



**ICT**  
International Institute  
for Counter-Terrorism  
With the Support of Keren Daniel

# ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group

## PERIODIC REVIEW

### Bimonthly Report

## Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

### The Second Half of April 2015

## Highlights

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

- **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb** calls upon the Tunisian people to continue rebelling with jihad, claiming that the present regime has not been changed, and that the old "tyrants" have simply been replaced with new ones. According to the organization, a desire to return Islam to Tunisia without harming innocent people is apparent. In addition, the organization addresses fighters from the 'Uqbah bin Nafi brigade in Tunisia, praising their jihadist war, but also warning them not to transform into mercenaries.
- **The Islamic State** in Iraq threatens to continue executing dozens of Kurdish Peshmerga fighters, whom they claim they are holding captive. That will occur if the Peshmerga don't stop battling against Islamic State fighters.
- **The Islamic State** in Libya executes about thirty Christians from Ethiopia who were in Libya. According to the organization, the status held by Christians is of heretics, and there is a religious ruling permitting the massacre of Christians who refuse to convert to Islam, or sparing their lives if they pay protection money.
- **The Islamic State** in Sanaa Province in Yemen produces a first video titled "Caliphate Soldiers on Yemenite Land". In the video, IS fighters threaten to slaughter the Houthis. In addition, the Islamic State in the province publishes a video documenting the execution of Yemenite soldiers.
- **Al-Nusra Front** publishes a series of videos documenting the liberation of the city Jisr Al-Shaghur.

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## New Publications

### Ideology

- The Nukhbat al-Fikr media group published the following:
  - A re-publication of two old articles by Harith al-Nazari, a senior official in Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. In the first article, titled "The Collapse of the Shi'ite Imams", al-Nazari criticizes the Twelve Shi'ite Principles and defames them. The title of the second article was "A Summary of Poems and Songs as reflected in Religious Law".<sup>1</sup>
  - A booklet called "Abhorrent Signs of Lost Time: Rules and Benefits of Managing Time and Taking Advantage of Opportunities" (94 pages), by Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a senior Salafi jihadist philosopher in Jordan.<sup>2</sup>
- Sheikh Abu Basir al-Tartusi, a prominent Salafi jihadist philosopher from Syria, published a book titled "Works Written for the Arab Revolution and Especially for the Syrian Revolution" (349 pages). The book included opinions, positions, and advice by al-Tartusi regarding a wide range of questions, mainly dealing with the jihad arena in Syria, but also outside of the country. For example, al-Tartusi discusses the pledge of allegiance to leaders as a religious transgression, the way to conduct oneself opposite the enemy, how to conduct oneself opposite Christian residents, and many other questions.<sup>3</sup>

### *The Importance of Fulfilling the Commandments of Jihad*

- Among the publications about the importance of fulfilling the commandments of jihad were the following:
  - A re-publication of an article first published in February 2010, titled "Guidelines Regarding Jihad Media Activities", by Sheikh Attiya Allah al-Libi – a senior ideologist in Al-Qaeda who was assassinated in August, 2012. The article was published by the Nukhbat al-Fikr media group.<sup>4</sup>

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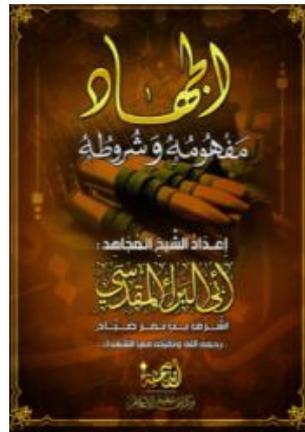
<sup>1</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>2</sup> <https://justpaste.it/knn9> (Arabic)

<sup>3</sup> <http://abubaseer.bizland.com/> (Arabic)

<sup>4</sup> <https://justpaste.it/klwe> (Arabic)

- A collection of answers to questions that were sent to Sheikh Dr. Sami al-'Aridi, senior member of the Sharia Council of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria. The collection was titled "An Answer to the Honorable Inquirer: Regarding the Need for a Jihad Arena for Honorable Religious Scholars and Students of Religious Law". Al-'Aridi made clear in his answers the importance of the intervention and support of religious scholars and their students among the mujahideen, in the different jihad arenas. The article was published by the Nukhbat al-Fikr media group.<sup>5</sup>
- An article titled "Islam is the Religion of Jihad: a Short Message to Inspire Jihad and Clarify its Religious Rulings and Status", by Anas Khatib. The article was published by the Nukhbat al-Fikr media group.<sup>6</sup>
- The Ibn Taymiyya media group published a book titled "Jihad: Its Significance and Terms" (55 pages), by Sheikh Abu al-Baraa al-Maqdisi (Ashraf bin Nimr Sabah), a senior Palestinian Salafi Jihadist and one of the founders and heads of Jaysh al-Islam in the Gaza Strip, which identifies with Global Jihad.<sup>7</sup> Al-Maqdisi was killed in 2012 by Israeli air force gunfire.



The article banner

### ***The Camp of Al-Qaeda Supporters***

- The Nukhbat al-Fikr media group published several articles by Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filastini, a

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<sup>5</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>6</sup> <https://justpaste.it/kruk> (Arabic)

<sup>7</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

prominent philosopher in the Salafi jihadist movement, and a supporter of Al-Qaeda:

- A two part article (part 2 and part 3) called "God's Covenant, How can we Understand It?" In the articles, Qatada discussed several topics, including the importance of unity among the ranks of mujahideen. According to him, there are groups which interpret the jihad war in a mistaken manner: that use of violence is justified against branches of jihad that don't meet the standards of the Islamic State. In his words: "These groups are not Islamist, which adorn themselves with the name Islam. Uniting with them or joining forces with them is forbidden." In the third part of the article he discussed definitions and the meaning of the term "Muhajir" in the jihad arena, and support of "Ansari" in mujahideen.<sup>8</sup>
- An article titled "Coping with the Extreme Thought about Killing and Judging an Apostate" by Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filastini, a prominent Salafi jihadist philosopher. In the introduction, Abu Muhammad al-Filastini, the editor of the article, that the article was first published in the magazine *Al-Fajr*, in 1996. He added that he saw a need to re-publish it due to the importance of the topic, and because of the negative ramifications of judging Muslims as apostates, or of engaging in jihad against the enemies of Islam.<sup>9</sup>
- An article called "Caliphate for Rent...The Evil is Your Choice". In the article, the author blames Islamic State fighters in southern Syria for different charges. For example, division of the ranks of the mujahideen, deceiving the Muslims with deviant interpretation of the holy sources of Islam, and more.<sup>10</sup>
- The tension between the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State also continued in the second half of April, as demonstrated by the tweets of Sami al-'Aridi, a member of the Al-Nusra Front Shura Council. For example, he described the Islamic State as "Khawarij" (a nickname given to an ancient sect that left mainstream orthodox Islam. Ever since then, the name has been used as an insult for separatist Islamic groups that rebel against the existing order an cause wars between brothers and splits within the Muslim nation). He denounced the trend of small

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<sup>8</sup> <https://justpaste.it/kldx>; <https://justpaste.it/knxa> (Arabic)

<sup>9</sup> <https://justpaste.it/kn3n> (Arabic)

<sup>10</sup> <http://justpaste.it/kuzy> (Arabic)

jihadist groups pledging allegiance to the Islamic State.<sup>11</sup>

### ***Supporters of the Islamic State***

- The Al-Battar media institution published an article titled "Al-Qaeda: Critical Reading of the Methodology and the Way of Al-Qaeda in the Past and in the Present", by Abu Basir al-Andalusi. The author discussed the way Al-Qaeda has deviated from its path and principles. Among other things, he mentioned the Taliban Afghan movement as a group that has also deviated from its path.<sup>12</sup>
- The Media Front for the Support the Islamic State published an article titled "Religious and Practical Justifications for Pledging Allegiance to the Islamic State" by Abu Abdallah al-Libi.<sup>13</sup>

### **Strategy**

- Abdullah bin Muhammad, a prominent jihadist writer who discusses strategic questions on jihadist forums associated with Al-Qaeda, and on social media sites, published the following:
  - A public statement titled "The Jihadist Decision Industry". The article criticized the way leaders of Salafi jihadist organizations make decisions. According to the author, Abu al-Nur al-Maqdisi, spiritual leader of the Islamic Army – a Salafi jihadist organization in the Gaza Strip – made a pitiful decision when announcing the establishment of an Islamic Emirate in Gaza. The author expressed his astonishment regarding the circumstances surrounding the decision, and hinted that it was made hastily and with no thought about the results. One result was the massacre of al-Maqdisi and his people by Hamas security forces in 2009. In light of that, the author emphasized the importance of consultation before making decisions on specific topics, not only among leaders, but also among professionals. He suggested establishing a mechanism that would supervise the implementation of decisions.<sup>14</sup>
- Commentary regarding the "Decisive Storm" operation. According to Abdullah bin Muhammad,

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<sup>11</sup> <http://justpaste.it/ku7o> (Arabic)

<sup>12</sup> <https://justpaste.it/qaedh> (Arabic)

<sup>13</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>14</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

Saudi surprisingly was able to form a regional pact, and he noted that the battles were nearly over. He also claimed that the Egyptian and Pakistani voices of opposition to the operation indicate that there is an international faction working to break up the aforementioned pact. He added that the West views the Houthis as a minority that brings strategic advantage in the area, and therefore it was dangerous. He was convinced that the potential success of the "Decisive Storm" operation would be expressed in the destruction of the Scud rockets and airplanes, thereby preventing the Houthis from being able to activate their allies – the forces of the ousted President Salah. He claimed that destroying all weapons in Houthi possession would return the Houthis back to their former status as a militia, and would change the battle with the remaining forces into a symmetrical one. He also added that the "Decisive Storm" operation would cause the Yemen Army to dismantle, and it would then transform into a struggle between militias, which would continue for a long period – as was the case in Syria.<sup>15</sup>

### **Promoting the Myth of the Martyr**

- On April 12, 2015 Sheikh Ibrahim Sulayman Muhammad al-Rubaish, a senior leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the organization's mufti, was assassinated as the result of Americans shelling Al-Mukalla in Hadhermawt Province in Yemen. In response to the assassination, several Salafi jihadist organizations published eulogies to honor his memory, and to praise his courage and his contribution to the battle against the Crusader and apostate enemies. Among the organizations that published words of eulogy were: The Salafi Nation Army in Jerusalem,<sup>16</sup> Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and Sheikh Abu al-Hasan Rashid al-Bulaydi – head of the religious ruling committee of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb,<sup>17</sup> the Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen movement,<sup>18</sup> the Al-Qaeda faction in Somalia, Ansar al-Din - the Salafi jihadist organization in Syria,<sup>19</sup> the Abdullah Azzam Brigades - a Salafi jihadist organization active in Syria and Lebanon,<sup>20</sup> Ansar al-Sharia in Libya,<sup>21</sup> and more.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://al-aren.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>16</sup> <https://justpaste.it/IbrahimRbaish> (Arabic)

<sup>17</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/>; <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>18</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>19</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>20</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)



- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published a consolation announcement after the deaths of two *shahids*: Ahmed Farouk - deputy emir of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, and Sheikh Kara Omran – member of the Shura Council of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent. According to the announcement, they were both killed by American shelling.<sup>28</sup> The Salafi Nation Army in Jerusalem, a Palestinian Salafi jihadist organization in the Gaza Strip, also published a eulogy in memory of the two.<sup>29</sup>



**An announcement produced by the Salafi Nation in Jerusalem in memory of Ahmed Farouk**

- The Salafi Nation Army in Jerusalem, a Palestinian Salafi jihadist organization, published a consolation announcement and a book in memory of Hummam Atiyya aka Majd al-Din al-Misri, leader of Afnad Misr – an organization active in Egypt which had connections with Al-Qaeda. Majd al-Din al-Misri was killed by Egyptian Security Forces shooting in the Al-Giza region of Egypt. The organization wanted to strengthen the hands of members of the Afnad Misr organization, and called upon them to continue their struggle against the enemies of Islam, including the Crusaders and the secular Muslims.<sup>30</sup>
- The Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon published a video in memory of one of fighters, called Osama Mansur. He was known as someone who possessed a lot of knowledge about making explosives. According to the organization, he was eliminated in an assassination mission orchestrated by Lebanese intelligence agents based in Tripoli. The video included images of the *shahid* and a short biography. For example, it was mentioned that he served in the Lebanese Army, but decided to leave after he understand that he was in the service of a tyrannical

<sup>28</sup> <https://al-aren.com/vb/>; <http://justpaste.it/kl2s> (Arabic)

<sup>29</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>30</sup> <https://justpaste.it/MajdAldeyn> (Arabic)

dictator. Afterwards he joined the fighting against the Syrian regime, and later returned to Tripoli, Lebanon. The video also included documentation of demonstrations in Tripoli against the Lebanese Army during the funeral for a *shahid*, and calls for revenge against the Lebanese regime due to its acts against Sunnis in the country and its cooperation with their enemies: the Sunnis, Hezbollah, and Iran. The organization warned that a failure to take action against the ruling regime might lead to tragic results for the Sunnis in the country, as was the case in Yemen and Iraq.<sup>31</sup>



**Osama Mansur**

- The Al-Kataeb media institution, belonging to the Somali Al Sahbaab al-Mujahideen Movement, published a video in memory of a martyr called Ramzi, a former senior commander in the organization. The video was Part 5 in a series of publicized videos called "From Memory".<sup>32</sup>



**The video banner**

- The Al-Muhajirun organization, affiliated with Al-Shabaab Mujahideen, published a biography in English about one of his members, titled: A Biography of an East African Lion...Brother Budalangi.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>32</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>33</sup> [https://twitter.com/al\\_muhajiroun/status/592298340722745344](https://twitter.com/al_muhajiroun/status/592298340722745344) (Arabic)

### Biography of Brother Budalangi, An East African Lion



**A photo of the shahid, and member of the organization**

- Ansar Al-Sharia in Libya published a consolation announcement for the death of Abu Masud Milud Sadaqa, a senior commander who helped the organization with logistics, among other things. Sadaqa was killed during exchange of gunfire with Libyan Army forces in Benghazi.<sup>34</sup> The announcement, which opened with a eulogy for Sadaqa, and praised him for his acts in the name of jihad, ended with threats towards the “enemies of Allah” in Libya.<sup>35</sup>



**Abu Masud Milud Sadaqa**

- Ansar Al-Furqan, operating in Balochistan, published a consolation announcement for the death of Abu Hafs al-Balushi, spokesperson and member of the Shura Council of the organization.<sup>36</sup>
- Ansar Al-Furqan, operating in Balochistan, published a consolation announcement for the death of Muhammad Sa’id Turkman, the official spokesperson for the Jaysh al-’Adl movement, a Salafi

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<sup>34</sup> <http://justpaste.it/krv3> (Arabic)

<sup>35</sup> <https://twitter.com/LibyasChannel/status/592459739344162818> (Arabic)

<sup>36</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

jihadist organization in Balochistan acting against the Iranian security forces.<sup>37</sup>

- The jihadist Al-Busyro forum published in Indonesian a consolation announcement for the death of Daeng Koro, also known as Sabar Sabagyo.<sup>38</sup> Sabagyo was a senior commander in the Mujahideen Indonesia Timor, and was killed in the beginning of April, 2015 during clashes with the Indonesian security forces. Aside from running the above-mentioned forum, he also dealt in weapon smuggling from the Philippines to Indonesia, and sent fighters to Syria to fight alongside the Islamic State.



The announcement banner

## Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published a new issue of the *Al-Sumud* magazine, dealing with the jihad arena in Afghanistan. Issue #109 (44 pages) reported on the months April and May, 2015.<sup>39</sup>



The issue cover

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<sup>37</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>38</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>39</sup> <https://ia601507.us.archive.org/6/items/alsumood109/109.pdf> (Arabic)

## Reports from the Field

### Afghanistan-Pakistan

*In the second half of April, on the one hand, activities of the Taliban organization in Afghanistan against the Afghan Army and government continued. On April 28, battles flared between government forces and Taliban fighters in the city of Kunduz, in North Afghanistan. Hundreds of Taliban fighters charged the city after attacking buildings belonging to the police and army on April 24, just hours after proclaiming a “Spring Attack”.<sup>40</sup>*

*On the other hand, according to Arabic language news reports, fighters from the Islamic State in Khorasan Province, which had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State, carried out a first suicide attack in Afghanistan. In the attack, 33 people were killed and more than 100 were injured. The attack was carried out on April 18 in the city of Jalalabad, in East Afghanistan, by a suicide bomber on a motorcycle, outside of a bank where government and army personnel were collecting their salaries.<sup>41</sup> However, the Islamic State denied any involvement in that attack.*

### The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the following:
  - An announcement on April 21 addressing the beheading of soldiers in the clashes on April 12 in Jarm, in Badakhshan Province, between Emirate fighters and the army forces in Kabul. According to the organization, beheading the soldiers took place as revenge on the inhuman shooting and abuse of bodies of Emirate fighters by the soldiers – conduct that transgressed the laws of Islam. In addition, the organization stated that members of the Emirate beheaded seven soldiers, and not 28, as was publicized. At the end of the announcement it was written that the organization trains and educates its fighters to conduct themselves according to the laws of Islam, while also obeying the laws of war.<sup>42</sup>
  - An announcement from April 22, made by the Shura Council of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan, regarding the beginning of the “Spring Offensive” under the name

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<sup>40</sup> <http://goo.gl/jd5GKJ>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32364146>

<sup>42</sup> <http://goo.gl/EQ4v6r>

“Azm” – expected to take place on Friday, April 24. In the announcement, the organization committed itself to attacking throughout Afghanistan during the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan, lead by the United States. According to the Emirate, the attack was supposed to focus on “Crusader Occupiers”: in permanent military bases, and in intelligence and diplomatic centers. In addition, it would be directed towards government clerks, military structures, and members of the Interior, Defence and Intelligence. It was also written in the announcement that during the attack advanced battle tactics, suicide bombers, targeting members of the Emirate who joined enemy ranks, shelling enemy centers with rockets and mortars, and ambushes of foreign forces would be employed.<sup>43</sup> This announcement was published against the backdrop of United States President Obama’s statement in March, that 9,800 US soldiers would remain in Afghanistan until the end of 2015.<sup>44</sup>

- An announcement expressing condolences for the loss of the lives of 52 villagers in Jaro village in Khawan Province, as a result of an Afghan Army raid.<sup>45</sup>

### ***The Taliban-Pakistan Alliance (TTP)***

- The Umar media institution, operating on behalf of the TTP, published the following:
  - A video documenting the development and testing of a rocket manufactured by fighters, called “Umar 1”.<sup>46</sup>



**The video banner**

<sup>43</sup> <http://goo.gl/Q9GJT1>

<sup>44</sup> <http://indianexpress.com/article/world/asia/afghan-taliban-announce-spring-offensive-to-start-april-24/>

<sup>45</sup> <http://shahamat-english.com/english/index.php/paighamoonaa/54329-condolence-message-of-islamic-emirate-concerning-landslide-in-badakhshan>

<sup>46</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

- A video titled “The Battle Over Hind – Part 9” – Hind being a nickname given to the Indian continent. The video presented the Pakistani regime as an oppressive one, implementing policies of persecution of the Muslim population in the country and other areas, and emphasized the obligation to wage jihad war on the regime.<sup>47</sup>
- A video documenting physical training, the use of various weapons, battle exercises in built up areas, guidance on building bombs and explosive devices, and more, at the Mahdi Alayhi Radhwan training camp run by organization fighters.<sup>48</sup>



**Footage from the video about the training camp**

- The Taliban-Pakistan Alliance announced that it intended to send 100 fighters to defend two holy mosques in Mecca and al-Medina in Saudi Arabia, and to fight against the Iranian everywhere in Saudi Arabia – if the Saudis requested their assistance. This announcement was published on the backdrop of the military operation “Decisive Storm”, in which some of the Arab States took part, headed by Saudi Arabia, against the Houthis in Yemen, who were supported by Iran.<sup>49</sup>

### ***The Islamic State - Khorasan Province***

- The Islamic State in Khorasan Province published the following:
  - A video demonstrating shooting SPG-9 mortars at the Pakistan Army in the Kaybar

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<sup>47</sup> <https://archive.org/details/GhazwaEHind9>

<sup>48</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>49</sup> <http://islammemo.cc/hadath-el-saa/Firmness-Storm/2015/04/16/240969.html>

region.<sup>50</sup>



The video banner

- Announcement (#1) denying involvement in the attacks carried out in Jalal Abad. According to the organization, this was another attempt by enemies of the Islamic State to slander its name and damage its base of support. The organization emphasized that its goal was to help oppressed Muslims and the Islamic religion according to shari'a.<sup>51</sup>
- A video documenting mortar shelling of Pakistan military forces in the Khyber region.

## The Arabian Peninsula

On April 16, Jamal Benomar, the United Nations envoy to Yemen, resigned.<sup>52</sup> That same day, a drone strike, believed to be carried out by the United States, killed two men believed to be militants from AQAP in Habban, southeast of Ataq, the main town in southern Shabwa province.<sup>53</sup> Also on that same day, AQAP militants seized a major airport, a seaport and an oil terminal, all just outside of Mukalla.<sup>54</sup> The group also reportedly stole \$1 million in a bank heist and seized weapons from a military base near Mukalla.<sup>55</sup> On April 19, according to a local tribal chief, three militants from AQAP were killed in a drone strike in the Saeed district, in the eastern Shabwa province.<sup>56</sup> On April 21, Saudi Arabia announced that it was scaling back its aerial campaign because it had

<sup>50</sup> <https://archive.org/details/KhadimUrdu>

<sup>51</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>52</sup> <http://time.com/3824556/yemen-united-nations-envoy-jamal-benomar-resigns/>

<sup>53</sup> <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/04/17/Two-Qaeda-suspects-killed-in-Yemen-drone-attack-.html>

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/ap-al-qaida-seizes-airport-oil-terminal-south-yemen/2722456.html>

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-us-alqaeda-20150418-story.html#page=1>

<sup>56</sup> <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/04/20/Three-Al-Qaeda-fighters-in-Yemen-killed-in-U-S-drone-strike-.html>

accomplished its task of weakening the Houthi rebels.<sup>57</sup>

On April 22, an American drone strike killed seven suspected AQAP militants in the Yemeni port city of Mukalla.<sup>58</sup> Also on April 22, the head of the Middle East section of the International Committee of the Red Cross said that Yemen was on the verge of a human catastrophe.<sup>59</sup> Fierce fighting continued in the battle for Aden at the end of the month, and a Saudi border guard was killed on April 30 after a shell was fired from the Yemeni side of the border.<sup>60</sup> Finally, on April 30, Saudi Arabia announced that it had killed "dozens" of Yemeni Shiite rebels who were carrying out a large-scale cross-border attack on the kingdom.<sup>61</sup>

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

- The Ansar Al-Sharia organization, an arm of Al-Qaeda in Yemen, held a massive assembly in the Al-Khur square in the city of Al-Mukalla, the capital of Hadhrmawt Province in Yemen. During the gathering, one of the members of the organization, Abu al-Abbas, spoke and noted that the organization introduced the implementation of the laws of Allah, and in their merit the population enjoyed security. He added that the money taken from the Central Bank belonged to the Muslims, and there was no reason not to use it for jihad purposes. During the assembly, he described the ousted president, Abd Rabu Mansur Hadi, as someone who had capitulated to the Western countries. This assembly was held after the organization took control of the city Al-Mahla in the beginning of April.<sup>62</sup>



**Images from the assembly**

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<sup>57</sup> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/saudi-arabiaappears-to-scale-back-airstrikes-in-yemen/2015/04/21/a07893f0-e857-11e4-8581-633c536add4b\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/saudi-arabiaappears-to-scale-back-airstrikes-in-yemen/2015/04/21/a07893f0-e857-11e4-8581-633c536add4b_story.html)

<sup>58</sup> <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/04/22/Seven-al-Qaeda-suspects-killed-in-Yemen-drone-strike-.html>

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/icrc-shocked-human-suffering-yemen>

<sup>60</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-residents-of-besieged-aden-yemen-see-worst-fighting-yet/2743629.html>

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/saudi-arabia-repels-cross-border-attack-by-houthi-rebels/2744278.html>

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.hdgatewaynews.com/news/?p=7089>

- Ansar Al-Sharia, affiliated with Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, published a claim of responsibility for shooting that led to the murder of deputy chief of the Yemenite intelligence organization in Al Hudayday Province, in western Yemen.<sup>63</sup> In addition, the organization denied involvement in the murder of four soldiers in Yemen in the middle of April in the city of Ataq, the capital of Shabwah Province in Yemen. That was in response to the fact that media sites had publicized that the organization was responsible for the murder of four soldiers in Yemen, whose bodies were found beheaded. In addition, it was written in the announcement that the leadership of Ansar Al-Sharia forbids its members to murder their enemies under circumstances, as was published in an interview with Sheikh Nasser bin Ali al-Ansi, by the Al-Malahem media institution in the previous December. However, in the announcement the organization emphasized that its denial of any responsibility for the aforementioned murder does not reflect a change in its position with regard to jihad against enemies of the Muslims, including Christians, Houthis, and apostates.<sup>64</sup>

### ***The Islamic State in Sanaa Province***

- The Islamic State in the Sanaa Province produced a first video titled "The Caliphate Soldiers in Yemenite Territory", in which IS fighters dressed in military uniforms threatened to slaughter the Houthis in Yemen. The leader of the organization announced: "People are thirsty for your blood in order to avenge the honor of the Sunnis, and to liberate the land you conquered." He called to battle all able-bodied Sunni men, to participate in the combat against the Houthis, in order to defend their own honor and religion. In addition, he called upon Muslims to support the Islamic Caliphate and its leader, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. Later in the video several fighters threatened to carry out a wave of terror attacks against the Houthis. The video also includes reports of physical training members of the organization undergo, as well as weapons training.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>64</sup> <https://al-aren.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>65</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)



IS soldiers in Yemen

### ***The Islamic State in Shabwah Province***

- The Islamic State in Shabwah Province published a video in which fighters slashed the throats of 11 Yeminite Army soldiers. Another four soldiers were executed by gunshot.<sup>66</sup>

### **Iraq**

*On April 16, the Islamic State continued its assault on Ramadi and continued to gain territory around the perimeter of the city.<sup>67</sup> On April 17, a car bomb was set off outside the American consulate in Erbil, the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan. Three people were killed and the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack. No American personnel were injured in the attack.<sup>68</sup> On that same day, Iraqi government forces retook the Baiji oil refinery from the Islamic State in the Salahuddin province. The refinery had been out of commission since June.<sup>69</sup> On April 25, coalition forces carried out 15 airstrikes in Syria and Iraq, while the Islamic State claimed responsibility for three suicide car bombs at the Trebill border crossing between Iraq and Jordan, in an attack officials said killed at least four members of the Iraqi security forces, and wounded 10.<sup>70</sup> On April 26, multiple attacks were carried out across Iraq killing at least 22 people. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks, which were a suicide car bomb attack on a military post in western Anbar province, a car bomb in central Baghdad, multiple bombs in Shiite neighborhoods of Baghdad, and a car bomb*

<sup>66</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/iraq-thousands-flee-as-is-advances-on-ramadi/2722390.html>

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/19/us-mideast-crisis-us-consulate-idUSKBN0N81RF20150419>

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/18/mideast-crisis-iraq-refinery-idUSL5N0XF09420150418>

<sup>70</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/iraqi-forces-killed-in-is-clashes-and-attacks/2734274.html>

in the town of Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles south of Baghdad.<sup>71</sup>

### **The Islamic State – Nineveh Province**

- The Islamic State in the Nineveh Province published the following:
  - A video documenting a military parade, during which vehicles and weapons in the possession of IS fighters in the province were described, including: tanks, armoured vehicles, jeeps, machine guns, rocket launchers, and more. Interspersed throughout the video were the words of one of the fighters, sending threats to the Shi'ites and the Crusaders, while praising the IS fighters who are expanding their borders. The fighter related that armed fighters of the organization underwent high levels of training in training camps, and were divided into various battalions based on their areas of expertise. An anti-aircraft battalion, an armoured battalion, an incursion battalion, an aide battalion, and an artillery battalion.<sup>72</sup>



**The IS armoured battalion in Nineveh Province**

- A video titled "Servants of the Citizens". The video documents IS fighters paving a road as part of the services they provide for the civilian population. Later in the video, some of the province residents were interviewed, and they praised the sanitation and other services provided by IS fighters for the civilians.<sup>73</sup>
- A video titled "Kurdistan Tyrants Kill their Soldiers". In the video, a former Kurdish Peshberga militia soldier is featured asking his family, friends and relatives to put pressure on the Kurdistan government in order to save him and the other captive Kurdish soldiers from being executed. In the second part of the video, the captive soldier is executed, but not before his executioner sent

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<sup>71</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/26/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-violence-idUSKBN0NH0JB20150426>

<sup>72</sup> [https://archive.org/details/e3dad\\_morhben](https://archive.org/details/e3dad_morhben)

<sup>73</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

threatening messages in Kurdish, promising that the Islamic State would hit the Kurds hard – just as they hit the Shi'ites in Baiji and Ramadi. At the end of the video it was noted that the Islamic State had dozens more Kurdish captives, and that their fate depended on the decision of Masoud Barzani, the Iraqi President of Kurdistan.<sup>74</sup>

- A video dealing with air attacks in Iraq against Islamic State targets. In the video, one of the sites attacked was filmed, and the organization claimed that nine members of a Muslim family were killed. The video's narrator blamed Arab countries – first and foremost the Kingdom of Saudi Arabian and Jordan – for being hypocrites and for harming innocent people. In the second part of the video a young Iraqi man was featured, admitting having transmitted information to military officers who assisted in the air attack. The man was executed - beheaded, as punishment for that deed.<sup>75</sup>
- A photo report about a training camp named after Sheik Sultan Abu Ahmad al-Jaburi. The images showed exercises for improving physical fitness, and military training, including target practice and crossing bodies of water. At the end of the report were images of "a disabled brother who did not exempt himself from jihad."<sup>76</sup>



**Physical exercise in the IS training camp in Nineveh Province**

- A photo report about the execution of two people who were charged with murdering three women and stealing their money. They were also charged with "*Hiraba*" (a crime that causes disruption of public peace and order, such as: highway robbery, rape, murder, and so forth).

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<sup>74</sup> <https://vimeo.com/125728669>

<sup>75</sup> <https://vimeo.com/125289223>

<sup>76</sup> <http://goo.gl/xVJEXq>

Their heads were crushed with a cement brick – in the same manner they murdered the women – according to the charges – with a stone and hammer.<sup>77</sup>

- A video about Dawa activities that were offered for teenagers and children in the province. The activities included lectures praising jihad, recitation of verses from the Quran, along with amusement park rides and food and drink stalls.<sup>78</sup>
- An announcement about the launching of "the Caliphate television channel in Nineveh Province", with information about the broadcast frequencies.<sup>79</sup>



launching an IS television channel in Nineveh Province

### ***The Islamic State – Al-Janub Province***

- The Islamic State in the Al-Janub Province published the following:
  - A video titled "The Raid on the Euphrates Bridge". In the video, a narrator (only his voice is heard) looks at one of the bridges on the Euphrates River and explains that exploding the bridge would halt the supply line to the Iraqi Army forces in the Jurf al-Sakhr region. After exploding the bridge – which was done with a car bomb and a suicide bomber for a driver – the soldiers were chased away from their posts with gunfire, and IS fighters were able to overcome them.<sup>80</sup>
  - A statistical report about the activities the organization engaged in from the end of March to the end of April in the province. The activities were divided into categories:

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<sup>77</sup> <http://goo.gl/XDoRxE>; <https://dump.to/br7>

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duifJvC3KUM> (Arabic)

<sup>79</sup> [https://twitter.com/SHAHED\\_SUNY/status/591954243101204480](https://twitter.com/SHAHED_SUNY/status/591954243101204480);

<http://www.dotmsr.com/details/%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%B4-tv> (Arabic)

<sup>80</sup> [https://archive.org/details/Euphrates\\_Bridge](https://archive.org/details/Euphrates_Bridge)

shelling (rocket and mortar fire, light and medium weapons fire), assassinations (sharp shooting and targeted killings), ambushes (roadside bombs, car bombs, and buildings rigged with explosives), raids and exploding targets (invading posts and homes). In addition, the report provided data about the results of the actions (7 posts and 35 vehicles were destroyed, 217 people were killed or injured) and the booty seized from the Iraqi Army.<sup>81</sup>

- A video documenting rockets being launched at an Iraqi Army position.<sup>82</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Al-Anbar Province***

- The Islamic State in the Al-Anbar Province published the following:
  - A video titled "The Invasion of Albu Iyada", describing an attack against an Iraqi Army post near the city of Ramadi. During the attack, heavy weapons were used, as well as armoured vehicles which were taken as booty from the Iraqi Army. One of the IS soldiers climbed a wall and snuck into the post, and then let his fellow soldiers enter to carry out the attack. After showing images of the dead soldiers alongside the weapons and money taken as booty after the attack, the video ended with images of dead IS fighters. In the background the narrator read the Hadith passage that says that mujahideen who are killed on battlefronts are assured forgiveness for their sins and entry into the loftiest chambers of Paradise.<sup>83</sup>



**Tanks shelling the Iraqi Army post in Al-Anbar Province**

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<sup>81</sup> <https://archive.org/details/JStatisticsJumada2> (Arabic)

<sup>82</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>83</sup> <https://archive.org/details/bueadaa> (Arabic)

- A video titled "A Raid on Abu Turab Al-Ansari". The video documented an attack on the Al-Sufiyya area in Ramadi, including commandeering an abandoned police station, and sending a suicide bomber to detonate himself in a group of Iraqi Army forces. Words of a number of IS fighters are interspersed throughout the video, threatening to conquer all of Ramadi due to threatening messages being sent to the Shi'ites in Iraq.<sup>84</sup>
- A photo report about a military parade of a new group of recruits, named after Abu Bilal al-Isawi, in the city of Hit in the eastern part of the province. The fighters completed their training at the AL-Shaykhayn training camp.<sup>85</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Kirkuk Province***

- The Islamic State in the Kirkuk Province published the following:
  - A video called "Messages from the Fortified Strongholds – Part 4".<sup>86</sup>
  - A photo report about a battle waged by IS fighters against Kurdish Peshmerga militias and Popular Mobilization Forces, near the village of Bayshir. During the battle, IS fighters used medium sized weapons – mortar rockets, and Zilzal rockets.<sup>87</sup>
  - A photo report about an information center in the city of Hawija, that shows IS movies and distributes propaganda materials – both in print and on USB flash drives.<sup>88</sup>
  - A video documenting a suicide attack by an IS fighter named Abu Qatada al-Jiblawi, who carried out the attack against the village Al-Bayshir.<sup>89</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Al-Furat Province***

- The Islamic State in Al-Furat Province published the following:
  - A video about the deployment throughout the province of fresh armed troops, who

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<sup>84</sup> [https://archive.org/details/Alanbar\\_201504](https://archive.org/details/Alanbar_201504) (Arabic)

<sup>85</sup> <https://twitter.com/maroo133/status/590818408515706881> (Arabic)

<sup>86</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>87</sup> [https://twitter.com/9acha3im\\_0/status/592091724975058944](https://twitter.com/9acha3im_0/status/592091724975058944); <https://dump.to/bl9> (Arabic)

<sup>88</sup> [https://twitter.com/abu\\_8anas/status/592745671129694208](https://twitter.com/abu_8anas/status/592745671129694208) (Arabic)

<sup>89</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

had just completed their training in training camps. In the video, fighters were featured wandering among the civilians and being cheered by them. At the end of the video, the fighters were shown pledging allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.<sup>90</sup>

- A photo report about a Dawah gathering in the city of Al-Bukamal. The images reveal that mostly children and teenagers participated in the various activities at the gathering, including competitions with prizes for the winners.<sup>91</sup>
- Several photo reports about different civilian activities, such as: baking and making candy in the city of Al-Bukamal,<sup>92</sup> making bricks in the city of Al-Qaim,<sup>93</sup> and the activities in a market for men that sold clothing, sun glasses, and jewellery.<sup>94</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Salah al-Din Province***

- The Islamic State in the Salah al-Din Province published a two part video about the battles at the oil refinery in the city of Baiji. In the first part of the video, it was explained that before the attack, intelligence was gathered about the refinery using a camera on a drone, and that the attack was orchestrated using radios and computer screens from a special operations room. In the second part of the video, fighters were shown explaining that their presence at the refinery refuted the claim made by the Iraqi government, that it had control over the refinery. The battles included artillery shooting to soften targets, exchanges of gunfire, launching anti-aircraft missiles from the ground, and the use of suicide bombers. The video ended with footage of the bodies of soldiers, as well as footage of IS fighters who were killed.<sup>95</sup> Along with the video, photo reports about the attack were also published, including images from the battle and an image of one of the suicide bombers who breached the refinery's south gate.<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> <https://archive.org/details/mdMuaskar>

<sup>91</sup> <https://dump.to/bpP> (Arabic)

<sup>92</sup> <http://justpaste.it/kuw5> (Arabic)

<sup>93</sup> <https://twitter.com/lbnelnil14/status/593811295641726976>

<sup>94</sup> <https://dump.to/bf1> (Arabic)

<sup>95</sup> <http://goo.gl/NidxTf>

<sup>96</sup> [http://www.cometosuccessnews.tk/2015/04/blog-post\\_821.html](http://www.cometosuccessnews.tk/2015/04/blog-post_821.html)

### ***The Islamic State – Diyala Province***

- The Islamic State in Diyala Province published a detailed report about all of the military actions in the province during March 2015 against the Iraqi security forces, militias, Shi'ites, and other organizations.<sup>97</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Baghdad Province***

- The Islamic State in Baghdad Province published the following:
  - A video documenting the manufacturing of a silencer for a Glock gun.<sup>98</sup>



**The video banner**

### ***The Islamic State – Dijla Province***

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Dijla Province published the following:
  - A video documenting the organization's activities, and exercises by the fighters in a training camp called Al-Karar. For example, the fighters were shown at swimming practice.<sup>99</sup>

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

*On April 20, arms began to arrive in Lebanon from the French government, in a Saudi-financed deal to help bolster the Lebanese Army against the encroaching threat from Syrian militants.<sup>100</sup> On April 22, the Syrian Air Force bombed rebel-held areas in Damascus and outside of Aleppo, including a hospital, killing at least 32 people.<sup>101</sup> The next day, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights*

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<sup>97</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>98</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>99</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>100</sup> <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/04/20/uk-mideast-crisis-lebanon-army-idUKKBN0NB0GE20150420>

<sup>101</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/airstrikes-syria-thirty-two-dead/2730600.html>

contended that the United States led airstrikes which had killed 2,079 people, including 66 civilians, since the start of the aerial campaign against Islamic State militants last September.<sup>102</sup> On April 25, a coalition of Islamist rebel groups captured Jisr al-Shughur, the last major town under government control in the Idlib province. Government forces fled, although the bodies of at least 60 pro-government fighters were lying in the streets, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.<sup>103</sup> On April 27, the Israeli Air Force carried out an airstrike that killed four suspected militants on the Syrian side of the Golan Heights. Little is known about the incident, including the nationalities of the victims.<sup>104</sup> That same day, the same coalition of Islamist rebels that captured Idlib and Jisr al-Shughur captured a Syrian Army base in the Idlib Province. The attack started when a suicide bomber from the al-Nusra Front detonated a car laden with explosives at the entrance to the base.<sup>105</sup>

## Syria

### **Al-Nusra Front**

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manarah al-Bayda, published the following:
  - Pictures of the organization’s fighters in training camps on the outskirts of Hama.<sup>106</sup>



**Image from a training camp**

- Various videos about the destruction of civilian homes by coalition force shelling; an announcement titled “About Our Blessed Activities in the City Ariha”; a photo report about the battles in the military airbase al-Karmid; battles near the city Jisr al-Shaghur

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<sup>102</sup> <http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/1.653267>

<sup>103</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-32461693>

<sup>104</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-32479263>

<sup>105</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/27/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idlib-idUSKBN0NI0HD20150427>

<sup>106</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

and documentation of its liberation by organization fighters; a filmed interview with fighters talking about the liberation of Jisr al-Shaghur; a video documented the destruction of a Syrian Army base and killing Syrian soldiers by launching a rocket at them.<sup>107</sup>

- A senior official of the Al-Nusra Front Shura Council, Abu Abdullah Al-Shami, denounced a religious ruling published by Sheikh Abu Baseer al-Tartusi, who spoke out against joining the Al-Nusra Front – because it was a branch of Al-Qaeda. At first, al-Shami praised Al Qaeda for being the first to battle the “head of the apostates” – the United States. And thus he also glorified the jihad of the Muslim people. Afterwards, he listed the reasons why the religious ruling written by al-Tartusi wasn’t correct, and he explained the mistake. Al-Shami emphasized that al-Tartusi should have made a distinction at the beginning of his ruling between the Islamic State and the Al-Nusra Front. And he wondered why he was so against the Al-Nusra Front and forbade people to join its ranks, while failing to mention other organizations that had contact with the Alawi regime in Syria, or those that openly publicize their agendas – like the United States. In addition, al-Shami blamed al-Tartusi for claiming that Al-Qaeda was the reason that the world was intervening in Syria, and emphasized that jihad is what brought about the intervention. Regarding the accusation of al-Tartusi regarding Al-Qaeda, saying the organization brought suffering upon the Syrians, al-Shami responded that the Al-Nusra Front suffered together with the Syrians, and they were in Syria in order to defend the civilians, and not to harm them. Al-Shami also responded to al-Tartusi’s accusation that Al-Qaeda had no plan for the country – but only plans for confrontation, al-Shami recalls the stages noted by Bin Laden regarding the establishment of a country.<sup>108</sup>

In response to al-Shami’s words, al-Tartusi published an answer in which he claimed that al-Shami fabricated some things in his response. He claimed that he never accused Al-Nusra Front of being a creation of the Syrian Security Services, and he had a lot of respect for the organization. He clarified that like Al-Qaeda, he also supported global jihad. But unlike Al-Qaeda, he doesn’t believe there is a need to fight against all the

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<sup>107</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>108</sup> <https://justpaste.it/kotn> (Arabic)

apostates at once, and that efforts should presently be invested in the war against the Alawi apostates in Syria. He went on to claim that the Islamic State, which split from Al-Qaeda, created a situation in which the international community permitted al-Asad to continue “his criminal acts” towards his people.<sup>109</sup>

- Sheikh Shadee al-Mahdee, who identified with Al-Nusra Front, published on his Twitter account a public statement titled “A Comprehensive Plan and our Present Situation”. He presented a plan that suggested cooperation with other factions – except for traitors or those who had become Khawarij.<sup>110</sup> He called upon anyone who followed the news not to participate in implementing the plans of people who attack Al-Qaeda and Al-Nusra Front, and not to believe the rumors that were publicized about them. Because those who are happy about that are their enemies, since the mujahideen forces are made up of people from all walks of society. He also added that jihad fighters must serve as a uniting body during difficult times, in order to achieve their interests.<sup>111</sup>

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

- The Al-Battar media institution and the Media Front for the Support of the Islamic State published a video titled, “Yarmouk Refugee Camp and the Truth About the Struggle”. The video praised the conquest of the camp by IS fighters, and criticizes the rebel organizations, including armed Palestinian groups who were active in the camp and functioned as representatives of the police force.<sup>112</sup>



**The video banner**

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<sup>109</sup> <http://abubaseer.net/?p=16210> (Arabic)

<sup>110</sup> a nickname given to an ancient sect that left mainstream orthodox Islam. Ever since then, the name has been used as an insult for separatist Islamic groups

<sup>111</sup> <https://justpaste.it/waqe3> (Arabic)

<sup>112</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

### ***The Islamic State – Al-Baraka Province (formerly Al-Hasaka Province)***

- The Islamic State in Al-Baraka Province, formerly Al-Hasaka Province, published the following:
  - A video titled: “War Lions 2”, documenting battles in several locations in the province, with footage of fighters sending threatening messages to the Alawis and Kurds.<sup>113</sup>
  - A video documenting damage caused to a public hospital called Al-Shadadi, as a result of coalition force shelling.<sup>114</sup>
  - A photo report about a course on shari’a offered to new fighters who joined the organization. At the end of the course the students had written and oral tests on shari’a.<sup>115</sup>
  - A photo report about the destruction of headstones standing upright above graves, in one of the province cemeteries. Both adults and children took part in this activity, which was arranged by the Al-Hisba Office, an Islamic body responsible for protecting public morality. The Office explained to the civilians the Islamic ruling to knock over elevated headstones.<sup>116</sup>



**Children knocking over upright headstones over graves in Al-Baraka Province**

- A photo report about the execution of a soldier and secret agent who were accused of assisting the Syrian regime.<sup>117</sup> In another report, the execution of a man accused

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<sup>113</sup> <https://twitter.com/rezwanfatih/status/588845803126554624>; <https://archive.org/details/OsdWagha2> (Arabic)

<sup>114</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>115</sup> <https://dump.to/imthan> (Arabic)

<sup>116</sup> <https://dump.to/qobur> (Arabic)

<sup>117</sup> <https://dump.to/mourtad> (Arabic)

of cursing in the name of Heaven, and proclaiming loyalty to the Alawi regime.<sup>118</sup>



**The beheading of a man accused of loyalty to Bashar al-Asad's regime**

### ***The Islamic State – Al-Khayr Province (Formerly Deir Ezzor)***

- The Islamic State in Al-Khayr Province (formerly Deir Ezzor) published the following:
  - A video called “From Darkness to Light”. The video included interviews with fighters from other jihad branches, such as Al-Nusra Front, who left their organizations in order to join the Islamic State. In the interviews, which were conducted in a religious studies institution as part of their “re-education”, the fighters explained that they understood that the Islamic State was loyal to the correct religion. In addition, former supporters of the Syrian regime were also interviewed – they had also joined the Islamic State and described the Syrian regime as a heretic regime.<sup>119</sup>
  - A video documenting a group of people from the al-Sheitaat tribe denouncing members of their tribe who sided with the Syrian regime and opposed the Islamic State. They called upon the leader of the organization, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, asking him not to prevent them from participating in jihad just because some members of their tribe were opposed to the Islamic State. The video ended with a call to all the “traitors” in the tribe to express remorse before it’s too late.<sup>120</sup>
  - A video documenting how the "lion cubs" grow up in the lap of the Caliphate, and featuring children and teenagers of different ages studying in an IS shari'a school. In the background of the images of the children, the voice of the head of the institution

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<sup>118</sup> <https://dump.to/7ad> (Arabic)

<sup>119</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>120</sup> <http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2n0g4t>

– called Abu al-Abbas – was heard explaining that it is important to nurture the next generation, and to raise among them scholars who will preach and serve the Muslim people in the future. The video showed that along with classes on the principles of Islamic faith, Quran, and Hadith, the institution also offered physical education and wrestling classes.<sup>121</sup>



**An institution for studying shari'a, for children and teenagers, in Deir Ezzor Province**

- A video documenting the execution of three people accused of collaborating with the Alawi Syrian regime. In the video, the accused confessed to their crimes, and related how the Syrian regime tempted them to collaborate by promising them large sums of money. After the execution of the three by beheading, the video ended with a message to the Sunnis in Syria – calling upon them to immigrate to the Islamic State, and calling on soldiers and the police to "repent".<sup>122</sup>



**Captives of IS, restrained with chains, waiting for their executions**

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<sup>121</sup> [https://archive.org/details/sg\\_jkS](https://archive.org/details/sg_jkS)

<sup>122</sup> <https://archive.org/details/andar0>.

## ***The Islamic State – Raqqa Province***

- The Islamic State in the Raqqa Province published the following:
  - A video about Islamic State medical services in Raqqa Province. The video included interviews with members of the medical staff, and a tour of the various departments in the public hospital in Raqqa, which was renovated and resumed functioning. In the video, medical professionals were called upon to join the Islamic State in order to help the sick and injured. In order to train new doctors, the organization opened a Medical College in Raqqa, and offered a three-year medical studies program. The program was cut from six years to three years, in order to focus on practical training and the clinical aspect of treatment, while removing the "non-relevant subjects" from the curriculum – subjects studied under the "Dictatorship" (Bashar al-Asad).<sup>123</sup>



### **Abu Yusuf al-Ustrali – a doctor who emigrated from Australia to the Islamic State**

- A photo report about the renovation of the public hospital in Tabqa. "After it was bombed by the Crusader-Nusayri Coalition".<sup>124</sup>
- A photo report about Islam classes held in the city of Tabqa, and in other parts of the province.<sup>125</sup>
- News sources published items about issuing identity cards, driver's licenses, and other documents for the residents of Raqqa Province. According to the reports, the ID card includes the name of the owner of the card, his parents' names, his place and date of birth,

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<sup>123</sup> <https://archive.org/details/HEALTHSERVICE> (Arabic)

<sup>124</sup> [https://justpaste.it/tabqa\\_hospital](https://justpaste.it/tabqa_hospital) (Arabic)

<sup>125</sup> [http://justpaste.it/halaqat\\_3elm\\_raq](http://justpaste.it/halaqat_3elm_raq) (Arabic)

and other details.<sup>126</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Aleppo Province***

- The Islamic State in the Aleppo Province published the following:
  - A video documenting the execution of a "spy" who worked for the Syrian regime, and another "spy" who worked for the Kurdish PKK.<sup>127</sup>
  - A video about the medical services in the province, operating under the auspices of the Islamic State Health Bureau. In the video, one of the members of the medical staff explains the Islamic commandment to protect one's body and health, and clarified that medical services were provided to the province residents free of charge – with no need for medical insurance. Other staff members at the hospital described the different types of surgeries performed there, and provided statistical data about the scope of medical activities. The video ended with a call upon more doctors to immigrate to the Islamic State and to support activities in the hospitals.<sup>128</sup>
  - A photo report about the execution of two people accused of setting up roadblocks in order to steal money in the name of the Islamic State. The two were beheaded before an audience (made up of both adults and children", and their bodies were hung on crosses in public.<sup>129</sup>
  - Photo reports about the activities in the Dar al-Fath region, including: the destruction of a building called "The Polytheist Temple",<sup>130</sup> repairing of roads and renovating the city; and decorating the roads with IS flags.<sup>131</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Homs Province***

- The Islamic State in the Homs Province published the following:
  - A photo report about an information center scheduled to open in the province. On a

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<sup>126</sup> <http://goo.gl/d28Nmp>

<sup>127</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>128</sup> <https://archive.org/details/HlbMedical>

<sup>129</sup> [http://khilapha.blogspot.com/2015/04/blog-post\\_25.html](http://khilapha.blogspot.com/2015/04/blog-post_25.html) (Arabic)

<sup>130</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9430> (Arabic)

<sup>131</sup> <http://justpaste.it/ktb4> (Arabic)

sign hanging at the site, it says that Islamic videos, audio recordings, Qurans and prayer books, posters, leaflets, and discs will be distributed at the center.<sup>132</sup>

- A photo report about the stoning death of two men accused of engaging in homosexual relations.<sup>133</sup>
- A photo report about removing upright headstones from graves, in accordance with Islamic laws.<sup>134</sup>

### ***The Islamic State – Damascus Province***

- The Islamic State in Damascus Province published the following:
  - Two photo reports about IS control of sites in the Mahassa region, in the eastern Qalamoun mountains. The images document the battles between IS and the other fighting factions, alongside images of dead bodies, captives, and booty taken during the battles.<sup>135</sup>



**An IS fighter overlooking the eastern range of the Qalamoun mountains**

- A photo report about the execution of two members of Sahawat.<sup>136</sup>
- Photographs of the body of a Syrian Army pilot whose plane was shot down over Bir Qassab.<sup>137</sup>

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<sup>132</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/8686> (Arabic)

<sup>133</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9205> (Arabic)

<sup>134</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9373> (Arabic)

<sup>135</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9366>; <https://isdarat.tv/9422> (Arabic)

<sup>136</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/8853> (Arabic)

<sup>137</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9338> (Arabic)

## Miscellaneous

- A prominent poster on the jihadist forum Aren al-Mujahidin, called Ahfad Osamam, posted that the Aswad Al-Shami Brigade in the suburbs of Aleppo, joined the Ahrar al-Shami organization.<sup>138</sup>
- An Afghan prisoner, Sahi Mir Abdullah Kuli, who was captured by the rebels along with three other Afghans, confessed to receiving millions of Iranian Toman (about \$600 dollars), in return for participating in the fighting in Syria with the Iranian forces that support the Syrian regime. Abdullah Kuli was captured after clashes that recently took place in the Al-Lajat and Busra al-Harir areas in Daraa Province, in southern Syrian. Rebel forces published a video clip documenting the prisoner's interrogation.<sup>139</sup>



The Afghan prisoner

## The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

### *The Islamic State - Sinai Province (formerly Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis - Supporters of Jerusalem)*

- The Islamic State in the Sinai Province published the following:
  - A proclamation (#6) titled "A Caution and Warning to all who Help Apostate Soldiers". The proclamation accused the Egyptian Army of brutal acts and the persecution of the Arabian Peninsula civilians. In light of that, the organization emphasized that its members help the oppressed civilians, and cautioned against aiding the security forces active in the area. Finally, the proclamation called upon all collaborators to turn to the mujahideen in order to repent for their actions.<sup>140</sup>

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<sup>138</sup> <https://al-aren.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>139</sup> <http://al-aren.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>140</sup> <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/?p=28819> (Arabic)

- A photo documentation of the distribution of informational leaflets to Muslims in the Al-Mahdiyya, Dawar Rafia, and southern Rafah areas.<sup>141</sup>
- A detailed report about all of the organization's military activities for the month of March 2015. For example, the assassinations of several Egyptian military figures, planting roadside bombs, and similar acts were mentioned.<sup>142</sup>

### ***The Al-Nasir Salah al-Din – Liwa al-Tawhid Brigades***

- The Al-Buraq media institution, which serves as the media wing for the Al-Nasir Salah al-Din – Liwa al-Tawhid Brigades, a Salafi jihadist organization in the Gaza Strip, published a video with a title based on a verse from the Quran: "And if they ask for your assistance". The video's narrator, provided by the organization, spoke about the sorry state the civilians of Gaza are in, due to the siege on Gaza Strip. Later in the video, the organization fighters were featured undergoing physical training and rifle marksmanship training at a training base.<sup>143</sup>

## **Africa**

### ***The Maghreb***

*On April 18, gunfire and explosions were heard in Tripoli amid presumed clashes between the Islamist government and rebels.<sup>144</sup> On April 19, the Islamic State released a video documenting members of the group in Libya executing two groups of prisoners, with the Ethiopian government confirming that 30 of its citizens were among the dead.<sup>145</sup> On April 27, the officially recognized Libyan government announced that five journalists working for Libyan television had their throats slit by Islamic State militants; the reporters had been missing since August.<sup>146</sup> On April 29, Libyan officials confirmed that Islamic State militants had killed two Tunisian journalists who had been kidnapped last year.<sup>147</sup>*

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<sup>141</sup> <https://isdarat.org/8785> (Arabic)

<sup>142</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>143</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>144</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/gunfire-explosions-heard-in-libyan-capital/2724924.html>

<sup>145</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/04/19/africa/libya-isis-executions-ethiopian-christians/>

<sup>146</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/27/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0N1V820150427>

<sup>147</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/islamic-state-militants-kill-two-tunisian-reporters-kidnapped-in-libya-last-year/2742547.html>

*On April 27, militants from the Gatia pro-government group and the Arab Azawad Movement (MAA), a faction of a northern Arab militia also favorable to the government, seized the town of Menaka from Tuareg separatists.<sup>148</sup> The next day, Tuareg rebels shot at United Nations peacekeepers outside of Timbuktu.<sup>149</sup> On April 29, an army spokesman and local residents said that two soldiers and a civilian were killed when gunmen attacked the village of Goundam in northern Mali. The attack occurred amid rising tensions after two days of clashes between pro- and anti-government militia.<sup>150</sup>*

### **Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)**

- The Al-Andalus media institution, operated by Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published the following:
  - A video titled, "Tunisia – Between the Message of the Mujahideen and the Secular Deception".<sup>151</sup> The video – which began with parts of several interviews with senior Tunisian officials, with the goal of presenting them as enemies of Islam – included mainly a recorded message from Sheikh Abu ‘Ubayda Yusuf al-‘Annabi, head of the Council of Dignitaries in the organization. Al-‘Annabi addressed the Tunisian people and claimed that the revolution in Tunisia had not reached its conclusion, since the old "tryants" had simply been replaced with new ones. The leadership - al-‘Annabi clarified – could be toppled, but only with jihad. He explained that the one wish of Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb was and still is to return Islam to Tunisia without harming any innocent people. Near the end of his monologue, al-‘Annabi addressed the fighters of the Uqbah bin Nafi Brigade operating in Tunisia, and praised their jihad operations. But he also warned them not to transform into "mercenaries in a war that is dividing the nation". It may be that al-‘Annabi's words directed towards the ‘Uqbah bin Nafi Brigade were spoken in an effort to prevent the brigade from pledging allegiance to the Islamic State – an effort that was successful since the

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<sup>148</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/27/us-mali-violence-idUSKBN0NI1PV20150427>

<sup>149</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/28/us-mali-violence-idUSKBN0NJ1BJ20150428>

<sup>150</sup> <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/04/29/uk-mali-violence-idUKKBN0NK10F20150429>

<sup>151</sup> <https://archive.org/details/tounes-anabi>; <http://justpaste.it/ksqj>

brigade fighters pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in May 2015.<sup>152</sup>



**Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb – encouraging jihad in Tunisia**

- A public statement about the Azawad Treaty – an agreement approved of by Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb - between The National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) and the Ansar al-Din group in Mali. As a result of claims that blamed the organization for having connections with the MNLA, which is known as a secular-nationalistic organization, Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb refuted those claims. In addition, the organization revealed the original version of the agreement from May 25, 2012, which included clauses stating that the two groups were in total consensus, and a commitment to establish an Islamic State in Azawad. The shari'a law would be enforced with the unification of the two groups and collaboration between all their armed forces.<sup>153</sup> In addition, a public statement was published by the Uqbah bin Nafi, a Salafi jihadist organization in Algeria, denying claims that there was any sort of pact between Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb and The National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA).<sup>154</sup>

## Mali

- Khalid Abu al-Abbas aka Mukhtar bin al-Mukhtar, leader of the AL-Murabitun organization, claimed responsibility in an audio recording for a suicide attack the organization carried out against the UN National Peacekeeping Forces in Mali. According to al-Mukhtar, a suicide bomber named Ibrahim al-Ansari carried out a suicide attack on the Nigerian Forces

<sup>152</sup> <http://www.vetogate.com/1640732> (Arabic)

<sup>153</sup> <http://www.tr-hq.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>154</sup> <http://www.tr-hq.com/vb/> (Arabic)

headquarters in Mali.<sup>155</sup>

- Al-Murabitun, a Salafi jihadist organization in North Africa, published an article examining the modus operandi of the terror attack carried out by organization fighters against a gas field in Algeria in January 2013.<sup>156</sup>



The article title page

## Libya

### *Ansar al-Sharia in Libya*

- The Ansar al-Sharia organization in Libya published the following:
  - Two audio recordings that were broadcast on Radio Athir, which operates on behalf of the organization. The recordings were titled “Messages to those on the Front Lines – Parts 8-12” by Sheikh Abu al-Tamim al-Libi.<sup>157</sup>
  - A collection of photographs of shelling by fighters in Benghazi, firing from a Grad rocket launcher at General Khalifa Haftar’s forces.<sup>158</sup>

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<sup>155</sup> [http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2015/04/17/le-groupe-de-belmokhtar-revendique-l-attentat-contre-l-onu-au-mali\\_4618341\\_3212.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2015/04/17/le-groupe-de-belmokhtar-revendique-l-attentat-contre-l-onu-au-mali_4618341_3212.html)

<sup>156</sup> <https://www.mnbr.info/vb/showthread.php?s=4222955baf85ef19c5123e77e5fd1fe8&p=554101> (Arabic)

<sup>157</sup> <https://al-fidaa.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>158</sup> <https://al-aren.com/vb/> (Arabic)



**Launching a Grad rocket**

- A collection of photographs from a preaching (Dawah) gathering hosted by the Ansar Al-Sharia organization for the Muslims in the Libyan city Derna.<sup>159</sup>



**Images from the Dawah convention**

- The Al-Raya media institution, belonging to the Ansar al-Sharia organization in Libya, published the following:
  - A photo report about the air defence batteries positioned in Derna,<sup>160</sup> and artillery forces in the area of Benghazi who were battling Khalifa Haftar.<sup>161</sup>
  - A photo report about activities of the Public Services Administration's Fire Department, which put out a fire started on a farm when a mortar shell fell there. It should be noted that the report's design and the coverage of civilian activities for public benefit looked like an imitation of similar reports published by the IS.<sup>162</sup>

<sup>159</sup> <https://al-aren.com/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>160</sup> <http://justpaste.it/kmg0> (Arabic)

<sup>161</sup> <http://justpaste.it/kr74> (Arabic)

<sup>162</sup> <http://justpaste.it/kudw> (Arabic)

### **The Fajr Libya Militia**

- The Fajr Libya media office published a letter on April 21, for the residents of Libya and the General National Congress. At the beginning of the letter the organization called upon the “heroic rebels” to join ranks and to abandon the various insignificant arguments between them, since they were hindering victory. The letter then called upon the General National Congress and the military chief of staff to take responsibility and invest all their efforts into ending the fighting. In addition, the organization also asked the government to take the lead and stop making empty promises as its predecessors did. It should utilize the time and money it had to support the fronts, and to bring about the end of the revolution and the possession of all weapons in the hands of the “The February 17th Martyrs Brigade” (named after the date of the Libyan revolution in 2011). Afterwards, the government should help refugees return to their towns and villages. The organization also wrote in the letter to the country’s civilians, calling upon them to have faith in Allah and not to believe the rumors that create arguments between the rebels, and the cities and tribes.<sup>163</sup>



### **The Islamic State**

- The Al-Furqan media institution, which belongs to the Islamic State, published the following:
  - A video titled “Until Clear Evidence was Revealed to Them”, documenting the execution of about 30 Ethiopian Christians who lived in Libya. The execution was carried out in two groups: one group was beheaded near the beach (in Baraka Province), and the other group was killed by gunfire in a desert region (in Fezzan Province). The executed men were described as “cross worshipers affiliated with the hostile Ethiopian church”. Before the footage of the executions, the main part of the

<sup>163</sup> <https://al-aren.com/vb/> (Arabic)

video included a long introduction about the historical development of Christianity and its denominations, a clarification of the status of the heretic Christians, and an explanation of the religious justification for massacring Christians who refused to become Islam or to pay protection money (*Jizya*). One of the organization's religious scholars – Sheikh Abu Malek Anas al-Nashwan - offered the shari'a angle to the execution. In order to strengthen the organization's arguments, the video included interviews with Christian civilians in Syria who paid the *Jizya* and thereby earned the protection of the Islamic State.<sup>164</sup>



**IS executing Ethiopian Christians on the beach in Eastern Libya**

### ***The Islamic State - Tripoli Province***

- The Islamic State in the Tripoli Province published the following:
  - A video titled “Messages from the Caliphate Soldiers 1”, which featured a fighter named Abu Muhammad al-Ansari, who called upon all the mujahideen in Libya to pledge allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the Islamic State. In addition, al-Ansari called upon mujahideen outside of Libya to immigrate there and join the ranks of the IS. The second half of the video documented an explosion of a military vehicle belonging to the Libya Dawn forces in the capital city, Tripoli.<sup>165</sup>

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<sup>164</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/8733> (Arabic)

<sup>165</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/9473> (Arabic)



The video banner

### **The Islamic State - Barqa Province**

- The Islamic State in the Barqa Province published the following:
  - A photo report titled “The arrival of a new group of Caliphate soldiers to the city of Benghazi – the graveyard of the apostates”. A group of about twelve masked and armed men were featured in the video, watching organization movies and reading the Quran together. It appeared to be a group of foreign fighters, who arrived in Libya from other Islamic State arenas.<sup>166</sup>
  - A photo report about the battles between IS forces and the Khalifa Hiftar forces in the different districts of the city Benghazi.<sup>167</sup>
  - A photo report about a man’s hand being chopped of in the city Derna.<sup>168</sup>

### **Nigeria**

*On April 16, Boko Haram militants reportedly killed 12 people in a raid on two villages in northern Cameroon.<sup>169</sup> On April 26, suspected Boko Haram militants attacked an island army base in Niger in mechanized canoes.<sup>170</sup> According to Niger’s government, 46 soldiers and 28 civilians were killed, while 156 militants were killed, in the battle for the army base on Karamga Island.<sup>171</sup> On April 28, the Nigerian government rescued 200 girls and 93 women in the Sambisa Forest in northeastern Nigeria; however the government cautioned that those rescued were "not the Chibok girls."<sup>172</sup> Two*

<sup>166</sup> [http://i-libya.blogspot.com/2015/04/blog-post\\_25.html](http://i-libya.blogspot.com/2015/04/blog-post_25.html)

<sup>167</sup> <https://dump.to/barqa7>; <https://dump.to/msho> (Arabic)

<sup>168</sup> <https://isdarat.tv/8793> (Arabic)

<sup>169</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/twelve-killed-in-suspected-boko-haram-attack-in-cameroon/2723871.html>

<sup>170</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/boko-haram-attacks-army-base-in-niger/2735123.html>

<sup>171</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/content/niger-says-island-battle-with-boko-haram-killed-230/2741448.html>

<sup>172</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/04/28/africa/nigerian-troops-rescue-women-girls/>

days later the Nigerian military rescued 150 more women and children from a nearby area in the Sambisa Forest.<sup>173</sup>

## Somalia

Clashes continued between the Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen - the most prominent jihadist organization in Somalia, struggling to gain control of the county - and the government and its security forces. Last month the organization also intensified its attacks against government offices and military buildings in Puntland, the semi-autonomous region of North Somalia. On April 18, Al-Shabaab fighters shot the Parliament Member representing the semi-autonomous province of Puntland, Adan Hajji Hussein Ismail, as he was leaving a hospital in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. According to the organization's spokesperson, Abdiiaziz Abu Musab, Adan was killed because he was a member of the office of apostates.<sup>174</sup> In addition, on April 20, Al-Shabaab fighters detonated a roadside bomb against a UN vehicle near the UN headquarters in Garowe, a central city in Puntland, Somalia. In the explosion at least seven people were killed, and four of them were UN officials. Another seven people were injured, including foreigners. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>175</sup>

In other Somali provinces the attack continued against the African Union Mission in Somalia Forces (AMISOM) and the government. On April 19, AMISOM published a statement saying that three AMISOM soldiers were killed, and other soldiers were injured in an ambush by Al-Shabaab fighters in Lower Shebelle Province, in Southern Somalia. However, the Al-Shabaab spokesman, Abdiiaziz Abu Musab, claimed on Radio Andalus that in the ambush staged by his organization, a total of five AMISOM fighters were killed, and two military vehicles were destroyed.<sup>176</sup> In addition, on April 21 a car bomb exploded at the entrance to a restaurant in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, killing at least ten and injuring at least twelve people. On the Somali Interior Ministry's official Twitter account, it was written that seven Al-Shabaab fighters in

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<sup>173</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/30/nigerian-soldiers-rescue-150-more-women-and-girls-from-boko-haram>

<sup>174</sup> <http://goo.gl/aCHkz9>

<sup>175</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-32377965>

<sup>176</sup> <http://goo.gl/daVbr0>

the area were killed by the government.<sup>177</sup> However, Al-Shabaab did not claim responsibility for the attack.<sup>178</sup>

### **Al-Sahbaab al-Mujahideen Movement**

- The Al-Kataeb media institution, which serves as the media wing for Al-Sahbaab al-Mujahideen movement, published the following:
  - A video called "Gamba: No Protection Except By Belief or Covenant of Security - Part 2", documenting a raid of the organization's fighters on a police station.<sup>179</sup>



The video banner

### **The West**

- The Al-Hayyat media institution, which serves as the media wing for the Islamic State, published a video in English called "Stories from the Land of the Living: Abu Kahlid al-Cambodi from Australia". In the video, al-Cambodi described the crisis he experienced in his Buddhist faith after he internalized the fact that his faith was misguided because it was based on paganism and idol worship. In the end, he decided to convert to Islam – something that gave him a great sense of satisfaction, to quit his job and give up his former life, and to join the ranks of the Islamic State. The video is an indoctrination film intended to recruit Muslims into the organization's ranks.<sup>180</sup>

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<sup>177</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/04/somalia-mogadishu-restaurant-attack-150421101819873.html>

<sup>178</sup> <http://goo.gl/CXUnCH>

<sup>179</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)

<sup>180</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb/> (Arabic)



Film's banner

- Sheikh Anjem Choudary, a radical Islamist who preaches in English, continued to publish various controversial posts on his Twitter account. During the second half of April 2015, Choudary published different tweets, such as: words of praise for the establishment of the Islamic Caliphate by the Islamic State; a call for the release of Sheikh Omar Bakri who is imprisoned in Lebanon; a call for all non-Muslims, such as Hindus, Jews, Christians and other to convert to Islam; a statement announcing that the Day of Judgement is approaching, with warning signs such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, etc.; a call for all Muslims in Western Europe not to participate in the democratic elections in Britain because they are defined as polytheism; and a statement saying that true Muslims are those who act to spread and implement shari'a.<sup>181</sup>

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<sup>181</sup> <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary/> (English)

## 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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