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ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group **PERIODIC REVIEW**

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The First Half of September 2015

Highlights

This report summarizes notable events discussed on jihadist Web forums during the first half of September 2015. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- Sheikh **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, the leader of **Al-Qaeda**, re-emerges in the media through a new series of videos titled, “The Islamic Spring”. Among the topics raised is his willingness to cooperate with the Islamic State against enemy coalition forces in the region, albeit with reservations and without recognizing the Islamic Caliphate led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. He also details, at length, Al-Qaeda’s strategy in the internal and external arenas.
- **The Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan** admits to having concealed the death of its former leader, **Mullah Omar**, for a period of two years, explaining that 2013 was a decisive year in the organization’s struggle against foreign powers. In honor of the appointment of the new leader of the Emirate, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, his biography is published. Many members of Mullah Omar’s family, as well as many other Muslims in Afghanistan, swear allegiance to the new emir, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor.
- **Abdullah al-Shami**, a member of **Al-Nusra Front**’s Shura Council, attacks the Turkish government and notes that it does not intend to fight against the Islamic State, but rather it intends to intervene in the area north of Aleppo in order to prevent the establishment of a Kurdish state along the southern border with Turkey. In light of this, he explains that Al-Nusra Front has decided not to continue its military involvement in the area north of Aleppo.
- **The Islamic State** launches a new series of videos regarding the issuing of the gold dinar in various IS provinces. IS media institutes in the majority of provinces in Iraq and Syria publish videos in which the gold dinar is presented to local residents who welcome the initiative. Most of the messages in these videos focus on highlighting the gold dinar’s supremacy over the American dollar, which is made of paper, and expressing hope that the new Islamic currency will weaken the global economy.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula** publishes a new issue of the English-language magazine, *INSPIRE*, in which it calls on Muslims in the West to continue the wave of lone-wolf terrorist attacks, such as the attacks against the French magazine, *Charlie Hebdo*. In addition, it calls on Muslims in the West to assassinate high-ranking military, financial and political figures, and

provided operative advice in order to implement it.

- **The Islamic State** publishes a new issue of the English-language magazine, *DABIQ*. Among the various articles is a ransom demand for the release of a Chinese prisoner and a Norwegian prisoner being held captive by the organization.

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New Publications

Ideology

- Ahead of the anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, the official jihadist media institution of **Al-Qaeda**, Al-Sahab, announced the launch of a series of audio clips including an interview with **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, the leader of the organization, regarding the “Islamic Spring”. In the first audio clip, which was published on September 9, 2015, al-Zawahiri explained his intention to discuss the achievements of the “Islamic Spring” as an important element in realizing the vision of jihadist groups, which includes toppling several tyrannical Arab regimes. Nevertheless, he noted that this topic would be raised in upcoming issues and that the first part of the series is dedicated to the following points:
 1. An appeal to Muslims regarding the importance of focusing their efforts on curbing Israel’s attempt to Judaize Jerusalem and destroy Al-Aqsa Mosque. According to him, Syria is the gateway to the conquest of Palestine and, therefore, unity must be preserved among the ranks of the mujahideen.
 2. A eulogy in memory of Mukhtar Abu al-Zubayr, the leader of the Somali Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, well-wishes to the new emir of the organization, Abu ‘Ubayda Ahmad ‘Umar, and a call on Muslims in East Africa to continue their plan to implement shari’a in the region.
 3. A eulogy in memory of Muhammad al-Bahawi, the leader of Ansar al-Shari’a in Libya.
 4. An expression of thanks to Abu Nasir al-Wuhayshi, al-Zawahiri’s deputy and the leader of AQAP (who was killed in 2015) and to Abu Musa’b al-Wudud, the leader of AQIM, for their efforts to end the rift and fighting among jihadist groups in Syria and Iraq.
 5. Criticism of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi’s conduct and his disregard of pressing issues in conflict areas, such as the Gaza Strip, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
 6. An expression of willingness to cooperate with the IS, without recognizing or granting legitimacy to the caliphate that was established by the organization and its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. It included an appeal to al-Baghdadi to extinguish the flames of conflict between the two organizations and to focus on the true enemy, such as the French enemy in the Maghreb, the Pakistani regime, etc.

7. Praise for the activities of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, including two maritime terrorist attacks that were carried out against Pakistani and American vessels.
8. Gratitude to Abu Muhammad al-Daghistani, Emir of the Islamic Caucasus Emirate (who was killed after al-Zawahiri's announcement), Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, Abu Qatada al-Filastini, Hani al-Sibai, Tariq Halim and other Salafi-jihadist sages for the honorable place they give him in leading global jihad and their support for him.
9. A call on the mujahideen to act for the release of Muslim prisoners being held in jails in the West or in jails run by Shi'ites or by dictator regimes such as Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Lebanon, Iraq, Somalia and others. For example, he mentioned Sheikh 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, who is imprisoned in a jail in the United States, as a top priority for release. This should be accomplished through the kidnapping of foreigners and negotiations for prisoner exchanges. He also praised Al-Nusra Front in this context.¹

In the second audio clip, al-Zawahiri emphasized that all ideologies imported from the West, such as secularism, nationalism and rule of the people, have failed while Islam has arisen as the true and reigning religion. He noted that devoted mujahideen and preachers are obligated to explain the divine message to Muslims that the path of jihad and dawah is the only correct path according to the Quran. Al-Zawahiri emphasized that the mujahideen and preachers must agree on two other issues as well:

1. Jihad and dawah activists fighting to implement the words of Allah must be careful not to declare *takfir* on all Muslims and not to banish them from the Muslim community if there is any doubt.
2. The establishment of the Islamic Caliphate was done in an agreed-upon manner and not through the bloodshed of Muslims. Preachers devoted to Allah must clarify what constitutes a legally-established caliphate, and the difference between it and a caliphate established in sin and illegally. The destiny of any illegally-established caliphate or one that deviates from the path of the Prophet Muhammad is to collapse, as did the caliphate in the first quarter of the 20th century.

¹ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic); For further details see: "Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri's Return to the Media Scene", *JWMG Desk*, September 10, 2015. <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1465/Sheikh-Ayman-al-Zawahiris-Return-to-the-Media-Scene>.

Al-Zawahiri went on to emphasize that the Muslim Nation has been educated to experience the spirit of jihad, and many of its children see fit to take part in the “jihad awakening”. Al-Zawahiri further emphasized that the Muslim Nation is currently facing a campaign of assault by the Crusaders, Shi’ites, Alawites and secular groups, especially in Iraq and Syria, in “a war against Islam in the name of a war on terror”. In light of this, al-Zawahiri called on the mujahideen in Syria and Iraq to unite against this threat but he clarified that this call did not signify approval for the caliphate established by al-Baghdadi, since it was established illegally. He emphasized that this strategic partnership is not sustainable as long as IS fighters are waging a false PR war against the mujahideen by classifying them as false Muslims motivated by foreign agendas or as infidels whose blood must be spilled. According to him, a partnership between all mujahideen is immeasurably important even if members of other jihadist organizations do not recognize the legitimacy of the IS and the caliphate that it illegally established. Following this introduction, al-Zawahiri noted that he intended to focus on more practical aspects in the local and foreign arenas:

- Foreign arena: According to Al-Zawahiri it is of great importance that every Muslim attacks Western countries, since Western countries are leading the Crusader campaign and other countries are obeying them. Therefore, “if we strike the head, then the wings and the body will fall. If the war reaches the stronghold areas of the greatest criminals, then they will end the war and re-think their policies”. Al-Zawahiri explained that, at the current stage, the focus should be on moving the battle to Western countries, especially the United States. According to him, the West must be taught a lesson in response to its military involvement in the Middle East and that it should suffer serious consequences for its aggressive policies. He claimed that Muslim youth are tired and hurting from the images of death and destruction in Afghanistan, Palestine, Yemen and other Muslim countries. He added that this trend begets feelings of vengeance among Muslim youth who want to carry out suicide attacks and, therefore, it is better for young Muslims to carry out suicide attacks in economic and industrial centers in Western countries. According to him, suicide attacks today do not need to be carried out only with explosive devices, but can use

other means as well, including non-traditional explosive devices. Al-Zawahiri mentioned several lone terrorists who carried out suicide attacks in the West without using explosives, such as Mohammed Merah, the terrorist from Toulouse, as well as the terrorists who carried out the attacks at the French *Charlie Hebdo* magazine in Paris. Al-Zawahiri emphasized that Muslims living in the West do not have to immigrate to arenas of jihad, but rather may consider their neighbourhood in the West as an arena of jihad on which to focus. He advised using propaganda materials previously published by Al-Qaeda, such as the video “Fight for the Sake of Allah – Do Not Count on Anyone but Yourself” (a video that was published approximately three years ago that called for “lone wolf” attacks), or issues of the English-language magazine, *INSPIRE*, which were published by AQAP. In this context, al-Zawahiri praised Muslims living in the West for fulfilling the obligation of jihad while using simple weapons against the Zionists.

- Internal arena: Al-Zawahiri called on the mujahideen living in Iraq and Syria to cooperate with and help one another “until the two territories become one arena of battle and one arena of jihad”. Nevertheless, he recognized the difficulty in formulating a partnership between the mujahideen due to the crisis of trust and the rift that was created as a result of the establishment of the caliphate headed by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Therefore, it is incumbent on all of the mujahideen to work to correct the situation and to restore security as quickly as possible to the two warring camps. They must also remember that they face a common enemy and must take part in jihad against the Crusader, Shi’ite and secular campaign being waged against Iraq and Syria. In order to achieve this, the following conditions must be imposed:
 - A. An immediate end to the fighting between mujahideen groups.
 - B. An end to propaganda calling for attacks against Muslims and mujahideen who do not fit into the worldview of a certain jihadist group. Al-Zawahiri repeatedly emphasized the importance of maintaining unity among the ranks of the mujahideen and explained that the civil war between them

seriously harms jihad efforts against the common enemy. According to him, in the past, most jihad group swore allegiance or demonstrated loyalty to Mullah Omar, leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan, and to Al-Qaeda. This was the case until al-Baghdadi and his friends renounced their oath of allegiance to Al-Qaeda and began to lead astray many mujahideen through its illegal establishment of a caliphate.

- C. The establishment of an independent religious court to preside over Iraq and Syria to be binding upon all of the mujahideen in those areas. Without such a court, any cooperation could remain uncertain and not even be implemented. Al-Zawahiri also noted that he supported the initiative of Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a senior Salafi-jihadist ideologue in Jordan who supports al-Zawahiri, and of other Salafi-jihadists sheikhs, including Abu Qatada al-Filistini, to make peace between the mujahideen and get them to cooperate with one another, but it failed.
- D. A call on jihad supporters and Muslims to help bring about peace and reconciliation between the mujahideen and get them to turn a new page by cooperating with one another and setting their disagreements aside.
- E. The cooperation initiative should be applied in every field, such as caring for the wounded, redeeming captives, providing food and supplies, joint military operations, and more.

Al-Zawahiri then emphasized that it is absolutely forbidden to spill the blood of innocent Muslims. According to him, even if an emir or another Salafi-jihadist leader makes a direct command to kill Muslims or steal their property, claiming that they do not fit in with his worldview, his command must be ignored. The mujahideen must remember that their purpose is to preserve the sanctity of Muslim lives.

Al-Zawahiri concluded by addressing the military operation carried out by the Pakistani army in Waziristan during which innocent Muslim civilians were killed. According to him, Waziristan is currently experiencing a serious humanitarian crisis due to the persecutory policies of the Pakistani regime,

which is following US orders. Al-Zawahiri praised the mujahideen fighting in Waziristan as well as the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan for its consistent battle against the Crusader conquerors.²



The banner of al-Zawahiri's speech

- The jihadist media institution of AQAP, Al-Malahim, published an audio clip titled, “Laws of *Hisba* (intervention in the life of another person who has committed a transgression against God or people) in Islam” by Sheikh Abu ‘Abdallah al-Mubarak, a member of the organization.³
- The Nukhbat al-Fikr media group, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda, published an article titled, “Exploring [the Issue of] the Prohibition of Burning [People]” by Sheikh Abu al-Mundhir al-Shinqiti, a senior Salafi-jihadist ideologue. In the article, al-Shinqiti analyzed a ruling that was attributed to the IS, which permits the burning of people alive. Al-Shinqiti ruled that, based on holy sources, there is no reason in Islam to justify the burning of people alive.⁴
- Al-Himma publishing house, which is entrusted with publishing PR materials for the IS, published a pamphlet regarding morning prayers,⁵ as well as a pamphlet titled, “Ten Issues of

² <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

³ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵ https://archive.org/details/Azkar_1

Faith that Muslims Must Not Ignore and Must learn From”, such as types of heresy in Islam.⁶

Strategy

- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum published “Ten Tips” for jihad supporters by a writer calling himself “the technological man” of the Islamic State”. Among other things, the writer advised visitors not to trust anyone online, to improve encryption and programming skills, and to support the mujahideen not only by publishing news but also by designing placards, etc.⁷

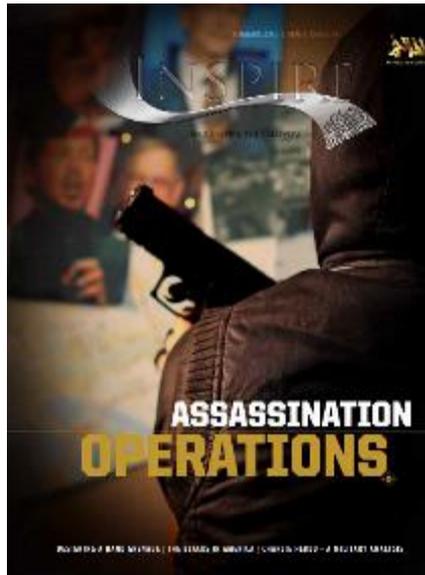
Magazines

- The jihadist media institution of AQAP, Al-Malahim, published issue no. 14 of the English-language magazine, *INSPIRE*. Among the topics raised in the current issue: racist policies of oppression against black people by white people; encouragement for lone wolf attacks against Western targets; an analysis of the attack against the French satirical magazine, *Charlie Hebdo*; the weakening of the United States’ economic strength as part of the war against it; a call to assassinate senior security, military, political and economic figures in the West, such as Bill Gates, as well as operative advice on how to carry out such assassinations; a guidebook on how to build a ticking time bomb; and more.⁸

⁶ https://archive.org/details/Ms2_0

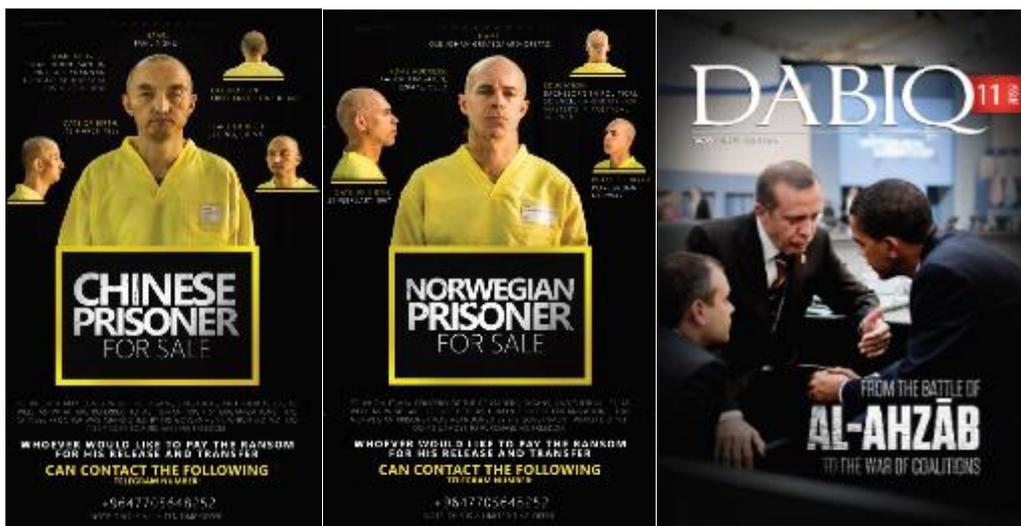
⁷ <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

⁸ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).



The issue banner

- Issue no. 11 of the Islamic State’s English-language magazine, *DABIQ*. Among the topics raised in the current issue: an article criticizing the allies of Al-Qaeda in Syria; the redeemer (*Mahdi*) in Shia Islam; an article criticizing migration from Islamic territories to the West; an article praising brotherhood between Muslims regardless of race in contrast to the prevailing racism in the United States; and more. In addition to the various articles, it also published a ransom demand for the release of a Chinese prisoner and a Norwegian prisoner being held captive by the organization.⁹



⁹ https://archive.org/details/Dabiq11_201509

From left to right: The Chinese prisoner, the Norwegian prisoner, the issue banner

- Ahrar al-Sham published issue no. 2 of the magazine, *Rabi' al-Sham*.¹⁰



The banner of the issue of Rabi' al-Sham

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

During the first half of September 2015, the Taliban in Afghanistan continued to carry out attacks against security forces. On September 14, Taliban fighters attacked the main jail in Ghazni using a car bomb and RPG fire, stormed the prison and freed the prisoners, some of whom were members of the organization.¹¹ In addition, internal struggles continued within the Taliban in Afghanistan as a result of the appointment of Mullah Akhtar Mansoor following the death of Mullah Omar. The son of Mullah Omar, Mohammad Yaqoob, published a recording according to which his father died as a result of a disease from natural causes and was not killed in an attack against him. He also stated that his father did not appoint an heir. Mullah Omar's brother, Abdul Manan Akhunda, also rejected the rumor according to which Mullah Omar's family had agreed to the

¹⁰ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹ <http://goo.gl/uQq5Ww>

appointment of Mansoor as his heir.¹² Nevertheless, both Mullah Omar's son and brother, as well as the rest of his family, swore allegiance later in the month to the new Emir of the Faithful, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor.¹³ There are those who claim that the two men were forced to swear allegiance to Mullah Mansoor in order to prevent a rift in the organization and the defection of its members to the Islamic State.

Meanwhile, in Pakistan, security forces continued to strike against the Taliban in Pakistan. In September, the Pakistani army announced that a locally made drone had bombed the hideout of three gunmen in Waziristan, in northern Pakistan, an area where the organization's bases are located.¹⁴

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the following:
 - A condemnation of the murder of 14 civilians by gunmen in Balkh Province. The announcement called on the Afghan Nation to be alert to the enemy's schemes, not to be influenced by propaganda, and to distinguish the truly guilty and take a stand against them. At the end of the announcement, it stated that the Islamic Emirate would invest effort in tracking down the above-mentioned criminals and punishing them according to shari'a.¹⁵
 - An announcement in honor of the 14th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks. The announcement stated that the US exploited the events of 9/11 in order to invade Afghanistan leading to the awakening of jihad, which struck strong blows to the US and caused heavy losses among the Americans who invaded Afghanistan over a period of 14 years. The announcement later stated that, as a result of the invasion of Afghanistan, the US lost its position as leader of the world and its military strength was called into question, so it is now learning that it must speak to its enemies in a language

¹² <http://goo.gl/pTI8BN>

¹³ <http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2015/09/mullah-omars-brother-and-son-swear-allegiance-to-new-taliban-emir.php> (English).

¹⁴ <http://goo.gl/d5suf6>

¹⁵ <http://shahamat-english.com/remarks-of-spokesman-of-islamic-emirate-regarding-killing-of-14-civilians-in-balkh/> (English).

of peace and security instead of force. The announcement added that if the US continues its aggressive policies for the sake of its colonialist goals, then the nations of the world will wake up and confront it. At the end of the announcement, the Islamic Emirate accused those who attribute the jihad struggle in Afghanistan to other countries, and added that only the “Islamic Emirate” is leading jihad in Afghanistan and that jihad will continue until its liberation from US occupation.¹⁶

- An extensive biography about the new Emir of the Faithful, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor. In the biography, the organization admitted that it had concealed the death of its previous leader, Mullah Omar, for two years since 2013 was a decisive year in the organization’s struggle against foreign powers. The biography began with a description of Mullah Akhtar Mansoor as the person who took care of the organization’s leadership matters even during Mullah Omar’s life when he served as his deputy. In addition, it noted that he took part in the mujahideen’s struggle against the Soviets and was wounded twice in battles with the organization’s enemies. The biography added that Mullah Akhtar Mansoor served as the Aviation and Tourism Minister during the period when the organization ruled the country and during which he brought about the aircraft fleet renewal and the rehabilitation of airports in Afghanistan. In addition, the biography praised the character of Mullah Akhtar Mansoor and described him as a military commander who possesses natural leadership and guidance capabilities, and added details about the austere lifestyle that he leads. Regarding Mansoor’s appointment as leader of the organization, the biography claimed that it was done in a legitimate and acceptable manner according to shari’a. It also stated that he would follow in the footsteps of his predecessor, Mullah Omar.¹⁷
- An announcement according to which the family of Mullah Omar - including his son, Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, and his brother, Mullah Abdul Manan – swore allegiance to the new Emir of the Faithful, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, after meeting with him as well as with religious scholars and other senior Taliban in Afghanistan officials. In addition, in a

¹⁶<http://shahamat-english.com/statement-of-islamic-emirate-regarding-the-fourteenth-year-of-september-11-incident/> (English).

¹⁷<http://shahamat-english.com/introduction-of-the-newly-appointed-leader-of-islamic-emirate-mullah-akhtar-mohammad-mansur-may-allah-safeguard-hi/> (English).

published announcement, Mullah Omar’s son called on all those who, until now, have avoided swearing allegiance to Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, to swear allegiance to him.¹⁸ This announcement came one day after Mullah Omar’s son published a recording according to which his father did had not appointed a successor.

The Taliban in Pakistan

- The Taliban in Pakistan called on Muslims in Burma to wage jihad against the Pakistani regime due to its persecutory policies against its Muslim citizens.¹⁹

The Islamic State in Khurasan Province

- The Islamic State in Khurasan Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “The Promised Caliphate”. In the video, a senior commander in the organization praised the Islamic Caliphate led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and called on Muslims to adhere to it and to help it in any way possible. According to him, enemies of Islam – including the US and its allies, such as the Afghan regime – are making great efforts to weaken Islam and act against Muslims. In light of this, he emphasized that every Muslim must act against the enemies of Islam.²⁰



A clip from the video

¹⁸ <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁹ <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

²⁰ https://ia601502.us.archive.org/19/items/klfmda_HD/

- A video containing blessings from the leader of the IS in Khorasan Province in honor of the oath of allegiance to the IS taken by members of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. The video then documented the beheading of an Afghan soldier by sword.²¹

The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan

- The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan published a statement in which it clarified that since its members swore allegiance to the IS, feelings of antagonism have increased between IS fighters in Khorasan Province and jihad fighters loyal to the Taliban in Zabil Province. According to the statement, Taliban fighters suggested three alternatives: swear allegiance to Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, the leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan; leave Afghanistan; or surrender your weapons. The movement noted that most residents of the province expressed support for the IS and are not influenced by propaganda from the Taliban in Afghanistan.²²

The Arabian Peninsula

In Yemen, the civil war continued to claim many lives. Houthi militias managed to strike a hard blow to Arab alliance forces after launching a rocket at an arsenal belonging to the latter in Marib Province. As a result, dozens of soldiers, including Saudi soldiers, were killed and several Apache helicopters and armored vehicles were destroyed. Arab coalition planes also carried out a massive bombardment against Houthi rebel strongholds, killing dozens of Houthis. In addition, Arab coalition forces deepened their military presence in preparation for battle in the city of Sana'a.²³ A Saudi victory in Sana'a would increase Saudi Arabia's warning capabilities and place the Houthis in an uncomfortable position.

Against the backdrop of the civil war in Yemen, AQAP continued to gain power. The organization's media propaganda concerning the threat posed by Houthi militias to the future of Yemen played into their hands and reinforced its position in the war-torn country. The

²¹ <https://shamikh1.biz/vb> (Arabic).

²² <https://justpaste.it/ngk8>

²³ <http://www.haaretz.co.il/news/world/middle-east/.premium-1.2724477> (Hebrew).

organization's control in Al-Mukala, via the local council, indicates the organization's efforts to strengthen its rule in the field by strengthening its ties with the civilian population.²⁴

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, published the following:
 - A statement in which it denied any connection to the recent series of assassinations in the city of Aden. According to the organization, these rumors were part of a false propaganda campaign designed to tarnish the name of AQAP by its opponents.²⁵
 - An interview with Sa'd bin 'Atif al-'Awlaqi, a senior AQAP commander, regarding the war in Yemen. He opened the interview by thanking AQAP fighters who are taking part in the battle against enemies of Islam, and called on the Yemeni people to unite under the banner of Islam and implement shari'a.²⁶



The interview banner

Iraq

During the first week of September, the battle continued between Iraqi security forces and IS fighters in Al-Anbar Province as hundreds of Sunni tribal members from Al-Anbar Province, who were trained by the US, joined the Iraqi security forces in their battle against the IS in the area.²⁷ However, it should be noted that the joining of Sunni tribes to the warring Shi'ite militias does not

²⁴ <http://www.criticalthreats.org/yemen/zimmerman-aqap-resurgent-threat-september-11-2015> (English).

²⁵ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁶ <https://justpaste.it/TopiY>

²⁷ <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/09052015> (English).

indicate a merger between them, but rather a battle against a common enemy.²⁸ In addition, Iraqi Air Force commander, Anwar Hama Amin, said at a press conference that Iraq had begun to attack IS targets using F-16 planes supplied by the US. He added that the Iraqi army had carried out 15 air strikes against the IS in four days using these planes, especially in Salah al-Din and Kirkuk Provinces.²⁹

The Islamic State – Al-Furat Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Furat Province published the following:
 - A video regarding the launch of the Islamic State’s gold coin in the province. Several members of the organization appeared in the video and explained the need for the gold currency in order to “defeat the infidel financially” and in order to return to the golden age of the ancestors (Al-Salaf). The video also showed residents of the province involved in gold crafting and the sale of jewellery, who emphasized the priority of using gold and silver coins rather than bills made of paper.³⁰



The continued propaganda of the Islamic State’s “gold dinar” in Al-Furat Province

- A video encouraging fighters involved in ribat (the defense of Muslim lands) in Aleppo Province. The video showed three armed IS gunmen led by a fighter who encouraged the organization’s fighters in Aleppo Province in Syria and congratulated them on their victories. The second part of the video documented an attack against an Iraqi army post

²⁸ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/09/sunni-tribes-join-fight-isil-iraq-150905134251217.html> (English).

²⁹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2015/09/06/iraq-has-finally-started-using-the-f-16-fighter-jet-in-combat-operations/> (English).

³⁰ https://archive.org/details/upisdarat_tutanota_201509

using an explosives-ridden car driven by a suicide terrorist and a bomb planted near another military convoy. It should be noted that at several points in the video, a multicopter drone (floating camera) was used to document both the gunmen and the targets of the attack.³¹



Use of an airborne camera to gather intelligence on attack targets

- A video titled, “Those Who Sell Themselves for Allah”. In the video, a fighter of Moroccan origin named Abu Usamah al-Maghribi encouraged Muslims around the world to perform “hijra” to IS territories, and specifically addressed the people of Morocco whom he called upon to join the IS, especially engineers, doctors, and military personnel and administration. Another message was addressed to “the clerics who stray”, including Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi who spoke out against the IS and threatened that the IS would invade Jordan. Al-Maghribi carried out his suicide attack using a car bomb against a Sahawat post in the town of Barawna.³²
- A video regarding the training of a new cycle at one of the organization’s training camps. The video reviewed the various training exercises at the camp, including physical training, weapons use, urban warfare, building penetration, and more.³³

The Islamic State – Nineveh Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Nineveh Province published the following:

³¹ <https://archive.org/details/Al.Furat.H.D>

³² <https://archive.org/details/Ba23in-001>

³³ https://archive.org/details/madadmoaskrit_2_201509

- A video titled, “Angering the Infidels with the Return of the Dinar”, which showed members of the organization presenting the metal coins issued by the IS to residents of the province and distributing CD’s containing the video produced under the title, “The Return of the Gold Dinar”. The video presented the gold coin as superior to the American dollar, which is made of “worthless paper”, and as a source of economic independence for the IS.³⁴
- A video titled, “Land Builders”, which was divided into two parts: The first part dealt with the organization’s military operations in the province and its seizure of sites from Kurdish forces, and the second part described in greater detail the civilian operations carried out by the organization in the province, especially via the “Ministry of Services” that it operates. The civilian projects reviewed in the video included the renovation and construction of mosques, the repair of roads and electrical lines, the establishment of markets and shopping centers for women, etc.³⁵
- A video regarding the activities of the Ministry of Control and Supervision”, which belongs to the Hisbah department in the province (the body responsible for maintaining public order and morality). The video showed members of the organization carrying out inventory of products in supermarkets, examining food in restaurants and butcher shops, checking the quality of petrol, inspecting the weights and measurements in markets, and more. The video explained that Hisbah officials destroy rotten items in order to prevent them from harming the Muslim public in the province.³⁶



Hisbah officials checking products in a supermarket in the province

³⁴ <https://archive.org/details/igaza-001>

³⁵ <https://archive.org/details/Ninawa.O.E>

³⁶ https://archive.org/details/raqaba_nenwa

The Islamic State – Al-Anbar Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Anbar Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “They Demolished their Houses with their Own Hands”, which showed two men accused of activities against the Islamic State, including intelligence gathering for the Iraqi army or of membership in the Shi’ite Popular Mobilization Forces. At the end of the video, the two men were seated in an abandoned building and executed by the explosion of a device that was placed next to them.³⁷



The IS in Al-Anbar Province – the execution of accused spies using explosive material

- A video documenting the organization’s attacks in the province against Iraqi army posts, which included the use of two suicide terrorists of Egyptian and Moroccan descent using explosives-ridden armored vehicles. It should be noted that some of the attacks were filmed from the vantage point of the shooter in a style reminiscent of computer action games (first-person shooter). As is customary with the organization’s publications, the end of the video showed the corpses of those killed as well as the vehicles that were taken as plunder.³⁸

The Islamic State – Kirkuk Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Kirkuk Province published the following:
 - Another video reviewing the issuing of the gold dinar and its presentation to residents in the province. The video’s contents and messages were similar to those that appeared in

³⁷ <https://archive.org/details/Al.Anbar.Y.B.A>

³⁸ <https://archive.org/details/nasfo-0001>

videos released by the Islamic State’s media agencies in Nineveh, Al-Furat and Al-Janub Provinces.³⁹

- A video regarding the battles in the Ajeel and Allas oil fields. The video documented attacks against “Popular Mobilization Forces” posts using Kornet anti-tank missiles and a 23mm Very-Heavy Sniper Rifle.⁴⁰



Battles between the IS and Popular Mobilization Forces in Kirkuk Province

- A video titled, “Now, Now the Time for Battle has Come”. The video provided a historical review of the Islamic State’s war against Shi’ite and American forces in Iraq. The video showed photos from battles accompanied by narration explaining the Islamic State’s fighting tactics in Iraq, including: intelligence gathering using skimmers (airborne cameras), the dispatching of suicide terrorists, and the use of “armored hunters” who operate explosive devices and launch anti-tank RPG’s. The video ended with a clip from a speech by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in which he encouraged fighters in Kirkuk Province to continue their struggle against coalition forces and their allies.⁴¹

The Islamic State – Saladin Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Saladin Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “The Steadfast Fortress of Baiji”. The video documented some of the battles in the area of the city of Baiji, included threats against the Iraqi army and Shi’ite militias, and encouraged the mujahideen who sent the organization’s fighters found in

³⁹ <https://archive.org/details/dinar-K-001>

⁴⁰ <https://archive.org/details/sair-001>

⁴¹ <https://archive.org/details/alaaan.jaa.alqital-001>

the city. Towards the end of the video, photos were shown of the fighters killed in the suicide attacks in Baiji, as well the vehicles that were plundered in the framework of the attack.⁴²

- A video regarding battles between the IS, and the Iraqi army and Popular Mobilization Forces in the outskirts of the city of Samarra. The attacks by the IS included heavy weapon fire (including anti-aircraft), the launch of rockets, and the dispatch of a suicide terrorist in an armored vehicle laden with explosives. The end of the video showed the withdrawal of Iraqi army soldiers away from the IS and reviewed the weapons that were taken as plunder in the framework of the attack.⁴³

The Islamic State – Al-Faluja Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Faluja Province published the following:
 - Chapters 3-4 in a video series titled, “Knights of Victory”, which documented the organization’s battles against Iraqi army forces in factories and outposts in eastern Fallujah. The videos showed that the attacks included intelligence gathering using skimmers (airborne cameras) alongside small and heavy arms fire, and the launch of rockets. The videos combined clips from speeches by Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi and Abu Umar al-Baghdadi that emphasized the bravery of IS fighters and presented Iraqi soldiers as cowards retreating from the scene of battle.⁴⁴



The IS takeover of an industrial area in eastern Fallujah

⁴² <https://archive.org/details/biji-0122>

⁴³ <https://archive.org/details/thbbbaat.laaa.trajoo3>

⁴⁴ <https://archive.org/details/fo0orsaannaseer0o03>; <https://archive.org/details/fursaan-0004>

- Another video regarding the issuing of the gold dinar in the province and displaying it to residents. This video also presented the coin as the first step in bringing about the downfall of the dollar and the collapse of the US economy.⁴⁵

The Islamic State – Dijla Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Dijla Province published the following:
 - A video including testimony from former Iraqi army soldiers who defected and joined the IS. The soldiers said that they arrived at the Islamic State’s “Offices of Repentance” in order to defect from the army and then they joined the organization after a one-year probation period. The video ended with a call on other Sunni soldiers to leave the army and join the IS.⁴⁶



A former Iraqi army soldier who joined the IS

- Another video regarding the issuing of the gold dinar and the distribution of publications on the matter to residents of the province.⁴⁷

The Islamic State – Al-Jazira Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Jazira Province published the following:
 - A video regarding the Abu Issa training camp that operates in the province and provides physical training, shooting instruction and military tactics (including breaking into

⁴⁵ <https://archive.org/details/amsar-001>

⁴⁶ <https://archive.org/details/huda-001>

⁴⁷ <https://archive.org/details/3awda-D-0001>

buildings) as well as shari'a studies. A fighter of Azeri origin explained the schedule in the camp.⁴⁸



An IS training camp in Al-Jazira Province

The Islamic State – Al-Janub Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Janub Province published the following:
 - Another video in praise of the gold dinar in which residents of the province were interviewed and expressed their joy over the issuing of the dinar, which was described as a step that will strengthen the IS and weaken the global economy.⁴⁹
 - A video documenting IS attacks against Iraqi army posts in the province. The attacks were carried out using small and medium arms, and then the posts were set on fire.⁵⁰

Al-Sham [The Levant]

The Syrian people gained a temporary reprieve from the fighting due to a sand cloud that covered the country for several days.⁵¹ Nevertheless, by mid-September there were already reports of over 80 people killed during a six-day battle near Damascus between regime and opposition forces.⁵² In Aleppo, in northern Syria, 47 gunmen were reported killed in battles between the IS and other Islamic factions.⁵³ Other battles took place between IS fighters and the Syrian army near the Deir Ezzor military airport in eastern Syria.⁵⁴

⁴⁸ <https://archive.org/details/MuaskarAbulsa-01>

⁴⁹ <https://archive.org/details/AboutDinar-0001>

⁵⁰ <https://archive.org/details/Qatlohum-001>

⁵¹ <http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=400212>

⁵² <http://goo.gl/lc0mf7>

⁵³ <http://goo.gl/PTQXA1>

⁵⁴ <https://goo.gl/SGLq6E>

In the political arena, Iran and Russia continued to express their support for Assad. A statement made by the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs was reported early in the month, according to which Bashar al-Assad must be part of any initiative to solve the conflict in Syria, and towards the middle of the month Russian President, Vladimir Putin, noted that his country would continue to support Assad militarily.⁵⁵ Russia's increasing involvement in Syria was also demonstrated by the Russian Foreign Ministry's confirmation of the presence of Russian military experts in Syria.⁵⁶ This military involvement raised suspicions in the West of Syria's division into several states.⁵⁷

Meanwhile, the UN envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, met with the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Nabil al-Arabi, in an attempt to promote his plan for resolving the crisis in Syria.⁵⁸

Al-Nusra Front

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manarah al-Bayda, published the following:
 - An interview with a member of Al-Nusra Front's Shura Council, Abdullah al-Shami. In the interview, al-Shami attacked the Turkish government and said that it does not really want to fight against the IS at this stage, and that it is interested in intervening in northern Aleppo in order to prevent the establishment of a Kurdish state along Turkey's southern border. He added that Turkey benefits economically from the IS, which enables the smuggling of oil to Turkey and he elaborated about the relationship that Turkey has to the IS. According to him, in light of the start of Turkey's involvement, Al-Nusra Front has decided not to continue its military involvement in the area north of Aleppo. He also claimed that, despite the fact that some religious sages view Turkey's relationship with factions in Syria as "help" and others view it as an alliance, Al-Nusra Front does not see it that way but avoids accusing the Syrian factions that joined Turkey of heresy. He added that the northern area had not been the priority of the factions in Syria until Syria convinced them otherwise. According to him, Islamic law does not allow Al-Nusra Front

⁵⁵ <http://goo.gl/Spl22o>; http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2015/09/150915_russia_syria_assad

⁵⁶ <http://goo.gl/tzJhEI>

⁵⁷ <http://goo.gl/W4tQro>

⁵⁸ <https://goo.gl/Sdosk7>

to accept help from the Turkish coalition and that such help would not benefit the Syrian factions politically or militarily. Therefore, he called on the factions in Syria who joined Turkey to return to the ranks of the mujahideen. Regarding the Islamic State's accusations according to which Al-Nusra Front gives its regions to infidels, al-Shami responded that the IS cooperates with the Alawite regime in the siege that it imposed on the mujahideen in Sheikh Najjar, which is in Aleppo, and in Deir Ezzor. Regarding the proposal made by the former Director of the CIA, according to which the US must enlist the help of the moderate Al-Nusra Front to fight against the IS, al-Shami stated that this proposal indicates the weakness of the US and will create internal problems for Al-Nusra Front. He added that there are no streams within Al-Nusra Front and that it has a uniform policy. At the end of the interview, al-Shami referred to the "Al-Farka 30" group, which belongs to the Free Syrian Army, and claimed that it was acting according to the American plan, and that after fighting against the IS it would fight against Al-Nusra Front.⁵⁹

- A series of videos describing the liberation of the Abu al-Zuhur Military Airport by Jaysh al-Fatah following battles between the organization and the Syrian regime.⁶⁰ According to one of the fighters, as a result of the takeover of the airport, the organization plundered large amounts of heavy, medium and light weapons.⁶¹

The Islamic State – Al-Baraka Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Baraka (formerly Al-Hasaka) Province published the following:
 - A claim of responsibility for suicide attacks that were carried out against a Syrian National Defense post at the graduation ceremony of Kurdish PKK forces. According to the announcement, dozens of soldiers were killed and injured in the attacks.⁶²

⁵⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSkc6uzPONY>

⁶⁰ <http://jihadology.net/2015/09/09/new-video-message-from-jabhat-al-nu%E1%B9%A3rah-scenes-from-the-first-ball-upon-the-abu-al-%E1%BA%93uhur-military-airport/>; <http://jihadology.net/2015/09/09/new-video-message-from-jabhat-al-nu%E1%B9%A3rah-scenes-from-inside-abu-al-%E1%BA%93uhur-military-airport-after-its-liberation/> (English).

⁶¹ <http://goo.gl/9C471i>

⁶² <https://twitter.com/awfhjaiqw/status/643440779655049216>

- A filmed review of IS fighters fending off a convoy of vehicles belonging to the Assad regime that was trying to advance to the town of Tall Barak. According to the announcement, many soldiers were killed and injured in the IS attack on the convoy, and a large number of vehicles were taken as plunder.⁶³
- A video regarding the issuing of the gold dinar in the province. Among the residents who were interviewed in the video and praised the dinar's return to the caliphate were two foreign fighters of Indonesian and Scandinavian origin.⁶⁴
- A filmed review regarding the execution of a man accused of blasphemy against God and of contempt for the commandments of prayer and fasting.⁶⁵

The Islamic State – Al-Khayr (formerly Deir Ezzor) Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Khayr (formerly Deir Ezzor) Province published the following:
 - Filmed reviews and an announcement regarding the organization's takeover of the Missile Brigade next to the military airport in Deir Ezzor. According to the announcement, the IS successfully seized control of the site by carrying out two suicide attacks, which killed approximately 90 soldiers and officers. The filmed review showed the weapons and ammunition that were plundered in the framework of the attack, and documented Ribat (Defense of Muslim Land) activities at the site following the takeover.⁶⁶
 - A filmed review regarding the institute for the "Lion Cubs of the Caliphate", the term used by the IS to refer to children and youth. The review showed children learning the Arabic alphabet, memorizing verses from the Quran, and dining together.⁶⁷

⁶³ <http://justpaste.it/np55>

⁶⁴ https://archive.org/details/as3ad_201509

⁶⁵ <http://justpaste.it/nmqh>

⁶⁶ https://twitter.com/15_lock/status/641693284809744384; <http://justpaste.it/rbtktb>; <http://justpaste.it/ktbist>;
http://justpaste.it/ghanaim_katiba

⁶⁷ <http://justpaste.it/mhdasbl>

- A video regarding the launch of the gold dinar in the province. The video included a call on store owners and businessmen in the province to stop using dollars and start using the gold dinar.⁶⁸
- The Waqē' jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the IS, published a video regarding the final exams at the shari'a training institute for teachers in the province. The video provided a glimpse into the world of the subject matter taught to teachers who are entrusted with the education of children and youth in the IS, including shirking dictators (taghut) and a denial of democratic values. The end of the video showed participants in the course who praised the IS for offering a course that allow them to study many subjects that they were not previously exposed to.⁶⁹

The Islamic State – Al-Raqqa Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Raqqa Province published the following:
 - A filmed review regarding the activities of the Islamic Traffic Police in the province. The photos indicated that the traffic police are not only responsible for road traffic regulation, but also for installing signs, confiscating vehicles, operating an document archive, and settling disagreements and accidents that take place on the city's streets.⁷⁰
 - A filmed review regarding the medical labs operating in the province. The photo documented blood tests and other chemical tests in the lab of one of the clinics in the province.⁷¹



⁶⁸ <https://archive.org/details/Al.Khayr.F.M.B.D.Z.D>

⁶⁹ https://archive.org/details/r_988

⁷⁰ <http://justpaste.it/RoPoRa>

⁷¹ <http://justpaste.it/morag>

A medical lab operating under the IS in Al-Raqqa Province

- A filmed review regarding the registration of orphans in eastern Al-Raqqa who are eligible to receive some of the money plundered by the organization.⁷²
- Another video praising the gold dinar, in which residents were interviewed and claimed that the new coin would weaken the global economy and strengthen the Islamic economy.⁷³

The Islamic State – Aleppo

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Aleppo published the following:
 - Filmed reviews regarding the city of Manbij that covered candy shops, honey production and a poultry farm.⁷⁴
 - Another video regarding the launch of the gold dinar and its presentation to residents in the province.⁷⁵

The Islamic State – Homs Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Homs Province published the following:
 - A video regarding the execution of a man who was accused of witchcraft. According to the video, the man was arrested in the town of Al-Qaryatayn by the “foreign security department” of the Homs Province Security Office. In a recorded confession, the man told how he learned to engage in witchcraft and on which matters of the occult he focused. The man was beheaded by sword in front of a crowd of men and children.⁷⁶

⁷² https://twitter.com/op_is27/status/639354797750005761

⁷³ https://archive.org/details/farha_denar

⁷⁴ <http://justpaste.it/no16>; <http://justpaste.it/nq9o>; <http://justpaste.it/no27>

⁷⁵ <https://archive.org/details/Halab.F.H.B.D.G>

⁷⁶ <https://archive.org/details/iqamat2-0001>



The execution of a man accused of witchcraft in Homs Province

- A video regarding the battles in Jazal in which exchanges of fire were documented between the IS and Syrian army forces, which included heavy weapon and machine gun fire by IS fighters. In addition, the video showed the soldiers who were taken captive, and the weapons and vehicles that were taken as plunder. The end of the video showed two armed youth who encouraged Muslims to join jihad under the Caliphate.⁷⁷



Young fighters calling on Muslims to join the IS

The Islamic State – Damascus

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Damascus published the following:
 - A video titled, “To All the Faithful in the Land of Palestine”. The video showed two IS fighters, one of whom sent a message according to which the Islamic State is opposed to Jews on one hand, and to the Palestinian Authority and Hamas on the other hand, since they are all regimes that oppose Allah’s shari’a. In the video, the fighter claimed that –

⁷⁷ <https://archive.org/details/jazl-001>

among other things – Hamas is undeserving because it is a national movement that maintains ties with Shi'ite Iran and Communist Russia. The video ended with a call on Palestinians to join the ranks of the IS, which is closer than ever to Al-Aqsa Mosque from Damascus and Sinai.⁷⁸

- A video documenting the destruction of a site presented as Saint Elian in the city of Qaryatain. The video explained the religious legal justification for the destruction of sites that are not used for worship.⁷⁹
- A video regarding the daily routine of Ribat fighters in the province. The video showed the fighters as they reviewed enemy positions and drafted fight plans, held prayer services, studied the Quran together, and distributed water and food to the mujahideen.⁸⁰

Ahrar al-Sham

- Ahrar al-Sham published an announcement regarding the appointment of a new commander to the organization, Mohannad al-Masri (Abu Yahia al-Hamawi), after the previous commander, Hashem al-Sheikh (Abu Jaber) completed his tenure. In the announcement, the organization's Shura Council thanked the outgoing commander for leading the organization and congratulated the incoming commander.⁸¹
- The Ramah jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Ahrar al-Sham, published the second issue of Ahrar al-Sham's magazine, *Rabi al-Sham*. The issue contained 36 pages and covered the arena of jihad in Syria.⁸²

Ajnad Al-Sham

- Ajnad al-Sham published the following:

⁷⁸ <https://archive.org/details/hjutdkadfs>

⁷⁹ <http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x36qyin>

⁸⁰ <https://archive.org/details/RibatNashr-001>

⁸¹ https://twitter.com/abdalmunam_h/status/642709868957143040

⁸² https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/e1b8a5arakat-ae1b8a5rc481r-al-shc481m-al-islc481mc4abyyah-e2809crabc4ab_-al-shc481m-222.pdf

- An announcement regarding the establishment of a joint operations room in the al-Qadam neighborhood in Damascus in order to fight against the Khawarij.⁸³
- An announcement regarding the death of Abu Omar, a commander in Afnad al-Sham's military council, who was killed in the battle for the city of Darayya. The announcement praised Abu Omar and described his role in the organization.⁸⁴
- A message of congratulations on the appointment of Ahrar al-Sham's new leader, Abu Yahia al-Hamawi. In addition, in the announcement the organization praised the actions of Ahrar al-Sham's previous leader, Abu Jaber. At the end of the announcement, the organization called for unification among the ranks of the mujahideen in Syria.⁸⁵

Other Jihadist Organizations

- Most of the jihadist factions taking part in the Syrian revolution, including Ahrar al-Sham, Afnad al-Sham and Jaysh al-Islam, published an announcement regarding the UN Security Council's declaration and the plan of UN Envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura. According to the announcement, the factions confirmed that the UN Security Council's statement paves the way for political negotiations. The announcement also stated that, in a meeting held by the Syrian factions, a precondition was set for the start of a political process according to which al-Assad and his regime must leave. According to the announcement, other topics agreed to by the factions in their meeting included: the implementation of the UN decision calling on all sides to cease their attacks against civilians, the implementation of the UN decision enabling all sides in the Syrian conflict to send immediate humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people, the addition of organizations that help al-Assad (such as the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and Hezbollah) to the list of terrorist organizations, the prevention of Iran's participation in any discussions regarding Syria, the dismantling of security mechanisms and the re-establishment of the army and legal system, and the attainment of international guarantees for anything decided upon by

⁸³ <http://ajnadalsham.com/?p=2455>

⁸⁴ <http://ajnadalsham.com/?p=2559>

⁸⁵ <http://ajnadalsham.com/?p=2601>

the sides. In addition, the end of the announcement stated that Russia's involvement in Syria undermines the efforts being made to reach a political solution.⁸⁶

- Jaysh al-Fatah published a video clip regarding the management of the city of Idlib after it was liberated by the organization.⁸⁷ In another publication, the organization announced the establishment of a media institution that will act on its behalf and be entrusted with reporting news about the organization's military, civilian and other operations in northern Syria.⁸⁸
- The Turkistan Islamic Party in Al-Sham, which fights alongside Al-Nusra Front, published a video documenting the liberation of the Abu al-Duhur Airport.⁸⁹

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

- Al-Nusra al-Maqdisiyya jihadist media institution, which supports the IS, published a discussion via radio broadcast in Gaza against the backdrop of accusations made by Hamas against "supporters of the Caliphate" in Gaza. The discussion, which was held between Hassan al-Juju, a senior judge affiliated with Hamas, and Majed al-Awawdeh, a preacher affiliated with the Salafist movement in the Strip, dealt with – among other things – whether Hamas was implementing shari'a in Gaza or not.⁹⁰

The Maghreb [North Africa]

Battles continued in both eastern and western Libya. In Benghazi, it was reported that five members of the government forces were killed in an explosion and battles were renewed in the area of Bouatni in the city.⁹¹ In Tripoli, a car bomb explosion was reported next to a prison,⁹² as were exchanges of fire between the army and Libya Dawn militias west of the capital.⁹³

⁸⁶ <http://ajnadalsham.com/?p=2614>

⁸⁷ <http://jihadology.net/2015/09/08/new-video-message-from-jaysh-al-fata%E1%B8%A5-how-idlib-city-is-managed-and-what-are-the-achievements-made-under-the-nascent-administration-after-its-liberation/> (English).

⁸⁸ <https://alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

⁸⁹ <https://alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

⁹⁰ <https://justpaste.it/nfdb>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOGtptbMybg>

⁹¹ <http://www.alhurra.com/content/libya-isis-explosion/279821.html>

⁹² <http://www.worldakhbar.com/maghreb/libya/35412.html>

⁹³ <http://www.erenews.com/news/arab/345724>

In Tunisia, the possibility of canceling the state of emergency in the country was reported in the beginning of October despite warnings of terrorist plans to attack sensitive and essential targets in the capital of Tunis using car bombs and explosive belts.⁹⁴

Concerns in Tunisia increased, especially in light of the fact that 8,000 Tunisians had joined terrorist organizations in Syria, some of whom were skilled fighters who could return to their homelands to carry out terrorist attacks.⁹⁵ The threats against Tunisia have tremendous economic implications, especially in terms of tourism. According to a statement by the Tunisian Minister of Tourism, the number of tourists in Tunisia decreased by one million people during August 2015 when compared to the same period last year.⁹⁶

Counter-terrorism efforts continued in Algeria and Morocco. The Ministry of Defense in Algeria reported the discovery of a terrorist hideout west of the capital, where 17 bombs were found and defused. In Morocco, it was reported that a terrorist cell affiliated with the IS was dismantled, including five members who planned to establish the “Army of the Caliphate in Morocco”.⁹⁷

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

- Al-Andalus jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published a video titled, “The Blessed Incursion”, which documented an ambush and attack against UN peacekeeping forces near Timbuktu in Mali. The second part of the video showed an AQIM fighter who addressed France and claimed that it was the cause of the rift and conflict among residents of Azawad, a dispute that can only be settled through the application of Islamic shari’a, which is devoid of racism and connects people. It is important to note that the video contained several hints that this group of AQIM identifies with the Islamic State. For example, the video did not mention the name of Al-Qaeda leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, or the name of the Emir of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, and several *Anasheed* (jihadi chants) used by the IS could be heard in the background.⁹⁸

⁹⁴ <http://arabic.cnn.com/world/2015/09/13/tunisia-terrorism>; <http://goo.gl/INBzpL>

⁹⁵ <https://goo.gl/uHZiLx>

⁹⁶ <http://goo.gl/jh0tKW>

⁹⁷ <http://goo.gl/i7GEvY>; <http://goo.gl/lvwn5P>

⁹⁸ <https://archive.org/details/gkhair>

Libya

The Islamic State – Tripoli

- The IS in Tripoli published the following:
 - A claim of responsibility for an attack against the headquarters of the Mellitah Oil & Gas company, which is co-owned by the Italian ENI company. The attack was carried out using a car bomb in Al-Dahra District, which is located in the center of Tripoli. According to media reports, only one building suffered light damage in the attack.⁹⁹
 - Filmed reviews about the city of Sirte, including fish markets, mosques, and distribution of dawah pamphlets to residents in the city.¹⁰⁰

The Islamic State – Barqa Province

- The IS in Barqa Province published the following:
 - A video titled, “Benghazi – Cemetery for Collaborators”. The video showed a man accused of providing information about the IS to General Khalifa Haftar’s men. After reading the verdict and sending a warning to future spies that their fate would be similar, the man was executed by a gunshot to the head.¹⁰¹



The execution of a man accused of spying, in Benghazi

⁹⁹<https://twitter.com/crinebouch21/status/638704349661798400>; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-idUSKCN0R13F820150901>

¹⁰⁰ <http://justpaste.it/masagedsert>; <http://justpaste.it/mat-sert>; <http://justpaste.it/no4v>

¹⁰¹ <https://archive.org/details/3oml2-001>

- A filmed review and announcement regarding the takeover of two Libyan army posts, a tank and weapons, as well as the destruction of additional military vehicles.¹⁰²
- A filmed review regarding Ribat activities in Al-Lithi District in the city of Benghazi.¹⁰³

Ansar al-Sharia in Libya

- Ansar al-Sharia in Libya published the following:
 - A banner titled, “Message Number 1 – to the Soldiers of the Tyrant”, in which the organization made threats against General Khalifa Haftar and his forces, who it described as collaborators with the “Jews and Christians”.¹⁰⁴
 - A document titled, “A Message to our Citizens in Benghazi” by the organization’s Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice. The document clarified the organization’s ultimate goal – to apply shari’a in Libya while helping the residents and standing by them. One of the clauses in the document emphasized the differences between Ansar al-Sharia and those known as “Kharijites” (a radical Islamic sect), insinuating the Islamic State, which – according to the document - views Muslims living under infidel rule as infidels themselves.¹⁰⁵
 - Filmed reviews regarding the distribution of food to residents in Benghazi by the organization’s “Director of General Services”.¹⁰⁶

Tunisia

- The ‘Uqba bin Nafi’ Battalion, which is affiliated with AQIM, published an announcement regarding the death of a Tunisian citizen named Salih al-Farjani in Sbeitla on August 30, 2015. According to the organization, members of the organization ordered al-Farjani to drop the hunting rifle that he was holding during a patrol in order to verify his identity but he refused to accede to their request. As a result, a struggle broke out with al-Farjani, which ended with him

¹⁰² https://twitter.com/Isis_229W/status/640892131092000768; <http://justpaste.it/iczc>

¹⁰³ <https://twitter.com/dagadarna/status/640521453469868032>

¹⁰⁴ <https://twitter.com/skynewslibya1/status/642346827749134336>

¹⁰⁵ <https://twitter.com/menseferwahd/status/641312638367059969>

¹⁰⁶ <https://twitter.com/AtherMadina/status/639793873049526272>;

<https://twitter.com/AtherMadina/status/639110308322234368>

being killed by a bullet that was accidentally fired in his direction. In light of this incident, the organization clarified to the Tunisian people that its members avoid harming any Tunisian civilians in the framework of their battle against the Tunisian regime. The organization also warned that civilians walking around with weapons must be careful not to enter areas where the mujahideen operate out of concern for their lives. Finally, the organization called on the Tunisian people to stand by the organization and cooperate with its fighters in their battle against the infidel Tunisian regime due to its betrayal of the Muslim Nation and its cooperation with the French and Americans.¹⁰⁷

- A jihadist named Abu Lubaba al-Tunisi published three articles titled, “The Media”, “Islamic Movements” and “The Jihadist Movement” in the framework of a series of publications titled “Regarding the Reasons for the Spread of Exaggeration [in the Radical Interpretation] Among Tunisian Youth”. In the articles, the author discussed the Arab Spring in Tunisia and its implications for the Islamic movements and for the jihadist movement in Tunisia. For example, he noted that the Tunisian regime encourages residents who identify with the jihadist movement to emigrate from their countries to the arena of jihad in Syria in order to increase security in Tunisia and empty it of jihad fighters.¹⁰⁸

Algeria

- Sariyyat al-Ghurabaa (the “Strangers Brigade”), a group operating in Constantine, in northeast Algeria, announced its defection from AQIM and its oath of allegiance to the leader of the IS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The speaker in the video praised the establishment of the caliphate and called on other organizations to declare their allegiance to the Caliph.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁷ <https://alfidaa.info/vb/> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁸ <http://justpaste.it/nhgb>

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcXTtM39IXk>



“The Strangers Brigade” in Algeria – changing allegiance from Al-Qaeda to the Islamic State

- A jihadist group known as the “Supporters' Brigade” (Katibat al-Ansar), which operates in the Central Region in Algeria under AQIM, published a recorded announcement that included an oath of allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the IS.¹¹⁰ Nevertheless, the emir of AQIM’s Central Region in Algeria, Usama Abu Suhayb, denied reports that the brigade had defected to the IS and claimed that the number of defectors to the IS stands at no less than ten people.¹¹¹
- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a post regarding Algeria, in which he wrote that he expects the country to collapse within three years when the money in the country’s coffers runs out. The visitor recommended speeding up the process and noted that “if the mujahideen attack its structures and economic infrastructure, the country will not survive more than a year”. The visitor emphasized that the drop in oil prices will greatly affect Algeria as the country relies heavily on this resource.¹¹²

Somalia

The first half of September opened with the takeover of several cities in Lower Shabelle Province in southern Somalia by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. One of the cities, Janaale, was captured by the organization after Al-Shabab fighters attacked an African Union Forces base in the city, killing and injuring African Union soldiers.¹¹³ Other cities in Lower Shabelle that were captured by the

¹¹⁰ <https://archive.org/details/katebatt.alansaaar>

¹¹¹ <http://goo.gl/jtJz6S>

¹¹² <https://shamikh1.biz/v> (Arabic).

¹¹³ <http://goo.gl/OblrqX>

organization during this period included Kuntuwarey¹¹⁴ and Al-Saliindi. These cities were captured by the organization without a fight after African Union forces and Somali security forces retreated.¹¹⁵

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- The Shahaada news agency, which is affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published an official announcement by the organization regarding the takeover of an African Union Forces base in the city of Janaale in Lower Shabelle Province, in southern Somalia, by its fighters. According to the announcement, over 50 Ugandan soldiers were killed in the attack. The spokesperson for the organization, Abu Musab, stated that the attack on this base was executed in revenge for the slaughter carried out by the African Union Forces in the nearby city of Marka, in which over 40 Muslims were killed by Ugandan soldiers.¹¹⁶

The Indian Subcontinent

- The Global Media Front and the media institution of Ansarullah Bangla published an announcement denying reports by the media in Bangladesh according to which members of Ansarullah and its leader were arrested following the assassination of atheist bloggers.¹¹⁷

The Caucasus

- The Furat jihadist media institution published a video titled, “The Shura Council of Mujahideen Commanders in the Caucasus Province”. The video showed seven armed members of the organization who explained that they swore allegiance to the IS after realizing that the Caliphate implemented shari’a properly without involving the laws of the secular country. The speaker in the video emphasized that his group’s oath of allegiance had reached the Caliph and now he is helping them as they are “part of the Caliphate”. The end of the video presented the

¹¹⁴ <http://goo.gl/fhCccI>

¹¹⁵ <http://goo.gl/HxPCX2>

¹¹⁶ <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/e1b8a5arakat-al-shabc481b-al-mujc481hidc4abn-22storming-ugandan-bases22.pdf>

¹¹⁷ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

gunmen as the “Emirs of Eastern Dagestan, and their names or nicknames were delivered one at a time, except for that of the speaker.”¹¹⁸



An expression of support for the IS in “Eastern Dagestan”

¹¹⁸ <http://www.csnn.tk/2015/09/t9.html>

ABOUT THE ICT

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