa;http://africa.tvcnews.tv/2016/08/07/al-shabaab-claims-responsibility-mogadishu-attack/#.V-QFpfB942w> (English).

¹⁴⁸ <http://www.shabellenews.com/2016/08/kenyan-army-base-raided-by-al-shabaab/>

¹⁴⁹ http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2016/08/07/four-gsu-officers-injured-after-al-shabaab-attack-in-lamu-camp_c1399602 (English).

¹⁵⁰ http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-08/14/c_135596794.htm; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201608150549.html>

¹⁵¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

- The Global Islamic Media Front announced the establishment of a new jihadist media institution called, “The Global Islamic Media Front in the Indian Subcontinent”. The announcement stated: “As the jihadi media from the Indian Subcontinent is becoming more prevalent, and the need for da’wa to our brothers and sisters in that region is increasing in importance, the Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF) is pleased to give the glad tidings of the founding of GIMF Subcontinent.” It also stated that the new media institution will include Al-Qadisiyyah and GIMF Bangla Team, and will be entrusted with the official publications of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent as well as other jihadist organizations, in Arabic, Bengali, English, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil and more.¹⁵³



The banner announcing the establishment of the new GIMF Subcontinent media institution

Iran

- Ansar al-Furqan published an announcement criticizing Iran for its persecution of the Sunni minority in Iran, Balochistan, Kurdistan, and the Ahwaz region in southern Iran. According to the announcement, these crimes – which are manifested in the torture and execution of Sunni clerics and residents – will not be ignored and will be met with revenge attacks against military and economic institutions in Iranian territory.¹⁵⁴

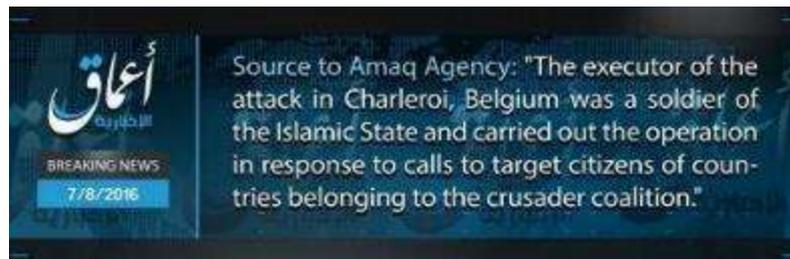
¹⁵² <https://justpaste.it/ams0001>

¹⁵³ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

¹⁵⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

The West

- Amaq news agency, which belongs to the IS, published an announcement according to which the perpetrator of the machete attack that was carried out against two police officers in Charleroi, Belgium, was “a soldier of the Islamic State [who] carried out the operation in response to calls to target citizens of countries belonging to the crusader coalition”.¹⁵⁵



The claim of responsibility for the attack in Belgium

- Amaq news agency, which belongs to the IS, and Al-Nusra Al-Maqdisiyya, which is involved in publicity for the organization, claimed responsibility for the planning of an attack by a Canadian citizen named Aaron Driver, who swore allegiance to the IS and, under its inspiration, planned to detonate two bombs in an airport or commercial center in the country but was killed by Canadian police following a police chase. According to the media institution, Driver’s recorded last will and testament that included threats against Canada had been sent to the organization.¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CpSFoGCUkAA9TYF.jpg>

¹⁵⁶ https://web.telegram.org/#/im?p=@ZRA_911



A photo of Aaron Driver

- Al-Wa'd jihadist media institution which is involved in publicity for the IS, published a video in which it threatened to attack western countries, especially France, in response to their participation in the battle against the organization. The video opened with a call by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi to Muslims around the world to initiate revenge attacks in the West. The video also included French verses encouraging lone wolf attacks on French soil.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁷ <https://web.telegram.org/#/im?p=@Bushrayat3>

ABOUT THE ICT

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

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