

## **Bimonthly Report**

# **Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites The Second Half of June 2016**

## Highlights

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

- Sheikh **Ayman al-Zawahiri** accuses Iran of blatantly meddling in Yemen's internal affairs as a result of its ambition to expand its field of influence in the region. According to him, the United States and Iran are waging a joint battle today against Yemen's Sunni residents and the latter must resist those who lead this attack using armed force. Al-Zawahiri also accuses the Lebanese Hezbollah movement of helping Assad's regime to slaughter Sunnis in Syria. Al-Zawahiri further threatens to take revenge on the US if it carries out its intention to execute seven Muslim prisoners, including the perpetrators of the terrorist attack at the Boston Marathon in 2013.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula** publishes a guidebook containing advice for Muslims living in the US on how to carry out individual jihad activities on US soil. According to the organization, the massacre committed by Omar Mateen, a Muslim American citizen, at an LGBT club in Orlando should serve as a source of inspiration for Muslim terrorists in the west because of the many advantages embodied in the attack. According to the organization, *INSPIRE* magazine serves as a good guide to help "individual jihad" by, among other things, teaching readers how to build bombs to plant in crowded areas. According to the organization, it is better to focus on the Anglo-Saxon community and avoid attacks against minorities since the former belongs to the American elite and the leadership echelon of the United States.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent** criticizes the Pakistani government and armed forces for cooperating with the US in killing jihadists, such as Osama bin Laden, the former leader of Al-Qaeda, and Akhtar Mansour, the former leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, on Pakistani soil. According to the organization, this constituted betrayal and ingratitude towards Muslims in Pakistan. In light of this, Muslims in Pakistan must join the ranks of the mujahideen in the various jihad fronts against the US and its ally, Pakistan. Moreover, every Muslim has an individual obligation to protect the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan from the aggression of coalition forces, led by the US.
- **The Islamic State in Khorasan Province** calls on Muslims in the west to initiate terrorist attacks against civilians and soldiers in the west using any means possible, include stabbings, rammings

and poisonings. According to the organization, Omar Mateen, the perpetrator of the attack at an LGBT club, is considered a role model in this matter.

- **The Islamic State** concentrates efforts on recruiting supporters from Southeast Asia, including Malaysia, Indonesia, southern Thailand and Singapore, by launching a new magazine called *Al-Fatihin* in the Malay language, and by calling on armed groups in these areas to unite and swear allegiance to Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic Caliphate.
- **The Islamic State** announces the establishment of its official branch in the Philippines, composed of several armed groups that left the Abu Sayyaf group, as part of its efforts to recruit new supporters and expand its influence in Southeast Asia. Indonesian, Malaysian and Filipino members of the organization call on their countrymen to swear allegiance to al-Baghdadi and to carry out attacks in those countries or migrate to various arenas of jihad.
- **The Islamic State** encourages the murder of Muslim preachers in Serbia-Bosnia, such as Muamer Zukorlic, a former mufti and current member of the Serbian Parliament, claiming that they have become a tool in the hands of politicians instead of defending Islam and, therefore, they must be killed. Against the backdrop of these threats, IS supporters launch an online campaign calling on Muslims in Bosnia to join the organization's efforts to kill infidels and join the ranks of the organization.
- Various **IS** media institutions publish several videos criticizing Saudi Arabia's "religious police", presenting it as a defective body as compared to the Islamic State's *hisbah* department.

## Table of Contents

Highlights .....	2
New Publications .....	6
Ideology.....	6
The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State .....	13
Jihad and Gender.....	13
Jihadist Publications and Social Networks .....	13
Strategy.....	16
Guidebooks and Instruction Manuals.....	19
Promoting the Myth of the Martyr.....	21
Magazines .....	23
Reports from the Field.....	25
Afghanistan-Pakistan.....	26
The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.....	26
The Islamic State.....	27
The Arabian Peninsula.....	27
Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.....	28
The Islamic State.....	28
Iraq.....	28
The Islamic State.....	29
Ansar al-Islam .....	33
Al-Sham [The Levant] .....	33
Syria .....	33
Al-Nusra Front .....	34
Jund al-Aqsa.....	35
The Army of Muhammad in Al-Sham .....	36
The Islamic State.....	36
Ahrar al-Sham.....	43
Ansar al-Din Front.....	44
Jordan .....	44

Turkey.....	45
The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula .....	46
The Salafi-Jihadist Movement in Gaza .....	46
The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula .....	47
Africa.....	47
The Maghreb .....	47
Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb .....	48
Libya.....	49
The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna .....	49
The Islamic State.....	49
Egypt.....	51
Al-Murabitun .....	51
Nigeria .....	51
The Islamic State in West Africa .....	51
Niger .....	51
The Islamic State in West Africa .....	51
Somalia .....	51
Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.....	52
The East Africa Front .....	53
The Caucasus.....	53
The Philippines .....	53
The Indian Subcontinent .....	54
The West.....	55

## New Publications

### Ideology

- In June 30, 2016, Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda, published another speech by Ayman al-Zawahiri as part of a series of publications titled, “The Islamic Spring” (part 7). It was described as the part of the series that was “lost” as a result of bombings carried out against jihadists, but due to its content it was published after it was found. The video was apparently recorded towards the end of 2015. The main points made in the video included:
  - Harsh criticism against Iran and its allies, including the Lebanese Hezbollah movement. According to al-Zawahiri, Iran is blatantly meddling in Yemen’s internal affairs in order to expand its field of influence in the region. According to him, the Arabian Peninsula and Yemen are currently under two major attacks - an American attack and a Shi’ite attack led by Iran - and therefore, Yemen’s Sunni residents must use force to fight against the Houthis (Iran’s ally).
  - Criticism against Lebanese Hezbollah and an accusation against Hassan Nasrallah for helping the Assad regime to slaughter Sunnis in Syria: “It is a branch of the Shi’ite Iranian intelligence. It is fighting in order to spread Shi’a. This is the truth.”
  - Criticism against the US and a threat to punish the country if it executes seven Muslim prisoners, including the one responsible for the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013.
  - Criticism against Saudi Arabia and its description as an ally of the West.
  - An accusation against Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi for creating a rift among the ranks of the mujahideen in the arena of jihad in Syria.<sup>1</sup>

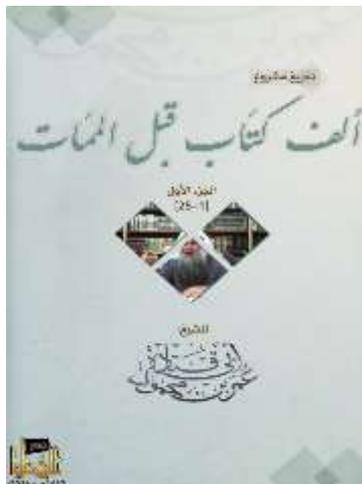
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<sup>1</sup> <https://justpaste.it/rabie7>



**Ayman al-Zawahiri**

- Al-Tahaya jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda, published the following:
  - A book titled, “One Thousand Books before Death” (610 pp.), containing the transcripts of 25 lectures given by Sheikh Abu Qatada ‘Umar bin Mahmud al-Filistini, a prominent Salafi-jihadist sage who supports Al-Qaeda and lives in Jordan. The lectures dealt with the analysis of classic books written by Muslim and western writers, and an examination of their central ideas in the context of current reality, such as “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion”.<sup>2</sup>

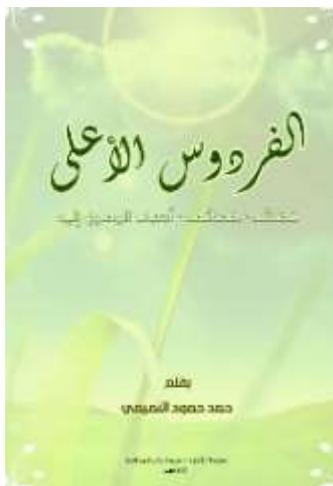


**The banner page of the collection of lectures by Sheikh Abu Qatada ‘Umar bin Mahmud al-Filistini**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://twitter.com/tayaha8/status/743684471417823232>

- The transcript of another lecture by Sheikh Abu Qatada ‘Umar bin Mahmud al-Filistini regarding a book titled, “The Implementation of Islamic Shari’a”, which was written by Sheikh Abu al-Hasan al-Bulaydi, a former senior member of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.<sup>3</sup>
- A book titled, “The Upper Paradise: Praises, Features and Circumstances of Arrival” (94 pp.), by Sheikh Hamd Hamud al-Taimimi, a senior member of AQAP. In the book, the author discussed the reward earned by martyrs and the degrees of Paradise according to Islamic tradition.<sup>4</sup>



**The banner of the book**

- A link to download all of the articles that were published by Al-Tahaya media institution.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/tayaha8/status/745194978297647105>

<sup>4</sup> <https://justpaste.it/vkdu>

<sup>5</sup> [https://twitter.com/ALNOKBAH\\_10/status/745039492080336896](https://twitter.com/ALNOKBAH_10/status/745039492080336896) ;  
<http://lmaqdisse.blogspot.co.il/2016/06/blog-post.html?m=1>



**The banner announcing the download of all of Al-Tahaya media institution’s publications**

- Correspondence on the official Twitter account of Sheikh Hani al-Sibi, an Egyptian Salafist exiled in London who supports Al-Qaeda, included the following:
  - A claim that there is no room for comparison between the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and the leaders of the Taliban in Afghanistan who use Islamic shari’a to rule despite the US invasion of their countries. Nevertheless, al-Sibai claimed that there is room to compare Erdogan with Arab and Muslim rulers and that, despite the fact that Erdogan does not rule based on shari’a like they do, he is respected by them and takes care of the interests of his nation. Al-Sibai emphasized that this is a description of the reality and not praise for Erdogan’s non-shari’a rulings. He also described Erdogan’s role in the revolutions that took place in Egypt.<sup>6</sup>
  - A video regarding Britain’s withdrawal from the European Union, in which al-Sibai first discussed how Muslims in Britain are living in fear since the government in London is racist, while some of the leaders hide this fact and others express it openly. He even claimed that “everyone is like Donald Trump”. Al-Sibai went on to praise Britain’s withdrawal from the EU since, in his opinion, the EU assists in the conquest, intimidation and terrorization of Muslims, and he claimed that Muslims are hoping that it will be

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<sup>6</sup> <https://justpaste.it/vpq4>

dismantled. He added that its dissolution would force each country to deal with its own affairs, thereby making them too busy to involve themselves in Muslim affairs.<sup>7</sup>

- Praise for the path taken by the former leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Mullah Omar, and a call on leaders of the mujahideen around the world, including the leaders of Hamas, to view Mullah Omar and the Taliban as role models for steadfastness and jihad.<sup>8</sup>
- Al-Basira jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Nusra Front, published a series of videos in honor of Ramadan titled, “[Ramadan] Month of Victories”. The publications include videos about regions that were captured by Muslims throughout history (parts 12-24),<sup>9</sup> such as Kashmir, prayers that were held during the month of Ramadan, the importance of fulfilling the obligation of jihad, and more. For example, a video was published by Abu Sulayman al-Muhajir, a senior member and spokesman of the organization in the framework of a series of publications. In the video, al-Muhajir emphasized the importance of fulfilling the obligation for jihad, either by immigrating to arenas of jihad or through financing jihad activities. He also praised the mujahideen in the arena of jihad in Syria and stressed the importance of liberating it.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4aYD6DwfoSk>

<sup>8</sup> <https://justpaste.it/vbqh>

<sup>9</sup> [https://ia601501.us.archive.org/26/items/Fotohat\\_11](https://ia601501.us.archive.org/26/items/Fotohat_11); [https://ia801503.us.archive.org/28/items/Fotohat\\_12](https://ia801503.us.archive.org/28/items/Fotohat_12); [https://ia601505.us.archive.org/26/items/Fotohat\\_13](https://ia601505.us.archive.org/26/items/Fotohat_13); [https://ia801506.us.archive.org/17/items/Fotohat\\_14](https://ia801506.us.archive.org/17/items/Fotohat_14); [https://ia801504.us.archive.org/23/items/Fotohat\\_15](https://ia801504.us.archive.org/23/items/Fotohat_15); [https://ia801509.us.archive.org/24/items/Fotohat\\_16](https://ia801509.us.archive.org/24/items/Fotohat_16); [https://ia601509.us.archive.org/23/items/Fotohat\\_17](https://ia601509.us.archive.org/23/items/Fotohat_17); [https://ia601506.us.archive.org/24/items/Fotohat\\_18](https://ia601506.us.archive.org/24/items/Fotohat_18); [https://ia801509.us.archive.org/26/items/Fotohat\\_19](https://ia801509.us.archive.org/26/items/Fotohat_19); [https://ia801508.us.archive.org/33/items/Fotohat\\_20](https://ia801508.us.archive.org/33/items/Fotohat_20); [https://ia801506.us.archive.org/22/items/Fotohat\\_21](https://ia801506.us.archive.org/22/items/Fotohat_21); [https://ia801503.us.archive.org/33/items/Fotohat\\_22](https://ia801503.us.archive.org/33/items/Fotohat_22); [https://ia801508.us.archive.org/30/items/Fotohat\\_23](https://ia801508.us.archive.org/30/items/Fotohat_23); [https://ia601501.us.archive.org/27/items/Fotohat\\_24](https://ia601501.us.archive.org/27/items/Fotohat_24)

<sup>10</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>



**Sulayman al-Muhajir**

- One of the administrators of Al-Fida jihadist Web forum published links to a series of speeches by Sheikh Abadallah al-Muaisani, a Salafi-jihadist sage who supports Al-Qaeda and resides in Syria, on topics regarding Islam and the arena of jihad in Syria in the framework of a television program called “Daima”. Among the topics covered by al-Muaisani were: foreign fighters serving the IS and other jihadist organizations, foreign fighters who came from western China to Syria in order to fight against the Assad regime, the future of the Syrian revolution, encouragement for the fulfilment of the obligation for jihad, and more.<sup>11</sup>
- The branch of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in Kenya published a series of audio clips by its leader, Ndugu Ahmad Iman Ali, regarding the fast of Ramadan.<sup>12</sup>
- The Egyptian Al-Mauribitan published a series of videos about various religious legal issues in Islam (parts 9-24).<sup>13</sup>
- Al-Risala jihadist media institution published a video titled, “The Miracles of the Mujahideen: Afghanistan – The Soviet Invasion” by Sheikh Abu ‘Abdallah al-Muhajir. In the video, al-Muhajir referred to the importance of fulfilling the obligation of jihad and discussed Sheikh Osama bin Laden and Saudi Arabia’s support for the mujahideen in their battle against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in the 1980’s. Al-Muhajir stated that he had once asked bin Laden if he had witnessed any miracles that befell the mujahideen. Bin Laden responded in the affirmative and said that the mujahideen had retained the upper hand against the Russians in one of the battles despite their numerical inferiority.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>12</sup> <https://justpaste.it/vgk4>

<sup>13</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>14</sup> <https://justpaste.it/vnf9>

- A visitor known as Abu Waqqar al-Gharib published an analysis of the attack that was carried out at the LGBT nightclub in Orlando. In the framework of the analysis, the writer explained that the perpetrator of the attack, Omar Mateen, succeeded in his mission because – among other reasons – he did not fit the stereotype of the “Muslim terrorist” that the US security agencies had formulated for themselves. The writer also referred to the debates that erupted between Democrats and Republicans in the US as a result of the attack, and noted that the US would continue to serve as a target for the IS regardless of the ruling party. Later in the article, the writer criticized media attempts to invalidate a connection between the attack and the IS, ridiculed claims by Mateen’s widow that he “suffered from mental problems”, and presented the attack as revenge against the “American infidels” in general and not as a hate crime against the LGBT community. The author signed the article with reference to the “ills of American society” and expressed hope that the spread of homosexuality in American society will weaken the country and lead to its disintegration.<sup>15</sup>
- Al-Himma Library, which belongs to the IS and is entrusted with the distribution of content regarding religion and faith, launched an application for children called “Prayer of the Day and Night”. The application enables the study of various prayers on an animated interface animation based on the organization’s urban sector (a training camp for children, an Islamic court and a hisbah office), and allows the child to destroy warplanes hovering over the city.<sup>16</sup> In addition, Al-Himma Library published a video about the month of Ramadan and laws of the fast during the month.<sup>17</sup>



**The banner of a video regarding the month of Ramadan; an application for prayers for children from Al-Himma Library publishing house**

<sup>15</sup> <https://justpaste.it/vglc>

<sup>16</sup> <https://dawaalhq.com/post/45677>; <http://ababiil.net/technology/94514.html>

<sup>17</sup> [https://archive.org/download/gsdgzetra\\_mail\\_TR](https://archive.org/download/gsdgzetra_mail_TR)

### ***The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State***

- Visitors to Al-Fida jihadist Web forum, which supports Al-Qaeda, addressed the blows recently dealt to the Islamic State. According to them, the organization continues to harbor illusions that it has the upper hand and continues to spread false information that its situation is good despite the heavy defeats that it has suffered in the field. According to them, the reason for this trend stems from the organization's desire to encourage its fighters. Alongside this discourse, several visitors raised questions regarding the fate of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi due to his absence from the media arena for over half a year.<sup>18</sup>

### ***Jihad and Gender***

- A writer calling himself Qattal al-Qahtani published an article titled, "Advice for Sisters". In the framework of the article, the writer cautioned women who support the IS and called on them to maintain several security measures on various social networks (such as Twitter, Snapchat, Telegram and Instagram). The writer warned women that there are many imposters on these networks, some of whom work for intelligence agencies and pose as women or mujahideen. The writer explained that reckless support for the IS on social networks may cause more harm than good and, in these instances, it is preferable that women devote efforts to religious study, Quran memorization or the education of their children in jihad. The writer ended the article with a call on women to resist arrest and defend themselves, even if doing so will cost them their lives, since it would constitute a martyr's death.<sup>19</sup>

### ***Jihadist Publications and Social Networks***

- Fajr, a visitor to Al-Fida jihadist Web forum, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, started a discussion regarding the roles of Web forums. According to him, jihad supporters used to publish official jihadist publications on various jihadist forums, such as Al-Hisba and Al-Firadus. However, today Al-Qaeda is left only with Al-Fida, which serves as the sole forum for the organization's official publications. This was after the Shumukh al-Islam forum did an about-face

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<sup>18</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>19</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

and vowed allegiance to the Islamic State after its director and his deputy were arrested. In light of this, the visitor asked “did jihadist forums die out or have their supporters finished [their jobs in the forums]?” He emphasized that social networks are only partially to blame for the fading of the forums, and he asked the online public to speculate about the reasons for this trend: “We must know what the disease is so that we can cure it the right way”.

In response to this question, one of the supervisors of Al-Fida forum, known as Umm ‘Amara al-Ansariyya, noted that social networks significantly contribute to this trend but, despite this, the forums remain an important action base and still deserve a place of respect. He added that all members of the forum, including the supervisors themselves, must concentrate efforts on increasing the discourse, creating topics for discussion and attracting outside readers. In response, Fajr remarked that it would be best to consider establishing a social network that would serve as an attractive platform for managing discourse and for sparking discussion among the youth. He emphasized that the forums used to be very strong in the area of propaganda but their time has expired and “there is no escaping that truth”. He added that they must adopt the platforms used by the youth in order to strengthen the connection with them and to avoid falling into the trap set for them by intelligence agencies or enemies of jihad: “We must think carefully and seriously about the issue of developing this action immediately”.

Another visitor responded and noted several factors related to the fading of the forums and the rise in popularity of social networks:

- A. An increase in the volume of activity on social networks as well as exposure to their content, while jihadist forums are shrinking to small, select groups.
- B. The move of prominent writers from the forums to social networks and, with them, the public who used to consume their publications religiously.
- C. The opportunity to freely express opinions on social networks while the forums have a monitoring system over the content, which excludes content that it is inconsistent with the forum’s management. Therefore, the networks serve as a platform to express one’s ideas without fear.
- D. Official jihadist media institutions do not need another mediator in the form of a jihadist Web forum in order to publish their materials, but rather they can distribute them directly on social networks. According to him, jihadist forums have lost their uniqueness, which was

expressed in the exclusive distribution of jihadist forums. Moreover, jihadist publications are not only published on social networks but are even published on the forums first.

E. Jihadist forums are characterized by uniformity, “For the most part, you will not find anything new in them”. This devastating repetition engenders boredom as opposed to social networks, which serve as an arena of battle.

In addition to the above, the visitor noted that jihadist Web forums serve the sole purpose of meeting archival needs by preserving Web sites and information in case jihadist content is erased on Twitter and justpaste. The forums enable quick and easy access to content that was erased.

Another visitor noted that he agrees with most of what was said, but he emphasized that forums continue to maintain their uniqueness since the correspondence published on them originates solely from jihad supporters, in contrast to social networks where one can find a collection of jihadist publications from around the world. He also emphasized that jihadist forums, especially Al-Fida, are still the source for official announcements by the mujahideen, and added that the lack of participation by several forum members was likely tied to security reasons.<sup>20</sup>

- A visitor to Al-Fida jihadist Web forum, which serves as a platform for the official announcements of Al-Qaeda and its various branches, noted that he had not managed to find a working link to the forum on the Google search engine. However, he did find a roundabout link to the forum through the hashtag [#شبكة\\_الفداء\\_الإسلامية](#) on Twitter. According to him, visitors must be made aware that the forum continues to be active and, therefore, the new link should be distributed in every possible place on the Internet.<sup>21</sup> Another visitor noted that a link to the forum can be found on the tweet lists of senior jihadist leaders.<sup>22</sup>
- A writer calling himself *Al-Manjaniq* (“the Catapult”) wrote an article about the senior jihadist Web forum, Shumukh al-Islam. In the framework of the article, the writer claimed that the shutdown of the veteran forum was not accidental, but rather was a planned step aimed at causing the organization’s supporters to get lost “in the maze of accounts on social networks”

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<sup>20</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>21</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>22</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

and encounter false news items disseminated by opponents of the IS. In contrast to social networks, jihadist Web forums like Shumukh al-Islam allows access to authorized and reliable information but also serve as an archive for old reports and articles, which is not possible on social networks like Twitter where new accounts are frequently closed. The writer concluded by noting that activities on social networks should not be abandoned but, at the same time, jihadist Web forums should be supported and viewed as an “action base”.<sup>23</sup>

- A writer calling himself “Tenacious Supporter” published an article regarding the psychological battle being waged by the IS against its enemies. In the framework of the article, the writer explained that in ancient times the Prophet of Islam recognized the importance of deterring the enemy, and he praised the IS for its activities in this area. For instance, the writer said that before the capture of the city of Mosul, the organization distributed clips from its training exercises alongside threats, which caused Iraqi soldiers to flee from the city. In order to strengthen the Islamic State’s psychological warfare, the writer suggested that its supporters open fictitious Facebook accounts in order to deter Iraqi army soldiers and Popular Mobilization Forces by planting the organization’s publications on their accounts. In addition, the writer recommended distributing false information, explaining that it is permissible to lie in a state of war.<sup>24</sup>

## Strategy

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published a pamphlet titled, “INSPIRE Guide: Orlando Operation”. In the pamphlet, the organization praised the terrorist attack that was carried out by Omar Mateen, a Muslim American citizen, at an LGBT nightclub in Orlando. In addition, the organization emphasized that it calls on every Muslim, irrespective of his organizational membership or loyalty, to emulate Mateen and carry out individual terrorist attacks against the United States. Moreover, the organization called on anyone – Muslim or not - who feels oppressed in the US to take every precaution against oppression exerted by the US government.

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<sup>23</sup> <https://justpaste.it/vgxp>

<sup>24</sup> <https://justpaste.it/val5>

The organization went on to express its desire to help all potential terrorists by providing advice that can contribute to the execution of an effective terrorist attack. For example, it recommended focusing on crowded areas so that the public is made directly aware of the reasons for the attack, and in order to put public pressure on the government to change its aggressive policies towards Muslims.

According to the pamphlet, the Orlando attack was considered the most successful act of jihad by an individual perpetrator and serves as a source of inspiration for lone terrorists in light of the high number of casualties. According to the organization, there were several factors underlying this success:

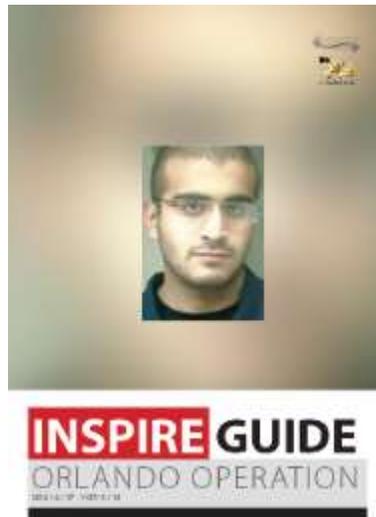
- A) Choice of location – an enclosed and very convenient area for hunting the targets.
- B) Time of attack and mental state of the targets – late at night when people were drunk.
- C) The terrorist was well-trained in shooting thanks to his job at a security company. He also managed to take hostages and drag out the battle. In this way, he managed to send a better message to the world.
- D) The effective use of weapons, namely guns, at Mateen’s disposal.

Later in the pamphlet, the organization mentioned several additional points concerning lone terrorist attacks:

- A) It is preferable to select locations frequented by the LGBT community as it is a religious obligation to kill homosexuals. According to the organization, the American media tried to describe the event in a biased and misleading manner by claiming that Mateen acted out of his hatred for the LGBT community, but in actuality he had other motives for the attack.
- B) It is preferable to avoid attacking places where there are minorities, such as Latinos. Instead, one should focus on crowded places frequented by Anglo-Saxon communities due to their status as members of the US elite and leadership class. The organization further advised lone perpetrators to glean assistance from the 12 issues of *INSPIRE* magazine that have been published so far in order to obtain information on how to build explosives to be used in future attacks.

Finally, the organization called on Muslims in the US to take up arms in order to defend their religion and the Muslim Nation. According to the organization, “individual jihad” is not a pursuit

exclusive to Al-Qaeda or any other organization, and so every jihadist group must adopt and build the idea of “individual jihad”: “We call on every single Muslim in western countries, and on those from other countries who are able to travel to the West, to follow in the footsteps of our hero, Omar Mateen, etc., to strike the US, the chief of heresy”.<sup>25</sup>



**The banner page of INSPIRE Guide: Orlando Operation**

- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum held a discussion regarding the manufacturing of explosives and aircraft interception devices. The visitors shared creative methods and advice on preparing aircraft interception devices (such as attempts against flocks of migrating birds), and they explained that in order to implement the idea they need supplies, engineers and other professionals.<sup>26</sup>
- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum applauded the re-opening of the forum after it was brought down in June by a person calling himself RealRebirth on Twitter. One of the visitors published the details of that person on Twitter and encouraged forum visitors to attack his account.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>26</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>27</sup> <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

## Guidebooks and Instruction Manuals

- The Telegram channel, “Military Sciences” (related to Salafi-jihadist factions in Syria), which posts old and new guidebooks, videos and other forms of media regarding warfare and the army, published the following:
  - Guidebooks on understanding and operating a Kalashnikov rifle.



From left to right: the logo of the “Military Sciences” Telegram channel; an explanation regarding the operation of a Kalashnikov rifle

- Guidebooks on assembling explosives; a guidebook on breaking into houses; a guidebook on preparing Anfo explosives.



### A page from the guidebook on preparing Anfo explosives

- An illustrated guidebook about “marksmanship” in the framework of a series of publications titled, “Wolf” (229 pp.). The guidebook provided information on using camouflage in the battlefield, taking various parameters (such as weather) as a component that could affect marksmanship accuracy, and more.



An illustrated guidebook on marksmanship

- A guidebook on fighting in the dark, preparing a shooting range to improve shooting capabilities, accurate shellings, knowledge of anti-tank missiles and ways to destroy them, preparing explosives-ridden vehicles, preparing dirty (chemical) bombs, etc.



A guidebook on using heat-seeking missiles against armored vehicles

- A video on building hand grenades.

- A collection of guidebooks that was previously published by Al-Fajr media institution, which has ties to Al-Qaeda, titled, “The Terrorism Industry” from 2010-2013. The collection includes 29 lessons on intelligence and combat-related tips.



The banner of “The Terrorism Industry” series

- A guidebook on the “Military Use of Electronics”; a guidebook on where and how to stab the enemy with a knife in order to maximize damage (28 pp.); a series of guidebooks titled, “The Training of a Mujahid” that included courses on military tactics (119 pp.).

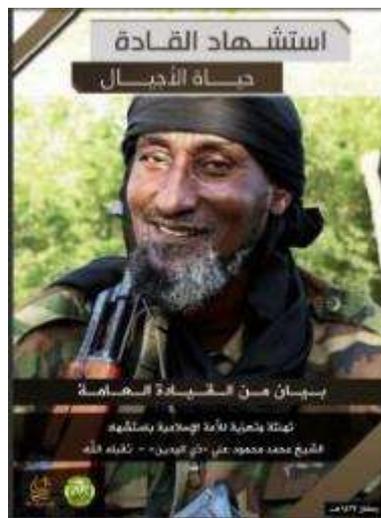


From left to right: a page from the series “The Training of a Mujahid”; a guidebook on the “military use of electronics”; the banner page of a guidebook on stabbing with a knife

## Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

International Institute for Counter Terrorism (ICT)  
 Additional resources are available on the ICT Website: [www.ict.org.il](http://www.ict.org.il)

- Al-Kataib jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in Somalia, published a eulogy by the organization’s general leadership in memory of Sheikh Muhammad Mahmud ‘Ali Dhi al-Yadayn, an ideologue, senior cleric and one of the planners of the terrorist attack at Garissa University in Kenya. Al-Yadayn was born in Kenya in 1967. He received a high school education in Kenya and continued his shari’a studies in Sudan. After completing his studies, he started to work in the field of dawah and education, and he was active in raising awareness of the importance of undertaking jihad against the infidels and the implementation of shari’a. During the 1990’s, he joined a military camp in southern Somalia founded by Sheikh Hassan al-Turki (1944-2015), a prominent Somali Salafi-jihadist leader. After Ethiopia’s attack on Somalia, he decided to join the arena of jihad and strengthen the morale of the mujahideen.<sup>28</sup>



**A banner in memory of Sheikh Muhammad Mahmud ‘Ali Dhi al-Yadayn**

- Ibn Tamiyya jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for the Islamic State in the Palestinian context, published a biography of Muhammad Sabir al-Masri (1981-2016), a pioneer of the Salafi-jihadist stream in the Gaza Strip. The biography covered, at length, his contributions to the Salafi-jihadist stream in Gaza, the tension with Hamas, and his decision to join the IS in Syria, where he was killed in an air strike by coalition forces on the city of Al-

<sup>28</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

Raqqa in eastern Syria. The biography was part four in a series of publications titled, “The Martyrs of Shari’a”.<sup>29</sup>



The banner of a publication containing the biography of Muhammad Sabir al-Masri

## Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published issue no. 123 of its Arabic-language magazine, *Al-Somood*, and issue no. 52 of its Urdu-language magazine, *Shariat*.<sup>30</sup>



From left to right: the banner pages of *Shariat* and *Al-Somood*

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published issue no. 14 of its magazine, *Al-Masra*. The issue reviewed various arenas of jihad in which its members are active as well as current events. For example, one of the articles dealt with Turkey’s invasion of Somalia. In addition, the issue

<sup>29</sup> <https://dawaalhq.com/post/45610>

<sup>30</sup> <https://ia801504.us.archive.org/8/items/shariat-52>

included an exclusive interview with Sheikh Abu Sulayman al-Muhajir, a member of Al-Nusra Front’s Shari’a Council, regarding the need for jihad fighters to gird themselves with patience in the face of their enemies, especially against the Syrian regime.<sup>31</sup>



The first page of the issue of *Al-Masra*

- Al-Furat jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published a new magazine titled, *Al-Fatih*, in the Malay language. The launch of the magazine indicated an effort by the organization to recruit supporters in Southeast Asia. According to reports in Malaysian media, the magazine is distributed in Malaysia, Indonesia, Bruni, Singapore, southern Thailand and southern Philippines.

The first issue of the new magazine focused on the month of Ramadan, the importance of fulfilling the obligation of jihad, statistics regarding military operations, etc. In addition, the issue sent a message to all armed groups in Indonesia and the Philippines to unite and swear allegiance to the leader of the Islamic Caliphate, Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>31</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>32</sup> <https://ia801506.us.archive.org/13/items/AlFatihinEdisi011>



The banner page of *Al-Fatihin* magazine

- The Islamic State published issues no. 36-37 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, which covered the activities of IS fighters in various arenas of jihad.<sup>33</sup>



The banner pages of issues 36-37

## Reports from the Field

<sup>33</sup> <https://ia601505.us.archive.org/15/items/Naba36>

## Afghanistan-Pakistan

*During the second half of June, attacks by Taliban in Afghanistan fighters against Afghan security forces and foreign forces increased following two weeks of relative quiet at the beginning of Ramadan. The wave of terrorist attacks began in Kabul, where a suicide terrorist blew himself up next to a minibus of Nepalese guards belonging to the Canadian Embassy in Afghanistan. Several hours later, a bomb exploded underneath the car of an Afghan Parliament member.<sup>34</sup> At the end of the month, IS fighters attacked a bus carrying Afghan security forces south of Kabul and killed at least 30 members of the security forces.<sup>35</sup> Clashes also erupted between IS fighters and Afghan security forces in eastern Afghanistan.<sup>36</sup>*

*Meanwhile, Pakistan re-opened the border crossing with Afghanistan following talks that were held between the two countries regarding the matter.<sup>37</sup>*

### **The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan**

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the following:
  - A continuation of the wave of publications concerning the oaths of allegiance to the leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Hibatullah Akhundzada, taken by jihad fighters in the Afghan arena, including members of the military training camp in Kandahar Province,<sup>38</sup> fighters in Baghlan Province, and others.<sup>39</sup>
  - An announcement by the spokesperson for the Emirate rejecting rumors that the governor of Ghazni Province, Mohammad Qasim, was killed in an Air Force bombing. The organization added that the rumors were enemy propaganda and that Qasim was alive and working in his jihadist role.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/kabul-bombing-afghanistan-160620032001485.html>

<sup>35</sup> <http://goo.gl/R9gsoi>

<sup>36</sup> <http://goo.gl/en70Kz>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/afghanistan-pakistan-reopen-torkham-border-crossing-160618041859045.html> (English).

<sup>38</sup> <https://ia801505.us.archive.org/4/items/Kandaharshorabak>

<sup>39</sup> <https://archive.org/download/baghlan01/>; <https://ia801505.us.archive.org/4/items/Kandaharshorabak>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/06/taliban-deny-ghazni-shadow-governor-killed-in-airstrike.php> (English).

## **The Islamic State**

- The Islamic State in Khorasan Province published the following:
  - A video titled, “You Won’t Dream of Being Secure”. In the video, several fighters praised the terrorist attack that was carried out by Omar Mateen in an LGBT nightclub in Orlando on June 12, 2016. One of the fighters called on all Muslims living in “infidel lands” to turn against them and carry out stabbing, ramming and poisoning attacks.<sup>41</sup>



### **Praise from Khorasan Province for Omar Mateen, the perpetrator of the attack in Orlando**

- Photos documenting battles between IS fighters and Afghan army forces in Nangarhar.<sup>42</sup>
- A claim of responsibility for the assassination of a Pakistani public personality, Nawab Khan Safi, in Peshawar.<sup>43</sup>

## **The Arabian Peninsula**

*Efforts continued to achieve calm and to restore stability to Yemen. During the second half of June 2016, representatives of the Houthi General People’s Congress party (GPC), and representatives of Yemeni President, Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi, reached an agreement regarding the renewal of peace talks in Kuwait. American diplomats involved in the peace talks noted that they had received a promise from Hamza al-Houthi, leader of the Houthi delegation, to withdraw*

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<sup>41</sup> <https://ia801503.us.archive.org/7/items/LnTahlmo>

<sup>42</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46117>

<sup>43</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45836>

Houthi forces from the occupied cities and hand over their weapons to the unified government.<sup>44</sup> Nevertheless, clashes between Yemeni government forces and Houthi militia forces as well as former President Saleh's forces continued, especially in the city of Taiz.<sup>45</sup> Clashes were also reported in the area of Sanaa. On June 27, 2016, 14 Houthis were killed in battles that took place in eastern Sanaa.<sup>46</sup> Meanwhile, a wave of terrorist attacks continued to strike the battered city. The city of Al-Mukalla was again struck by terrorism when the IS claimed responsibility for a series of suicide attacks, which killed 42 Yemeni security forces in the southeast part of the city. This followed the April 2016 retreat of Al-Qaeda fighters from the city when coalition forces overtook it.<sup>47</sup>

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

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published the following:
  - Ansar al-Sharia, which is affiliated with AQAP, published an announcement about the dismissal of two of its members, Harith al-'Azzi and Hamam al-San'ani, for having violated shari'a and the rules of the organization, unjustly spilling blood and stealing forbidden money. In light of this, the organization declared that it was disavowing them, and that their actions reflected only themselves and not the organization.<sup>48</sup>

### **The Islamic State**

- The Islamic State claimed responsibility for several suicide attacks that were carried out by its fighters against the Yemeni army in the city of Al-Mukalla.<sup>49</sup>

### **Iraq**

The second half of June began with the takeover of central Al-Fallujah, which is located in Al-Anbar Province, by Iraqi security forces and the raising of the Iraqi flag in the city center. As a result

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<sup>44</sup> <http://gulfnnews.com/news/gulf/yemen/yemeni-talks-to-be-suspended-after-deadlock-officials-1.1853636> (English).

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.thesaudi.info/2016/06/29/هجوم-الحوثيين-باليمن-على-معسكر-الجيش-ف> (Arabic).

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=557761>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/sites/almonitor/contents/afp/2016/06/yemen-conflict-mukalla.html>

<sup>48</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>49</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46215>

of this, the Iraqi Prime Minister announced that the Iraqi army was close to completing its takeover of the city and that small pockets of IS resistance remained in the city,<sup>50</sup> mainly in the north of the city.<sup>51</sup> Indeed, towards the end of the month, the Iraqi army announced the total liberation of Al-Fallujah from IS control.<sup>52</sup> The loss of Al-Fallujah, an important IS stronghold in Al-Anbar Province, was a blow to the organization. The Prime Minister of Iraq, who paid a “victory visit” in the city after it was liberated, declared that victory in Mosul, which is still under IS control, was near.<sup>53</sup> As a result of this, the Iraqi army began assisting coalition forces in purging the area of Al-Qayyarah, which is located south of Mosul, of IS fighters in order to prepare for the takeover of the city.<sup>54</sup>

### **The Islamic State**

- The Amaq news agency published the following regarding the Iraqi arena:
  - A video titled, “Zabkurah Area Northwest of Ramadi after its capture by Islamic State Fighters”. The video showed IS fighters wandering around the area after, they claim, Iraqi army soldiers fled the area.<sup>55</sup> An announcement regarding the battle in this area was also published by the IS media institution in Al-Anbar Province.<sup>56</sup>
  - An announcement regarding the deaths of 25 members of the Iraqi security forces in two suicide attacks south of Al-Fallujah, as well as the deaths of five members of the Sahawat forces as a result of an explosive blast near the city of Al-Rutba in Al-Anbar.<sup>57</sup>
  - A video regarding the battles near Al-Sharqat junction in northern Saladdin Province and the takeover of a residential complex in the area by IS fighters.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/iraq-pm-abadi-declares-victory-isil-fallujah-160617174259486.html> (English).

<sup>51</sup> <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/190620163>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-fallujah-iraq-liberated-islamic-state-daesh-iraqi-army-a7103931.html>

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/abadi-visits-fallujah-160626163140621.html> (English).

<sup>54</sup> <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2016/06/28/US-looks-to-Mosul-after-Fallujah-recapture.html> (English).

<sup>55</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45377>

<sup>56</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Clo-8OBWkAAHssv.jpg>

<sup>57</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45425>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45422>

<sup>58</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46404>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46458>

- The Mu'ta news agency, which is closely associated with the IS, published a poster summarizing the losses and damage suffered by the Iraqi army and its allies during a month of battle in Fallujah. According to the poster, over 1,840 fighters among the ranks of the Iraqi army and militias were killed (photos of the prominent among them were attached to the poster), and over 239 military vehicles, tanks and observation aircraft were destroyed.<sup>59</sup> The deaths of PMF commanders in battles in Al-Fallujah were also reported.<sup>60</sup>



**A summary of the losses and damage suffered by Iraqi army forces in battles in Fallujah**

- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Iraq published a wide range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following issues:
  - Battles and Military Deployments:
    - Saladdin Province: A video titled, “The Aggressors 2”, which documented the organization’s attacks against Iraqi army posts in the area of Baiji. The video included footage of the attacks (mainly light and heavy weapons fire directed at the posts and the launch of RPG rockets), and documented the weapons that were taken as plunder as well as the corpses of the soldiers who were killed.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>59</sup> <https://goo.gl/wqfPOG>

<sup>60</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46107>

<sup>61</sup> [https://archive.org/details/abohafsaalkaisy\\_gmail\\_22](https://archive.org/details/abohafsaalkaisy_gmail_22)



### Documentation of the battles in Baiji

- Various provinces: Reviews, videos and announcements regarding various operational topics, including: an announcement about an attack at the Trebil checkpoint between Jordan and Iraq,<sup>62</sup> an attack by IS fighters and seven suicide attacks against the Iraqi army north of Baiji,<sup>63</sup> an attack against Shi'ite militia posts in the area of Al-Jarayshi in Al-Anbar,<sup>64</sup> a suicide attack against the army and PMF in the area of Makhmur,<sup>65</sup> the destruction of four hummers and the killing of 16 PMF forces in a suicide attack at the entrance to Tuz Khurmatu,<sup>66</sup> the seizure of a truck containing weapons and an armored personnel carrier north of Ramadi,<sup>67</sup> the killing of 55 SWAT forces members in Al-Bu Assaf and northeast of Baiji,<sup>68</sup> the launch of 40 locally manufactured rockets against the Iraqi army and the PMF in Ramadi,<sup>69</sup> the killing and injuring of 23 Shi'ites in battles north of Fallujah,<sup>70</sup> the killing of 11 Iraqi army soldiers following a siege on their house,<sup>71</sup> the killing and injuring of 45 PMF soldiers in a car bomb explosion in the city of Saladdin,<sup>72</sup> the killing of 25 Iraqi army

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<sup>62</sup> [https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Cl\\_YVIXWYAAo6lq.jpg](https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Cl_YVIXWYAAo6lq.jpg)

<sup>63</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45282>; [https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Clv\\_zcJWgAAI11D.jpg](https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Clv_zcJWgAAI11D.jpg)

<sup>64</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45323>

<sup>65</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45299>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45353>

<sup>66</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45356>

<sup>67</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45418>

<sup>68</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45453>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/ClanhtZVEAAI9t9.jpg>

<sup>69</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45643>

<sup>70</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45641>

<sup>71</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45640>

<sup>72</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/ClPml1WAAAsu4T.jpg>

soldiers in a suicide attack in southern Baghdad,<sup>73</sup> three suicide attacks against the Iraqi army in northern Saladdin Province (one of the perpetrators was Indonesian in origin),<sup>74</sup> the killing of a PMF commander named Dahham al-Hassan at his home in Tikrit,<sup>75</sup> the killing of six PMF members in Al-Za'fraiyya, which is located in southern Baghdad, and a suicide attack in the area of Makhul,<sup>76</sup> the killing of 40 Sahawat forces, and the plunder of weapons and vehicles west of the city of Albukamal,<sup>77</sup> and a report of dead and injured Iraqi army soldiers in an attack south of Al-Shirqat.<sup>78</sup>

B. Executions:

- Kirkuk Province: A filmed review regarding the execution of five people accused of spying for the Peshmerga and Shi'ite militias in the province. The review showed the photos and names of the accused and documented their beheadings.<sup>79</sup>
- Al-Furat Province: A filmed review regarding the execution of six people accused of spying and cooperating with the Iraqi army in the cities of Albukamal and Al-Qaim.<sup>80</sup>

C. Propaganda and PR:

- Nineveh Province: A video titled, "More Efficient for Us, Worse for Them", which praised Omar Mateen's "lone wolf" attack at an LGBT nightclub in Orlando and Larossi Abballa's attack on a police officer and his wife in Magnanville, France. The video showed Bosnian and French fighters who applauded the attacks and called on Muslims in the West (the US,

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<sup>73</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45736>

<sup>74</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46068>

<sup>75</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45993>

<sup>76</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46256>

<sup>77</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CmHjyOdWkAAwuJE.jpg>;  
<https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46367>

<sup>78</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CmOAp4CWYAA7R6O.jpg>

<sup>79</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45320>

<sup>80</sup> <https://goo.gl/bNRxHj>

Australia, Canada and Europe) to awaken from their slumber and carry out attacks against infidels without differentiating between soldiers and civilians.<sup>81</sup>

### ***Ansar al-Islam***

- Ansar al-Islam published a video documenting the training that its members undergo at the Sheikh Abu al-Darda training camp.<sup>82</sup>

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

#### **Syria**

*The battles in the city of Manbij, which is located in Aleppo Province, between IS fighters and Syrian Democratic Forces constituted the central front in the Syrian war.<sup>83</sup> According to a report by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), the battles in Manbij led to the deaths of 500 people and to the displacement of thousands of the city's residents.<sup>84</sup> In addition, tens of people were reported killed in bombings in Aleppo, Eastern Ghouta and the town of Al-Quriyya.<sup>85</sup> The SOHR also prepared a general summary of the number of people killed in Syria since the start of the Russian bombings, according to which 2,498 civilians, 2,436 Islamic State fighters and 2,097 members of other Islamic factions have been killed during the last nine months.<sup>86</sup> The United Nations also reported the death of over 700 doctors and medical workers in Syria since the beginning of the war five years ago.<sup>87</sup>*

*In the political arena, senior officials made statements regarding the influence of the situation in Syria on other countries in the region. Russian President Vladimir Putin declared that Syria's fate will determine the fate of its neighbors, and he referred to Russian military and diplomatic activities as a*

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<sup>81</sup> <https://vimeo.com/172322285>

<sup>82</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>83</sup> <https://goo.gl/3lvjtz>

<sup>84</sup> <http://arabic.cnn.com/middleeast/2016/06/22/syria-manbij-battle>

<sup>85</sup> <https://goo.gl/iHuOUc>; <https://goo.gl/U2omm9>;

[http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2016/06/160625\\_syria\\_raids\\_quria](http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/2016/06/160625_syria_raids_quria)

<sup>86</sup> <https://goo.gl/mb8qtr>

<sup>87</sup> <https://goo.gl/eTx0k7>

safeguard for the Syrian state<sup>88</sup> (it should be noted that this declaration was made against the backdrop of the Russian Defense Minister's visit to Syria).<sup>89</sup> Meanwhile, the UN Envoy to Syria, Staffan De Mistura, declared that a political solution in Syria would help to dry up the sources of terrorism in the region.<sup>90</sup>

### **Al-Nusra Front**

- Al-Nusra Front published the following:
  - Videos regarding the organization's military achievements in the area of Aleppo.<sup>91</sup>
  - A series of videos titled, "Ramadan, the Month of Conquests", which focused on various areas in the Middle East and beyond that were conquered by Muslims throughout history.
  - An announcement regarding the battle to liberate the town of Khalsa, which is located in the southern suburb of Aleppo that began on June 14. The announcement stated that, after four days of heavy battles, the mujahideen had managed to seize control of Khalsa and forced the retreat of Shi'ites who were in the area after discovering their supply line.<sup>92</sup>
  - A video produced by Al-Basira jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Nusra Front, containing an interview with Abdallah al-Shami, a member of the organization's Shura Council. In the interview, al-Shami criticized all negotiations taking place between the rebels and the Syrian regime, and their intention to forge a ceasefire agreement that – according to him – would constitute a total capitulation. Al-Shami sought to place in the right context the Treaty of Hdaybiyyah, which serves as a justification for rebel organizations to reach a ceasefire agreement. The Treaty of Hdaybiyyah was signed in 628 AD between the Prophet Muhammad and the people of Mecca for 10 years, but it was broken after one year and Mecca was eventually captured by Muhammad's men. According to al-Shami, the Treaty of Hdaybiyyah was completely different than the

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<sup>88</sup> <https://goo.gl/paxa7L>

<sup>89</sup> <https://goo.gl/O4cg8C>

<sup>90</sup> <https://goo.gl/ubm555>

<sup>91</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com>

<sup>92</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CIQ90hHWgAEmpjF.jpg>

ceasefire with the Syrian regime because, among other reasons, the Prophet Muhammad was forced to act as he did under the circumstances and was acting under Divine command. According to him, rebel organizations must continue to embrace the war of jihad against the Syrian regime and not be seduced into signing a ceasefire agreement.<sup>93</sup>



**Abdallah al-Shami**

- An announcement in which the organization rejected rumors of a ceasefire between fighting factions, including Al-Nusra Front, and the Alawite regime in the town of al-Deir Khabia, in western Al-Ghouta. At the end of the announcement, the organization added that it would not abandon the blood of martyrs and would continue to wage jihad until it achieves victory.<sup>94</sup>

### ***Jund al-Aqsa***

- Jund al-Aqsa, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published the following:
  - A video documenting the liberation of Al-Khalidiyah and Khan Tuman villages, which are located in northern Syria.<sup>95</sup>
  - An announcement regarding the evacuation of all of the organization's strongholds in the city of Ariha, which is located in Idlib Province, in order not to give the Alawite regime and its supporters an excuse to attack the city and harm its residents.<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> [https://ia801506.us.archive.org/24/items/04\\_hodna](https://ia801506.us.archive.org/24/items/04_hodna)

<sup>94</sup> [https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CmG8\\_3UWkAA78R\\_.jpg](https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CmG8_3UWkAA78R_.jpg)

<sup>95</sup> [https://archive.org/download/Qaldia\\_Toman](https://archive.org/download/Qaldia_Toman)

<sup>96</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CmBYm1LWgAADOA9.jpg>

- An announcement containing a criticism of the media for reporting that the organization took part in an attack against a Jaysh al-Islam stronghold. In the announcement, the organization claimed that it had nothing to do with the attack and called on the media to investigate the truth before they publish such accusations since it has a negative influence on the state of jihad in Syria.<sup>97</sup>

### ***The Army of Muhammad in Al-Sham***

- The Army of Muhammad in Al-Sham published the following:
  - A decision by the organization's Shura Council to acquire Kalashnikov rifles for 20 of its members (a table listing their names was attached).<sup>98</sup>
  - An oath of allegiance by members of the organization to the leader of Al-Nusra Front, Sheikh Abu Mohammed al-Julani. The organization emphasized that it ascribes great importance to the liberation of Al-Sham, the release of Muslim prisoners and the application of shari'a. The oath of allegiance was signed by six senior members of the organization, including its Emir, Abu Mas'ud al-Libi; the head of the Shura Council, Abu Maryam al-Tunisi; the head of the military dawah council, Abu Hafs al-Masri; and a member of the Shari'a Council, Abu Hajir al-Faransi.<sup>99</sup>

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

- The Amaq news agency, which belongs to the Islamic State and covers the arena of jihad in Syria, published the following:
  - A video titled, "Islamic State Fighters hosted by the Mujadimah Tribe in Raqqah's Northern Countryside". The video showed fighters embracing and kissing members of the tribe, and holding a joint feast and prayer session.<sup>100</sup>
  - An announcement about the first adult training cycle at the Umar bin Abd al-Aziz Institute for Shari'a Studies in Raqqah. According to the announcement, the institute

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<sup>97</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CmOe8y-WEAA4gAe.jpg>

<sup>98</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CI22hV0WEAAokOP.jpg>

<sup>99</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CI22hV0WEAAokOP.jpg>

<sup>100</sup> <https://sendvid.com/ujq3o959>

offers advanced studies in shari'a and graduates of the first cycle had taken lessons on faith, religious law and hadith, as well as courses on dawah and preaching, for a period of ten months. Graduates of the institute find their place among the ranks of Islamic State courts, dawah or hisbah systems.<sup>101</sup>

- A video regarding the downing of a reconnaissance drone near the town of Manbij.<sup>102</sup>
- Publications on various civilian matters, such as: videos regarding market activities in the town of Al-Ra'i in northern Aleppo Province and in Al-Yarmuk camp,<sup>103</sup> a video regarding maintenance work on the western road between Raqqah and Deir Ezzor,<sup>104</sup> publications regarding the distribution of zakat in Raqqah and Manbij during Ramadan,<sup>105</sup> a video regarding dawah lessons and Quran memorization courses in the city of Mi'dan in the eastern village area of Raqqah and a video regarding the Ramadan atmosphere in the city of Jarabulus.<sup>106</sup>
- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Syria published a wide range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following issues:
  - Battles and Military Deployments:
    - Aleppo Province: A filmed review and a claim of responsibility for a suicide attack using a car bomb that was carried out by a Turkestani fighter against Kurdish forces southwest of Manbij. The announcement stated that the attack was carried out in the village of Fatat al-Qurra, killing nine people and injuring others.<sup>107</sup>
    - Various provinces: Reviews, videos and announcements about various operational topics, such as: an announcement regarding the death of 59 Syrian soldiers in a gun battle northeast of Palmyra;<sup>108</sup> an announcement regarding the

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<sup>101</sup> <https://goo.gl/R2p52B>

<sup>102</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O\\_uf1dTqPU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_uf1dTqPU)

<sup>103</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45531>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46073>

<sup>104</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45688>

<sup>105</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45669>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46072>

<sup>106</sup> [https://archive.org/details/gharib\\_20160618azr](https://archive.org/details/gharib_20160618azr)

<sup>107</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CILLWlpVEAEod80.jpg>;

<https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45421>

<sup>108</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CIByZEzVEAE5INa.jpg>

organization's takeover of seven barriers east of Palmyra,<sup>109</sup> the infiltration of Syrian army sites by IS fighters on the Athriya-Raqqah Road,<sup>110</sup> the death of 15 Syrian soldiers in an attack near Al-Qaryatain in the Homs countryside,<sup>111</sup> the assassination of a Syrian army commander and 24 Sahawat forces in eastern Qalamoun,<sup>112</sup> the takeover of two Syrian army barriers east of Palmyra,<sup>113</sup> suicide attacks and other attacks against Kurdish militias in Mabij that killed and injured dozens of people,<sup>114</sup> the death of 42 Syrian army and militia fighters in an attack east of Palmyra,<sup>115</sup> the death of 50 Syrian army and Shi'ite militia fighters – including Iranians – near Huwaysis, which is located in the rural area of Homs,<sup>116</sup> the takeover of six villages in the area of Manbij,<sup>117</sup> the killing and injuring of 13 Sahawat fighters in battles against the organization in Al-Yarmouk camp,<sup>118</sup> the destruction of a Syrian army tank with a guided missile south of Deir Ezzor,<sup>119</sup> and a report on 50 Kurds who were killed and injured in a car bomb explosion in the city center of Tell Abyad.<sup>120</sup>

#### B. Executions and the Application of Shari'a Sentences:

- Al-Khayr Province: A video titled, "Revelation of the Devil", which documented the execution of five media activists who were accused of spying and captured by the IS security department. Before they were executed, confessions were extracted from the accused regarding their activities, which included passing along information about the location of IS sites or reports about the civilian situation in Deir Ezzor. According to the information provided, the five men

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<sup>109</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46457>

<sup>110</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45274>

<sup>111</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45416>

<sup>112</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45449>

<sup>113</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CIU8DLkUkAEHhUT.jpg>

<sup>114</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45672>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/ClvhYReXIAIk6U4.jpg>

<sup>115</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45693>

<sup>116</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46007>

<sup>117</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46126>

<sup>118</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CI8-nSkWkAA9LvR.jpg>

<sup>119</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46323>

<sup>120</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CmJF18VWAAAU1YW.jpg>

worked for various media groups, including Human Rights Watch, the Tafa'ul media agency, Al-An radio station and the aljazeera.net Web site.

The five were executed using various methods meant to reflect their subversive activities against the organization: the explosion of a camera or laptop computer that were filled with explosive material and strapped to the body of the accused, strangulation using iron chains, electrocution and beheading.<sup>121</sup>

- *Al-Khayr Province*: A video titled, “Story of Slaughter”, which documented the execution of five people who were accused of spying for the Free Syrian Army. Using illustrations, the video detailed the stories of the five men, provided information about how they were recruited, and emphasized the effectiveness of the Islamic State’s security department in deterring others from spying against the organization.<sup>122</sup>
- *Al-Khayr Province*: A filmed review regarding the execution of a man accused of loyalty to infidels and another man accused of disrespecting Islamic rites.<sup>123</sup>
- *Raqqah Province*: A filmed review regarding the execution in northern Raqqah of several people accused of spying for coalition forces.<sup>124</sup>
- *Al-Khayr Province*: A filmed review regarding the lashes and humiliation punishments given to six people who broke the fast of Ramadan by smoking. The six were publicly flogged and forced to wear a sign that read “broke the fast by smoking”.<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>121</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46066>

<sup>122</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46278>

<sup>123</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46397>

<sup>124</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45459>

<sup>125</sup> <https://goo.gl/Sudil6>



**Lashes for Ramadan fast breakers**

C. Civilian Issues:

- Homs Province: A filmed review about Quran study and memorization classes that were held in villages near the city of Al-Sakhna.<sup>126</sup>

D. Propaganda and PR:

- Various provinces: Aleppo,<sup>127</sup> Raqqah<sup>128</sup> and Al-Khayr<sup>129</sup> Provinces published videos criticizing the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice (CPVPV), which serves as the “religious police” in Saudi Arabia. In the framework of the videos, the Islamic State’s hisbah group was presented as the true and correct body protecting morality and order, as opposed to the CPVPV, which it described as a corrupt and dysfunctional group. The videos showed Saudi fighters making threats against their homeland and criticizing the cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the US, and what they described as the “phenomenon of secularization” in the country (for instance: joint events for men and women, and fairs that sell books promoting “heretical ideas”). The main content and messages as they appeared in the videos:

- Presented the CPVPV as a body devoid of authority and significance that serves as a tool of the Saudi regime to oppress the mujahideen and the families of martyrs.

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<sup>126</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45683>

<sup>127</sup> [https://archive.org/details/sofnet72\\_live\\_20160618\\_1957](https://archive.org/details/sofnet72_live_20160618_1957)

<sup>128</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45427>

<sup>129</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45465>

- Criticized the CPVPV for employing a double standard because it cannot act against foreign workers in Saudi Arabia or on the beaches where the country's upper class bathe.
  - A call on young people in Saudi Arabia to come out strongly against the offensive phenomenon of secularization in the country.
  - A criticism against the silence of the CPVPV in the face of the "interfaith dialogue" initiative of Saudi Arabia that stands in direct contradiction to the principle of "disavowal of infidels".
  - Testimony of a former CPVPV worker who claimed that its employees had received instructions not to condemn things that are forbidden, such as: Shi'ite rites next to the Kaaba, a mixed audience of men and women or overly-adorned women.
  - An accusation that the CPVPV turns a blind eye to Shi'ite activities in Saudi Arabia as opposed to the IS, which blew up Shi'ite houses of worship in the country.
  - A description of the bombing attacks against the hisbah by American forces and rival factions that seized control of its structures and vehicles.
  - Statistical information regarding hisbah activities: to date, 68,984 files were processed, tens of thousands of prohibited items were destroyed (cigarettes, drugs, alcohol and musical instruments) and shari'a courses were held for over 43,000 participants.
- Aleppo Province: A video titled, "Two Years since the Caliphate", which documented the achievements made by the IS in Aleppo. The video emphasized the Islamic State's success in sustaining itself - despite attacks by coalition forces and the Syrian regime - by, among other things, creating an autarchic economy that operates an agriculture bureau and irrigation projects. Additional achievements noted in the video included: a department to collect and distribute zakat in the province, the offering of religion and shari'a classes by the Dawah Bureau, the opening of Islamic courts and the application of shari'a, the creation

of an Islamic education system run by the Education Bureau, the distribution of the organization’s publications run by the Media Bureau, and the deployment of Hisbah Bureau personnel to oversee public order and morality.<sup>130</sup>

- *Aleppo Province*: A video regarding ribat (defense of Muslim land) activities in the province. The video explained that ribat in the province is divided into several companies, battalions and brigades. The video documented a visit to Al-Zubayr company, which belongs to Al-Baraa battalion, which belongs to Al-Faruq brigade – including interviews with fighters and documented routine life during Ramadan in an attempt to emphasize the affection and brotherhood between them.<sup>131</sup>
- *Raqqaqah Province*: A video titled, “Guiding the People” containing praise for the month of Ramadan, when the Quran was delivered, according to Islamic tradition. The video documented prayer activities and Quran recitation in mosques, mainly by children, who made threats against the “tyrants” in the west and in Arab countries. The video ended with threats by older fighters and showed fighters during a joint meal to break the fast.<sup>132</sup>



**Threats from Raqqaqah Province in honor of Ramadan**

- *Raqqaqah Province*: A video titled, “The Foothold of the Conquerors” about Egypt. In the video - which opened by presenting Egypt as an important country in Islamic history that lost its glory as a result of abandoning Islamic values – an Egyptian fighter named Abu Usama al-Misri incited against Egyptian President

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<sup>130</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46206>

<sup>131</sup> [https://archive.org/details/gharib\\_20160630](https://archive.org/details/gharib_20160630)

<sup>132</sup> <https://ia600408.us.archive.org/4/items/hoda-lnnas/hoda.mp4>

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, and presented him as a collaborator with the Jews and the Saudis against jihad fighters in Sinai. The video included a call on the Egyptian people to abandon democracy and encouraged them to carry out terrorist attacks against the “tyrants” in Egypt. In addition, the video included blessings for the organization’s fighters in Sinai Province and encouraged them to continue with their activities.<sup>133</sup>



**Messages and threats directed at Egypt from Raqqah Province**

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

- Ahrar al-Sham published the following:
  - An announcement regarding 11 Syrian civilians who fled the fighting in Syria for the Turkish border and were killed by Turkish border guards. In the announcement, the organization criticized the killing of civilians and claimed that it does not represent Turkey’s policies vis-à-vis the Syrian people, and that partial responsibility for what happened lies with the smuggling gangs that operate on the border. The announcement also stated that the organization demands an investigation into the incident and suggestions on how to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future. At the end of the announcement, the organization thanked Turkey for its support for the Syrian people throughout the years of the revolution and wished for better cooperation on the subject of security on the Turkish border.<sup>134</sup>

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<sup>133</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45333>

<sup>134</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CIWbCQsXIAABsIU.jpg>

- An announcement by the leader of the organization regarding the merger of the boarder and coastal areas and the appointment of Abu al-Baraa as commander of the new united area.<sup>135</sup>
- An announcement regarding the merger of Jaysh al-Islam with Ahrar al-Sham. According to the announcement, the merger was made in order to protect the Syrian revolution and its goals, which include the toppling of the Alawite regime and the destruction of the Islamic State. The end of the announcement stated that the organization welcomes all assistance in order to achieve these goals.<sup>136</sup>
- A message of condolences over the death of two commanders in Darayya, which is located in the suburbs of Damascus.<sup>137</sup>
- A message of condolences for the families of the victims killed in the attack on the Ataturk Airport in Istanbul. In addition, the organization criticized this terrorist attack and declared its solidarity with the Turkish Nation.<sup>138</sup>
- An announcement by the leader of the organization regarding the appointment of Abu Sahid al-Shami as the general military commander of the organization's military wing. The announcement also stated that Abu Faisal was appointed the Chief of Staff of the military wing and Abu al-Mundhir was appointed Head of Operations.<sup>139</sup>

### ***Ansar al-Din Front***

- The Ansar al-Din Front published a video documenting the activities at one of its training camps.<sup>140</sup>

### **Jordan**

- Al-Nusra al-Shamiyya jihadist media group, which is involved in publicity for the IS, published a video titled, "The Dictator of Jordan Pays the Price", in which the organization threatened to

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<sup>135</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CIWRo2fWYAAUgaT.jpg>

<sup>136</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/ClvXjKOUoAAVTub.jpg>

<sup>137</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/ClifvxdUgAlZc5P.jpg>

<sup>138</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CmHYAMVWMAAJU-B.jpg>

<sup>139</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cl-yOGuWMAA79O6.jpg>

<sup>140</sup> <https://youtu.be/9v6xv-xWveE>

attack the ruler of Jordan, King Abdullah. According to the group, King Abdullah plays an important role in the war against the mujahideen due to his cooperation with the Crusaders and his allocation of Jordanian territory for Crusader planes to launch attacks against the mujahideen. According to the group, the King is assisted by clerics under his command to justify his policies.<sup>141</sup>



**“The Dictator of Jordan” – a video criticizing King Abdullah**

- The Amaq news agency published an announcement according to which the IS was responsible for the suicide attack that was carried out using a car bomb at Al-Rukban American-Jordanian army base. The news agency even published a video documenting the attack near the border with Syria, in which seven Jordanian soldiers were killed and 13 others were injured.<sup>142</sup>

## Turkey

- The Amaq news agency published an announcement stating that the Islamic State’s “security unit” had assassinated an American commander who worked at the Incirlik Air Base in the city of Adana, in Turkey. According to the report, the assassination was carried out at the commander’s home.<sup>143</sup> It should be noted that US authorities denied that an assassination had been carried out.<sup>144</sup>

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<sup>141</sup> <http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x4ir899>

<sup>142</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46138>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjGkmvQavGc>; <https://goo.gl/1TZLEV>

<sup>143</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45272>

<sup>144</sup> <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2016/06/16/pentagon-denies-isis-assassination-claim.html> (English).

## The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula

### *The Salafi-Jihadist Movement in Gaza*

- Salafi-jihadist fighters in the Gaza Strip continued their online fundraising campaign called “Arm Us”. According to them, the campaign was designed to arm them in order to wage a battle against the Jews on the crucial day.<sup>145</sup>



Banners showing the types of weapons to be purchased in the framework of the fundraising campaign, “Arm Us”; the bottom banner reads: “The Road to Jerusalem Requires Financial Donations and Lives to be Sacrificed”

<sup>145</sup> حملة\_جهزونا# [https://twitter.com/8\\_mdad](https://twitter.com/8_mdad)

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

- The IS in the Sinai Peninsula published the following:
  - A collection of photos showing the weapons that were seized by its fighters after they assassinated two Egyptian police officers in Al-Masa'id, in western Al-Arish.<sup>146</sup>



**Photos of the plunder seized by IS fighters**

- Photos documenting the explosion of a roadside charge on an Egyptian armored personnel carrier in southern Al-Arish.<sup>147</sup>
- A claim of responsibility for the killing of a spy in Sheikh Zuweid, and the destruction of Egyptian army armored personnel carriers in Al-Arish and Rafah.<sup>148</sup>
- A claim of responsibility for the killing and injuring of four Egyptian soldiers in Al-Arish.<sup>149</sup>
- A claim of responsibility for the killing of a priest in Margerges Church.<sup>150</sup>

## **Africa**

### ***The Maghreb***

*The battle in Libya between various groups continued to be complicated. In central Libya, the IS continued to maintain its stronghold in the city of Sirte and to clash with the Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG), Libya Dawn forces maintained control over Misurata and Tripoli in western Libya, and the National Libyan Army led by Khalifa Haftar held control over most of eastern Libya except for an*

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<sup>146</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45345>

<sup>147</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46217>

<sup>148</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46433>

<sup>149</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46497>

<sup>150</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46490>

enclave in Derna and several sites near Benghazi that were under the control of Ansar al-Sharia.<sup>151</sup> In the framework of the battle, tens of people were reported killed in battles against the IS in the city of Sirte, in a car bomb explosion at a hospital in the city of Benghazi, and the explosion of an ammunitions warehouse near the capital of Tripoli.<sup>152</sup>

Tunisia has continued to try to recover from the damage caused by terrorism. A year after the attack on the seashore in the coastal town of Sousse, Tunisia is still recovering from the damage caused to the tourism industry in the country, which constitutes 8% of its GDP.<sup>153</sup> In the framework of its preparations and the fear of more terrorist attacks, Tunisian authorities deployed 1,500 police officers along the country's beaches.<sup>154</sup> Additional counter-terrorism efforts were made in the dismantling of a terror cell that swore allegiance to the IS in Mahdia Governorate and the disabling of a bomb found in Jendouba Governorate.<sup>155</sup>

Counter-terrorism efforts also continued in Morocco and Algeria. In Morocco, it was reported that a terror cell composed of ten members was dismantled as it was planning an attack in the large commercial center of the city of Oujda,<sup>156</sup> and in Algeria it was reported that the army killed 14 armed Islamists in Médéa Province.<sup>157</sup>

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

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Al-Andalus, published the following:
  - A video serving as a sign of life from Swiss hostage, Beatrice Stockly. In the short video, which was filmed on May 17, 2016, Stockly said that she had been held captive by the organization for 130 days, she sent regards to her family, and she called on the Swiss government to work for her release.<sup>158</sup>

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<sup>151</sup> <https://goo.gl/58lucB>

<sup>152</sup> <https://goo.gl/wi00Zd>; <https://goo.gl/hvp2vy>

<sup>153</sup> <http://www.aremnews.com/news/arab-word/513691>

<sup>154</sup> <https://goo.gl/j04ZrV>

<sup>155</sup> <https://goo.gl/xqZzsa>; <https://goo.gl/4dBLHU>

<sup>156</sup> <https://goo.gl/8H0mbp>

<sup>157</sup> <https://goo.gl/B7KB3h>

<sup>158</sup> <https://justpaste.it/Sws-AQMI>

- The Ifriqiya al-Muslima jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for AQIM, published a short recorded announcement by Sheikh Abu Ubayda Yusuf al-Anabi under the hashtag, #LiftTheSiegeOnBenghazi. In the announcement, al-Anabi wished for the downfall of Khalifa Haftar, praised the steadfastness of the mujahideen in eastern Libya against attacks by the Libyan National Army, and expressed support for prisoners, widows and orphans.<sup>159</sup>



**The banner of al-Anabi's announcement**

## Libya

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

- The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna published an announcement in honor of the month of Ramadan, in which it praised the war efforts of rebel organizations in Benghazi, Misrata and Ajdabiyya against Haftar's regime and IS forces. For example, they praised the steadfastness of the Benghazi Defense Brigades. In addition, the organization called on rebel organizations to maintain unity among the ranks, to continue the battle against enemies of Islam and to work to implement shari'a.<sup>160</sup>

### *The Islamic State*

- The Amak news agency published the following regarding the arena in Libya:

<sup>159</sup> [https://archive.org/download/Benghazi\\_2016](https://archive.org/download/Benghazi_2016)

<sup>160</sup> <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/ClcfMzdWAAAgIjE.jpg>

- An announcement regarding the deaths of over 450 United Government forces in Libya near Sirte. According to the announcement, six prominent commanders and 70 Libya Dawn forces were killed in battle, and over 100 army vehicles and tanks were destroyed.<sup>161</sup>
- A video showing the Port of Sirte under the control of IS fighters. The information that accompanied the video clip reportedly disproved allegations that the port was under the control of militias “supported by the United States”.<sup>162</sup>
- The IS in Tripoli Province published the following:
  - An announcement regarding the killing and injuring of several Libya Dawn fighters in several parts of Sirte: the explosion of two bombs at gathering of troops in eastern Sirte, the burning of a tank and the killing of its occupants, and the downing of a reconnaissance plane that was circling above the city. According to another report, approximately 60 Libya Dawn fighters were killed or injured as they attempted to advance in the eastern and southern parts of Sirte.<sup>163</sup>
  - A claim of responsibility for a suicide attack against Libya Dawn forces west of Sirte. According to the announcement, a fighter named Abu Abd al-Ilah al-Qayrawani detonated a car bomb next to forces near the power station and then fired at them with Grad rockets and artillery shells. After the forces fled, IS fighters advanced and plundered weapons and ammunition.<sup>164</sup>
- The IS in Baraka Province published the following:
  - A filmed review regarding the battles waged by the organization in the western part of Benghazi.<sup>165</sup>
  - A filmed review regarding the life of the murabitun (fighters defending Muslim land) in the city of Sirte.<sup>166</sup>

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<sup>161</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45909>

<sup>162</sup> <https://archive.org/details/maina2sert>

<sup>163</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CloimwEWMAA00DW.jpg>;  
<https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CmOUFvOUYAEkxZ9.jpg>

<sup>164</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CIecBS1XEAAOZkp.jpg>

<sup>165</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46388>

<sup>166</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46389>

## Egypt

### *Al-Murabitun*

- The Egyptian Al-Murabitun, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published an audio clip by the leader of the organization, Abu 'Umar al-Muahjir al-Masri Hisham 'Ashmawi, regarding the attack on Benghazi in Libya. In the clip, 'Ashmawi expresses support for the rebels facing the siege and attack by Haftar's army forces.<sup>167</sup>

## Nigeria

### *The Islamic State in West Africa*

- The IS in West Africa (formerly Boko Haram) claimed responsibility for an attack that was carried out by its fighters against Nigerian army forces in the city of Baqa in northeast Nigeria. According to the organization, 11 soldiers were killed in the attack and tens of others were injured. During the attack, the organization used two suicide bombers wearing explosive belts who blew themselves up amidst Nigerian army soldiers.<sup>168</sup>

## Niger

### *The Islamic State in West Africa*

- The IS in West Africa (formerly Boko Haram) published a video documenting the weapons, ammunition and vehicles that were seized by the organization's fighters from the Nigerian army in southeast Niger.<sup>169</sup>

## Somalia

*During the second half of June, with the start of the month of Ramadan, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen carried out a terrorist attack at a hotel in the capital of Mogadishu, killing 15 people,<sup>170</sup>*

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<sup>167</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>168</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46058>

<sup>169</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45480>

<sup>170</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/blasts-gunfire-hit-hotel-somalia-mogadishu-160625135956380.html> (English).

including one government minister.<sup>171</sup> Meanwhile, clashes continued between Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen and Kenyan security forces operating in the framework of the African Union Force in southern Somalia, with Al-Shabab fighters attacking a base of Kenyan security forces in Gedo Province in southern Somalia.<sup>172</sup> In response, Kenyan soldiers bombed Al-Shabab fighters in the area.<sup>173</sup> Meanwhile, Al-Shabab fighters in Kenya also attacked police forces in an ambush that they set in Mandera, which is located on Kenya's northern border with Somalia.<sup>174</sup>

### **Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen**

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Qaeda's branch in Somalia, published the following:
  - A report detailing the organization's operations from May-June 2016.<sup>175</sup>
  - A video titled, "So Wait; Indeed We, Along With You Are Waiting" by the leader of the organization in Kenya, Ahmad Iman Ali, in which he criticized African Union forces. According to him, the lack of political stability, the spread of the Ebola virus, attacks by Al-Shabab fighters against African Union forces and the fear of additional attacks were punishment from God against the countries taking part in the African Union Force operating in Somalia.<sup>176</sup>



<sup>171</sup> <http://www.africanews.com/2016/06/26/somali-minister-killed-in-al-shabaab-attack-in-mogadishu/> (English).

<sup>172</sup> <http://allafrica.com/stories/201606270713.html>

<sup>173</sup> <http://allafrica.com/stories/201606281033.html>

<sup>174</sup> <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/kenya-al-shabaab-two-policemen-burned-beyond-recognition-attack-that-leaves-five-dead-1566466> (English).

<sup>175</sup> <https://justpaste.it/Rep08>

<sup>176</sup> <http://www88.zippyshare.com/v/oP646nBy/file.html>

## The video banner

### ***The East Africa Front***

- The East Africa Front, which swore allegiance to the IS, published two videos that showed – according to the organization – defectors from Al-Shabab who joined the East Africa Front.<sup>177</sup>

### **The Caucasus**

- The Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus in Dagestan Province claimed responsibility for killing four members of the Russian security forces and injuring six others in the southern part of the province.<sup>178</sup>

### **The Philippines**

- The Islamic State in the Philippines published a video regarding an oath of allegiance taken by several jihadist groups to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.<sup>179</sup> The video mentioned the names of the following battalions that swore allegiance (and used to belong to the Abu Sayyaf Group): Abu Dujana Battalion, Abu Khubayb Battalion, Jundallah Battalion and Abu Sadr Battalion. Most of the video contained messages from Indonesian, Malayan and Filipino fighters (located in Raqqah Province in Syria) who called on their countrymen to swear allegiance as soon as possible to al-Baghdadi, and even to carry out terrorist attacks in those countries or move to various arenas of jihad (later in the video, the three fighters carried out the executions of three people accused of spying for the “Crusader coalition”). According to the information provided by the three fighters, the appointment of Isnilon Hapilon (aka Abu Abdullah al-Filipini) as leader of IS forces in the Philippines was approved. The video also included documentation of gun battles against Philippine army forces and photos of martyrs from the ranks of the organization who fell in action against security forces.

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<sup>177</sup> <https://archive.org/details/WeHaveLeft>

<sup>178</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>179</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/45666>; <https://justpaste.it/bn1ua>



From left to right: the video banner; an oath of allegiance to the IS from the Philippines

- The Amaq news agency, which belongs to the IS, published a report on the deaths of 15 Filipino army soldiers in two attacks carried out by the IS in the city of Marawi, without providing additional details.<sup>180</sup>

### The Indian Subcontinent

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for the official publications of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, published a speech titled, “Stand Up to Today’s Pharaoh America” by Ustadh Usama Mahmood, the organization’s official spokesperson. In the opening of his speech, Mahmood appealed to Muslims around the world, especially in Pakistan, and described the US to them as the modern-day embodiment of Pharaoh, who is considered by the Quran to be an evil rebel against God. According to him, the US acts like Pharaoh in its injustice towards the people of the world, it acts with deceit and it justifies its despicable actions in various ways. These actions include the killing of Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, the leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in a US drone strike in May 2016. Mahmood gave a eulogy in memory of Mansoor, and praised his contribution to jihad and his steadfastness in the face of the American invasion of Afghanistan.

Mahmood went on to criticize the Pakistani government and Pakistani army forces for enabling the US to kill Mansoor and other jihad fighters, the most prominent among them being Sheikh Osama bin Laden, on Pakistani soil. According to him, this constituted betrayal and ingratitude towards Muslims in Pakistan. In light of this, he called on Muslims in Pakistan to fulfill their responsibility to wage jihad against the US, and to join the ranks of the mujahideen in the

<sup>180</sup> <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/46361>

various jihad fronts. Moreover, according to him, every Pakistani Muslim has an individual obligation to defend the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan from the American coalition, and therefore they must fight against the Pakistani army due to its efforts to hurt the Emirate. They must wake up and act against the Pakistani regime's betrayal of its people and its cooperation with the US government. He added that the media plays a significant role in justifying America's actions against the mujahideen, and that the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan has the right to defend itself from the American invasion. Finally, he again praised the resistance showed by Mansoor and his contribution to jihad against the United States.<sup>181</sup>

## The West

- The Furat jihadist media institution, which belongs to the Islamic State, published a video in the Bosnian language encouraging the murder of Muslim preachers in the Serbia-Bosnia region, such as Muamer Zukorlic, a former mufti and a current member of the Serbian Parliament, Dr. Safet Kuduzović, Hafiz Dzevad Golos, MA Elvedina Pezić, and others. A spokesperson for the organization noted that Muslim clerics in Bosnia-Serbia misused their roles and became a tool in the hands of politicians instead of defending Islam and, therefore, they must be killed.<sup>182</sup> Against the backdrop of these threats, IS supporters launched an online campaign calling on Muslims in Bosnia to join the organization's efforts to kill infidels and join the ranks of the organization.<sup>183</sup>



**An IS fighter threatens to kill Serbian clerics**

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<sup>181</sup> <https://al-fidaa1.net/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>182</sup> [https://ia801503.us.archive.org/15/items/imrtedi9\\_bk\\_Mrtd](https://ia801503.us.archive.org/15/items/imrtedi9_bk_Mrtd)

<sup>183</sup> #HilafetBOS; <http://www.blic.rs/vesti/politika/islamska-drzava-pozvala-na-ubistvo-zukorlica-jer-je-poslanik-u-hriscanskoj-srbiji/3rvqkg6>; <https://dawaalhaq.com>

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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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