

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The First Half of February 2014

Highlights

This report summarizes notable events discussed on jihadist Web forums during the first half of February 2014. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- The general leadership of Al-Qaeda announced its rejection of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS), its cessation of all ties with the organization, and its refusal to recognize it. In addition, the leadership emphasized that it is of supreme importance to consult with it in all matters concerning decision making and the resolution of internal conflicts that must be handled in internal channels and not through the media.
- The Al-Qaeda leadership's shunning of the ISIS fueled the discourse on jihadist Web forums and social networks, and aroused a fundamental debate regarding the position of the ISIS in relation to the leadership of Al-Qaeda. The current crisis has led to a publicity campaign in favor of the ISIS's activities and methods, launched by ISIS members and its supporters among other Salafi-jihadist groups throughout the Middle East, such as those in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.
- The Al-Nusra Front claimed responsibility for an attempted raid on the central prison in Aleppo in an effort to free the prisoners there. Abu Muhammed al-Golani, the leader of the organization, gave a eulogy in memory of Sayfuallah al-Shishani, a senior field leader who came to Syria from the Caucasus, joined the ranks of the Al-Nusra Front and was killed during the prison raid.
- The Abdullah Azzam Brigades, a Salafi-jihadist organization in Lebanon and Syria, announced the launch of a new jihadist media institution called Al-Awza'y Media to serve as a platform for the organization's messages and publications.
- News of the increasing use of drones by ISIS fighters against enemy targets began to circulate on social networks.

Table of Contents

Highlights	2
New Publications	5
Ideology	5
Strategy	7
Promoting the Myth of the Martyr	8
Magazines.....	11
Reports from the Field	12
Afghanistan-Pakistan.....	12
The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan	13
The Islamic movement of Uzbekistan	13
The Arabian Peninsula.....	14
Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.....	14
Iraq.....	15
The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham.....	15
Al-Sham [The Levant]	19
The Al-Nusra Front in Syria.....	19
The Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon.....	22
The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham: Operations in Syria.....	22
Suqur al-Sham Brigades.....	27
Jaysh Al-Mujahideen	27
Other Jihadist Organizations	27
Lebanon	27
The Abdullah Azzam Brigades	27
General	28
The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip	29
The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem.....	29
Ansar Beit Al-Maqdis	31
The Yahya Ayash Battalions.....	31
Others	32

The Maghreb [North Africa]	33
Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb	33
Ansar Al-Sharia in Libya	34
Mauritania	35
Egypt	35
Ajnad Masr.....	35
Somalia	36
The Indian Subcontinent	37
China.....	38
The West.....	38
Women and Jihad	38
Miscellaneous	38

New Publications

Ideology

- Al-Qaeda’s official media institution, Al-Fajr, which is responsible for the distribution of official publications written by Al-Qaeda affiliates around the world, published in the beginning of February an announcement on behalf of the organization’s general leadership. According to the announcement, Al-Qaeda does not have any organizational or other connection to the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) and is not responsible for its conduct. In addition, the Al-Qaeda leadership clarified several important points regarding jihad activity in general: one must act according to the principle of Shura – consultation – when making decisions; problems must be resolved internally and not through the media; jihad activists and jihadist organizations must be part of the Muslim Nation and not external agents that control the Nation; any behavior that paints jihad and the mujahideen in a negative light must be avoided.¹
- The Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published a “missive from Khurasan to Al-Sham” by Sheikh Abu Dajana al-Basha aka Muhammad bin Mahmoud al-Bahtiti, in which he expressed solidarity with the struggle of the mujahideen in Syria and emphasized that the mujahideen in Afghanistan shared a similar fate and were willing to help in the fight in Syria. In addition, he emphasized the importance of maintaining unity among the jihadist factions in Syria and noted that they must avoid conflicts, especially in light of the fact that the mujahideen in Syria have many enemies.²
- During the first half of February 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, Al-Batar, published the following:
 - An article titled, “Why an Islamic State?” by Ahlam al-Nasr in praise of the ISIS for its efforts towards, and as the most suitable advocate for, the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate.³

¹ <http://snamalislam.com/vb/> (Arabic)

² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



The article banner

- An article titled, “Clarifying the Picture of Ideological Infiltration into several [Jihadist] Movements” by Benjamin Abu Bakr. In the article, the author expressed distress at the infiltration of foreign elements to the concerns of jihadist groups and claimed that this damages the true intent of jihad.⁴
- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabia Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, published an audio clip titled, “The Character of Allah”, which is part five in a series of publications titled, “Together with the Qur’an” by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi al-Nazari Muhammad al-Mirshadi, a senior member of AQAP.⁵
- During the first half of February 2014, the Markaz Aisha jihadist media institution, which focuses on the Sunni population in Lebanon, published the following on its Twitter account:
 - An article titled, “This is How the Prophet, peace be upon him, Established his State”, by Sheikh Abu Mua’dh al-Shari’. In the article, the author claimed that there was a similarity in the establishment of the state of the Prophet Muhammad and the establishment of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS).⁶ In making this comparison, the author sought to justify the conduct of the ISIS against the wave of criticism that it received from the leadership of Al-Qaeda and the Al-Nusra Front.
 - Another article written by the same author and titled, “A Response to the Protest to

⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Topple the [Islamic] State through the Words of Religious Scholars”, in which he criticized the claims made in jihadist circles condemning the ISIS.⁷



The article banners

Strategy

- A writer on the Al-Fida jihadist Web forum posted correspondence that was emphasized by the forum’s administrators titled, “How to Thwart Plans by Intelligence to Defeat the Global Jihad Movement?” According to the writer, the continued rift and conflict between the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS serve the interests of the enemy, which seeks to create a rift among the mujahideen. According to the writer, the two above-mentioned organizations must put an end to the clashes between them and preserve unity among the ranks. In addition, the author noted that a covert channel should be established through which the mujahideen can be advised on how to act in various situations.⁸
- Several visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum held a discussion regarding the use of various aircrafts in the fight against jihad, including hot-air balloons, gliders and unmanned aircrafts. One of the writers noted that jihad fighters in Syria, as opposed to those in other arenas of jihad, had managed to obtain planes belonging to Bashar al-Assad’s regime and wondered why they had not yet been used against him. In addition, the same writer raised the possibility of using “plane bombs” instead of car bombs in order to wreak more havoc.⁹

⁷ <https://twitter.com/MarkazAisha>

⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

- Regarding the fire that broke out at the Shorja Market in Baghdad on February 13, 2014, as a result of bombs that exploded, a visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum suggested systematically setting fire to Shi'ite markets in order to materially and economically harm the Shi'ite population in the country. The visitor noted that it is relatively easy to set fire to a market using a Molotov cocktail and that its implications are more severe than killing a soldier or a police officer.¹⁰

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Al-Andalus, published an obituary for Doku Umarov, the leader of the Islamic Emirates of the Caucasus.¹¹

Umarov, a prominent Chechen rebel in the 1990's, became increasingly closer to Islam until he announced the establishment of the Caucasus Emirate in 1997 and himself as its Emir. In 2007, he united under the command of rebels in Chechnya, Dagestan and other countries in the North Caucasus. In 2011, the United States added the Caucasus Emirate to its list of terrorist organizations after determining that it was responsible for the suicide attacks in the Moscow subway in 2010, in which 40 people were killed, and in the Moscow airport in 2011, in which 37 people were killed. In July of last year, Umarov called on his fighters to "use maximum force" in order to prevent Putin from hosting the Olympic Games in Sochi.

The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem, a Salafi-jihadist organization operating in the Sinai Peninsula, also published an obituary for Doku Umarov, as well as one for Majed al-Majed, Emir of the Abdullah Azzam Brigades. Al-Majed was arrested by Lebanese army forces at the end of 2013 and died in custody in a Lebanese prison on January 4, 2014.¹² The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, also published an obituary (announcement no. 73) for Majed al-Majed.¹³

¹⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



The banner produced by the Al-Andalus jihadist media institution in memory of Doku Umarov

- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham in Nineveh Province, Iraq, posted on its Twitter account a banner in memory of one of its fighters, Abu Ali al-Halabi. Al-Halabi was killed in the beginning of January 2014 as a result of a suicide attack that was carried out in Nineveh Province against Iraqi security forces.¹⁴



The caption of the banner: “Knight of Martyrdom. Nineveh Province: Abu Ali al-Halabi”

- The Al-Battar jihadist media institution published an anthology of online publications downloadable to a PC containing advice for Muslims from Yusuf al-Uyayri, a former senior leader of Al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia. The publications included advice for urban warfare, war of nerves, physical fitness, and more.¹⁵

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/Nnewsi/>

¹⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



From left to right: the banner posted to the Twitter account of a jihad activist in memory of al-Shishani;¹⁷ a photo of Sayfuallah al-Shishani

- The administrator of the Al-Platform Media Web forum posted an announcement of the death of Shibel al-Zarqawi.¹⁸ The announcement included a long written statement about al-Zarqawi’s life, that he was a prisoner because of his jihadist beliefs and that his brother died as a martyr, news that upset al-Zarqawi and made his life difficult in prison.¹⁹



The banner produced in memory of al-Zarqawi

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published new issues of its jihadist magazines in Arabic, English and Urdu: Issue No. 94 for February 2014 of the Arabic-language magazine *Al-Sumud* (44

¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/ghareebDesigner/status/432423701821128704>

¹⁸ <https://twitter.com/algarebk> (his official Twitter page)

¹⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

pp.);²⁰ Issue No. 61 of the English-language magazine *In Fight* (150 pp.);²¹ The February 2014 issue of the magazine *Nawai Afghan* (71 pp.),²² all of which cover jihad in Afghanistan.



The covers of, from left to right, *In Fight*, *Nawai Afghan* and *Al-Somud*

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

Radical Islamic organizations continued to strike Afghanistan and Pakistan with major terrorist attacks. On February 10, 2014 a suicide bomber detonated himself at a convoy of NATO forces in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, killing two foreign nationals; the Islamic organization, Hizb-I Islami, claimed responsibility for the attack and declared that its purpose was to chase out all foreigners from Afghanistan.²³ Two days later, several Afghani soldiers shot at American soldiers in eastern Afghanistan, killing two of them; this was the first attack of its kind this year.²⁴ On February 13, 2014 the government of Afghanistan released 65 prisoners accused of being Taliban despite opposition from the U.S., which claimed that their release would bring harm to NATO personnel in

²⁰ <http://alsomod-iea.info/> (Arabic).

²¹ <https://jhuf.net/showthread.php?20734-Islami-Emirate-Afghanistan-IN-FIGHT-61> (English).

²² <http://nawaiafghan.blogspot.co.il/> (Urdu).

²³ http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/blast-hits-eastern-kabul-no-word-on-casualties/2014/02/10/4770b14c-9246-11e3-b3f7-f5107432ca45_story.html (English).

²⁴ <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/02/12/uk-afghanistan-attack-idUKBREA1B27R20140212> (English).

the country.²⁵

On February 4, 2014 at least seven people were killed in an explosion that took place in a Shi'ite neighborhood in the city of Peshawar in Pakistan.²⁶ On February 12, 2014 nine anti-Taliban militiamen were killed in the same city.²⁷ The next day, a car bomb exploded in Karachi in southern Pakistan in a precise attack directed against an elite commando unit of the Pakistani police; at least 11 police officers were killed in the attack and 47 others were injured.²⁸

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Al-Manba', published a video titled, "The Badr Brigades – Part 4".²⁹
- An activist in Afghanistan known as Abu Abdallah al-Afghani Anas Shirzad sent a message of "affection and reprimand" to Abu Mohammad al-Golani, the leader of the Al-Nusra Front. In the beginning of the letter, al-Afghani praised the activities of the Al-Nusra Front against Shi'ites in Syria but later reproached al-Golani for his disengagement from the ISIS. Al-Afghani claimed that the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS share the same ideology and that both organizations can work together even without al-Golani swearing allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the ISIS.³⁰

The Islamic movement of Uzbekistan

- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic Emirates of Uzbekistan, Jundallah, published several videos during the first half of February 2014 titled, "The fighter, Ali Abzi", "Dear Nation" in Uzbek, and "What's Happening in the Tribal Areas Part 13".³¹

²⁵ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2558311/Afghanistan-releases-65-prisoners-accused-Taliban-fighters-despite-US-warnings-kill-NATO-forces.html> (English).

²⁶ <http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/02/04/pakistan-blast-idINDEEA1309Z20140204> (English).

²⁷ <http://news.yahoo.com/pakistan-militants-kill-9-anti-taliban-militiamen-061537333.html> (English).

²⁸ http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/bomb-attack-kills-7-police-in-southern-pakistan/2014/02/12/bac65e94-9467-11e3-9e13-770265cf4962_story.html (English).

²⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

³¹ <http://jhuf.net/>

The Arabian Peninsula

On February 13, 2014 Al-Qaeda attempted to break in to the central prison in Sa'ana, Yemen, using a car bomb that exploded next to the prison wall followed by an attack by members of the organization. The attack killed seven security guards, injured four others, and led to the release of 29 prisoners, 19 of whom were members of Al-Qaeda.³²

In addition, there were continuing reports of attempts by Saudi citizens to infiltrate into Yemen in order to join the ranks of Al-Qaeda in Yemen. On February 11, 2014 Yemeni security agencies reported that they had extradited 14 wanted Saudi citizens to Saudi Arabia because of their illegal infiltration into Yemen and their ties to Al-Qaeda in Yemen.³³



From left to right: A satellite photo of the central prison in Sa'ana, the red square indicating the compound where Al-Qaeda prisoners were held and the red circle indicating the location of the car bomb explosion; Photos of several prisoners who escaped from the prison in Sa'ana

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, published an announcement (no. 74) regarding fake messages that were being spread on the Internet and clarified that they had been falsely attributed to the organization. For example, the organization denied any connection to the announcement that was published in its name regarding

³² <http://www.albidapress.net/press/news.php?action=view&id=34298>

³³ <http://alhayat.com/Articles/610101/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%B3%D9%84%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A9-14-%D8%B9%D9%86%D8%B5%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%8B-%D9%85%D9%86--%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%A9>

*the battles between Sunnis and Houthis in a region of Yemen.*³⁴

Iraq

*The beginning of February 2014 was marked by preparations for a wide-scale operation by the Iraqi army to remove ISIS gunmen from the city of Fallujah. The operation was postponed several times in an attempt to create a channel of communication with the gunmen via tribal elders in order to achieve a voluntary departure. Despite the attempts to find an alternative solution, the Iraqi army imposed a blockade on the city and carried out intermittent shelling.*³⁵

*On February 15, 2014 the Prime Minister of Iraq, Nouri al-Maliki, visited the city of Ramadi in order to review the progress of military operations in the region and meet with provincial dignitaries and tribal heads.*³⁶ *It should be noted that the continued fighting in Fallujah and Al-Ramadi led to the displacement of thousands of residents from Al-Anbar Province and to a severe shortage of food, gas and medical supplies.*³⁷

*Meanwhile, a wave of car bomb terrorist attacks struck Baghdad since the beginning of February and killed dozens of people. One significant attack was carried out by a suicide bomber riding a booby-trapped motorcycle who attempted to enter the Iraqi Foreign Ministry building and killed 24 people.*³⁸

The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham

- On February 1, 2014 a letter by Abu-Abbas Al-Tamimi, a self-described member of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham Shari'a Council, was published on the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum. In his letter, al-Tamimi referred to a speech given by Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of global Al-Qaeda, which was published at the end of January 2014 regarding the importance of maintaining unity among the ranks of the mujahideen in Syria. Al-Tamimi first explained that the ISIS has great respect for al-Zawahiri and considers him a brother of its own flesh and blood. Al-Tamimi referred to several points that were raised by al-Zawahiri and remarked that he may

³⁴ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁵ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/02/140203_iraq_fallujah_siege.shtml (Arabic).

³⁶ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/02/140215_iraq_anbar_maliki_visit.shtml (Arabic).

³⁷ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/02/140204_iraq_anbar_violence.shtml (Arabic).

³⁸ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/02/140205_iraq_explosions.shtml (Arabic).

not be seeing things as they actually are. First, al-Zawahiri warned against deeming other jihadist organizations non-believers (Takfir); however, the ISIS takes the position of shari'a on this issue and certainly has no intention of deeming other jihadist organizations operating in Syria as non-believers, nor did it have any connection to elements that have done so in the past. Second, al-Zawahiri called for reconciliation among the various Islamic factions; it is important to clarify that what actually happened was that ISIS wanted reconciliation and gave it a chance but it was forced to defend itself from attacks by other organizations. It was also said that Abu-Bakr Al-Baghdadi, the leader of the ISIS, welcomes any initiative for reconciliation but intends to defend his fighters.³⁹

On February 13, 2014 the leadership of the ISIS in Nineveh Province, Iraq, published an objection to al-Tamimi's letter and clarified several points:

- A. Al-Tamimi is not part of the Shari'a Council and everything that he wrote does not represent the ISIS nor its Shari'a Council.
- B. The ISIS has designated Web sites for the publication of official announcements, such as Al-Furqan and Al-'Itisam, as well as official Twitter accounts for ISIS provinces.
- C. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is the agreed-upon and accepted Emir and leader of ISIS.⁴⁰



The letter of objection from the ISIS leadership in Nineveh Province, Iraq, regarding al-Tamimi's letter

³⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁰ <http://justpaste.it/eecl>

- During the first half of February 2014, the ISIS leadership in Nineveh Province, Iraq, published on its official Twitter account several announcements and reports about its activities in the area. One of the published reports included a list of 31 military operations that were carried out in Nineveh Province in late January and early February 2014, including: a bomb blast directed at police forces; an attack on the barracks of the infidel Iraqi army in Ein Al-Jahsh on the strategic axis; the killing of a police officer with the rank of Lieutenant; the killing of an Intelligence officer in the Iraqi government. Noted next to each operation was the area in which it was carried out and the date of the operation.⁴¹ In another announcement, the ISIS leadership in Nineveh Province reported on operations that took place later in the province, most of which involved attacks against police and army officials.⁴² In another announcement, the leadership claimed responsibility for the explosion of a hummer jeep in Abu-Youssef, Nineveh Province, in the beginning of February 2014.⁴³ Another report summarized dozens of operations that the ISIS carried out in Nineveh Province in the beginning of February, including: car bomb attacks on military camps and vehicles; several suicide bombings in the neighborhoods of Al-Maliya, Al-Shurta and Al-Jawsaq in Mosul; an attack on the police administration building in Mosul and the killing of several of its employees; dozens of additional operations using explosives, grenades and mortars; and an attempted siege of the Badush Prison.⁴⁴

On February 7, 2014, the ISIS leadership in Nineveh Province reported a large-scale military invasion that its members carried out in the province. The attack included the invasion of many military areas, suicide bombings and attacks against Iraqi government military targets. The report noted that, thanks to the invasion, soldiers of the infidel regime were prevented from receiving military equipment that it needed in its fight against Muslims.⁴⁵ According to another announcement, ISIS fighters had recently invaded many areas in the province, in particular Al-Anbar, in order to help Muslims by expelling the tyrannical army from the region. In these

⁴¹ <https://twitter.com/Nnewsj>; <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴² <https://twitter.com/Nnewsj>; <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴³ <https://twitter.com/Nnewsj>; <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁵ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic); <https://twitter.com/Nnewsj>

attacks, they killed a military officer with the rank of Colonel.⁴⁶ In another announcement, the organization claimed responsibility for the explosion of an Iraqi military guard tower in the Al-Arabi neighbourhood in Nineveh Province.⁴⁷



A photo posted to the organization’s Twitter account, documenting the explosion of an Iraqi military guard tower in the Al-Arabi neighborhood of Nineveh Province

- Members of the ISIS and the Army of the Men of the Naqshbandi Order attempted to raid the Badush prison, located west of Mosul. Several visitors to the Hanein jihadist web forum claimed that several prisoners were freed during the operation,⁴⁸ but an official announcement by the Iraqi Ministry of Justice claimed that the attempt, in which approximately 20 people were killed and injured, had been thwarted.⁴⁹
- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham reported that leaders of the (Iraqi, Shi’ite) Badr organization had been executed at the end of January 2014. According to the ISIS, the individuals killed in Baghdad had worked for the Iranians.⁵⁰
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum said that Islamic presence and religious fervor were especially prominent in Mosul as opposed to Al-Anbar Province, which is full of “traitors and cowards”. The visitor noted that there was hardly any military or police presence in many areas, and that shari’a had already been partially implemented in those areas as can be deduced from the modest dress of the women and the mosques full of worshippers. The visitor claimed that the ISIS is the strongest organization in Mosul, followed by Ansar Al-Islam and Men of the

⁴⁶ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic); <https://twitter.com/Nnewsi>

⁴⁷ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic); <https://twitter.com/Nnewsi>

⁴⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁹ <http://www.albaghdadia.com/iraqnews/item/26195-2014-02-06-09-03-43>

⁵⁰ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

Naqshbandi Order. In addition, the visitor emphasized that the conflict between the ISIS and Ansar Al-Islam is waning, and that the two organizations are now directing their weapons towards military and police forces.⁵¹

Al-Sham [The Levant]

The Al-Nusra Front in Syria

- During the first half of February 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manarah Al-Bayda', published the following:
 - Announcements in which the organization claimed responsibility for various terrorist attacks directed against the Syrian regime's security forces.
 - A video titled, "On the Path to Success: The Young Lions of the Al-Nusra Front around East Damascus" regarding the jihadist indoctrination of Syrian children by the Al-Nusra Front in Syria.⁵²



The video banner

- An announcement regarding the fighting and conflicts among jihadist organizations in Deir al-Zour Province in northeastern Syria. According to the announcement, members of the Al-Nusra Front were bravely fighting to take complete control of Deir al-Zour and establish a shari'a regime there – a mission in which many members of the organization have been killed and injured. The fighting even spread to Homs in an effort to lift the siege that was imposed on the

⁵¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵² <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

city. Against the backdrop of these events, the ISIS carried out operations that astonished and shocked the Al-Nusra Front: it damaged the organization's military structures in a manner that cut off the military supply line to the deep arena of fighting; it even tried to seize control of the Al-Nusra Front's strategic headquarters, which was not surprising in light of the fact that it previously stole 5 million dollars from the Al-Nusra Front; it attacked Al-Nusra Front fighters immediately after they won a long and exhausting fight against the soldiers of the infidel army in an effort to steal credit for their achievements. Everyone knows that the Al-Nusra Front invested a great deal of effort to end the clashes and arrive at an agreement with the ISIS, but apparently the ISIS believes that the blood of the Al-Nusra Front is cheap. Therefore, the Al-Nusra Front called on the ISIS leadership to stop these unhindered attacks and act in a just and proper manner.⁵³

- During the first half of February 2014, the jihadist news agency, Hemm, which tracks developments in Syria in general, and members of the Al-Nusra Front in particular, published the following:
 - A video (no. 56) documenting a visit to the Shari'a Institute of the Al-Nusra Front in Idlib.⁵⁴



The video banner

- A video (no. 57) documenting the distress of residents of East Al-Ghawta on the outskirts

⁵³ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁴ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/

of Damascus.⁵⁵

- A video (no. 58) documenting a visit to a school belonging to the Al-Nusra Front, named for the martyr, Ibrahim al-Nasr, in north Da'ara.⁵⁶



The video banner

- The Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic Front - Ahrar ash-Sham claimed responsibility for the raid on the central prison in Aleppo that was carried out in the beginning of February. The operation included a suicide attack in front of the main gate and the use of heavy artillery. The operation was only partially successful in seizing several buildings in the compound.⁵⁷ A video that was posted to YouTube recoded a Chechen unit, under the command of Sayfuallah al-Shishani, which helped the Al-Nusra Front break in to the prison in Aleppo. Sayfuallah al-Shishani was killed in the raid.⁵⁸



⁵⁵ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/

⁵⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryqF8ks2MxA>

⁵⁸ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIUkgWmHJyk>

From left to right: Shelling during the attempted raid on the central prison in Aleppo; a clip from the video showing Sayfuallah al-Shishani

The Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon

- The Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon published an announcement (no. 6) in which it claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack in Hermel and blamed Hezbollah for its involvement in the civil war in Syria. Four people were killed and over 15 others were injured in the attack.⁵⁹

The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham: Operations in Syria

- During the first half of February 2014, the Al-Furqan jihadist media institution published the following:
 - A video titled, “Messages from the Land of Battles (Part 18)”, which tracked several battles waged by members of the ISIS against the Awakening movements in Aleppo Province. In the video, several ISIS members were interviewed about various topics such as the Aleppo prison raid, enemy attempts to cause foreign fighters to return to their native lands, and the implementation of shari’a in the city of Jarablus.⁶⁰
- During the first half of February 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, Al-’Itisam, published the following:
 - A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 44)”; interviews with several ISIS members of in which they praised the organization and criticized its opponents’ accusations against the organization.⁶¹
 - A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 45)”; an interview with a fighter from one of the various jihad factions in Syria that fought against ISIS; documentation of battles of ISIS members in Al-Raqqah Province in Syria; a speech by a former member of the Shari’a Council of Ahrar al-Sham criticizing those who fight against the ISIS; documentation of a suicide attack carried out by a member of the ISIS at a military outpost in An-Anbar, Iraq.⁶²

⁵⁹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁰ <https://twitter.com/wa3tasimo/status/>

⁶¹ <https://twitter.com/wa3tasimo/>

⁶² <https://twitter.com/wa3tasimo/>

- A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 46)”⁶³; interviews with several fighters from other jihadist factions in Syria, including Ahrar al-Sham, in which they explained how they were convinced to fight against the ISIS, which was presented to them as an organization that kills Muslims. However, at a certain stage they wised up and realized that they were making a mistake in fighting the ISIS. In addition, several members of the organization expressed disappointment with the Al-Qaeda leadership’s shunning of the ISIS and noted that the decision to do was based on rumors and false information about ISIS activities. The video also documented the killing of Iraqi army officers in Salah al-Din Province.⁶³



A clip from the video: photos of several fighters from other jihad factions in Syria that fought against the ISIS but returned to the organization and expressed regret for their actions

- A fourth video about Abu Mus‘ab al-Zarqawi (1966-2006), the leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, in the framework of a series of publications titled, "A Series about Life in the Words of the Ulema Regarding the Islamic State Project".⁶⁴

⁶³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁴ <https://twitter.com/wa3tasimo/>

- Several videos documenting the organization’s military operations against Syrian security forces, as part of the series titled, “During the Battles”.⁶⁵
- A public statement attacking the Al-Nusra Front for its mistake in disengaging from the ISIS and in fighting against Assad alongside the Awakening Councils in several Syrian provinces. In the statement, the ISIS pointed to the failure of the Awakening Councils in Iraq and warned the Al-Nusra Front to return before it is too late.⁶⁶
- On February 3, 2014, the ISIS distributed a document addressed to its fighters in Al-Raqqah Province in Syria in which they were asked to act appropriately towards the local Muslim residents in light of several incidents of “inappropriate behavior” that took place in the province. Such activities present the organization in a bad light and, therefore, should be apologised for and avoided. Members of the organization must explain to the residents of Al-Raqqah that their sole purpose is to observe the commandments of Allah.⁶⁷ The message seems to have been published as a result of instances when Syrian women in the province were forced to marry members of the organization.⁶⁸
- On February 10, the ISIS distributed a notice to all of its fighters in Aleppo Province clarifying that they should not arrest anyone without an official stamped order from the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham. The document contained a warning that anyone who ignores the order should expect punishment.⁶⁹
- On January 31, 2014, the ISIS in Aleppo Province, Syria, published a letter to residents of Al-Rif Al-Shimali in Aleppo Province. The letter stated that rumors about the ISIS are spreading around the province, according to which ISIS members are killing women and children in their battle and are referring to Muslims as infidels. Members of the organization explained that they only deem an infidel someone whose actions merit the label according to shari’a; as part of the struggle, the ISIS must fight the infidel Alawite regime and organizations such as Liwa Al-Tawheed and Ahrar Suriya, which pose as jihadist organizations. ISIS members explained that Aleppo Province is the organization’s military headquarters and, therefore, residents must

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

⁶⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁸ <http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=131194>

⁶⁹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

distance themselves from areas of military activity for their own safety.⁷⁰

- A member of the Hanein jihadist Web forum noted an increase in the number of operations recently carried out by the ISIS in Damascus and mentioned, as an example, the attack on a military compound in Jubar Province, an eastern suburb of the city. (The ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack on February 9).⁷¹ The operation included a suicide car bombing followed by an invasion by ISIS fighters who scanned the site and killed the injured soldiers.⁷²
- On January 23, 2014 Abdallah al-Muhaysini, a Saudi preacher residing in Syria, published a draft of a ceasefire agreement between the organizations in the country titled, “Initiative of the Ummah”.⁷³ The initiative was warmly received by the Al-Nusra Front while the ISIS rejected it outright. The jihadist media institution of the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, Al-Battar, which assists with the publication of jihadist materials by the ISIS, published a video titled, “Conspiracy of the Ummah” in which it criticized the way the initiative was worded, its errors and inconsistencies regarding religious law, and the conclusions drawn from it.⁷⁴
- The Saudi religious cleric, Abdallah al-Sa'ad, published a public statement in which he criticized the activities of the ISIS in Syria. Al-Sa'ad accused members of the organization of refusing to recognize the authority of shari'a courts to resolve conflicts (as was recommended in the “Initiative of the Ummah”), for committing the practice of “takfir” (accusing another Muslim of heresy) too easily, and for not being sufficiently proficient in religious knowledge. Al-Sa'ad called on members of the organization to detach and distance themselves from the organization. Visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum held a discussion about this statement in which most opposed the criticism that was directed towards the ISIS.⁷⁵
- The Markaz Aisha jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for news about the Sunni population in Lebanon, published an article titled, “A Harsh Statement against the Shari'a Department of the Liwa al-Tawhid [Organization]” by Muhammad bin Umar. The article blasted the criticism expressed by Liwa al-Tawhid, a jihadist organization in Syria, towards the ISIS with

⁷⁰ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷¹ https://twitter.com/dw_sham/status/432614409639174144/photo/1

⁷² <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷³ <http://www.mobadrah.mhesne.com/> ; <http://www.tawhed.ws/r?i=25011403>

⁷⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFKt610kEgo>

⁷⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

regard to the latter's conditions for accepting the "Initiative of the Ummah".⁷⁶

- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham reported that 15 tribes had joined its ranks in Al-Raqqah, a northern province in Syria.⁷⁷
- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham in Deir al-Zour Province published an announcement in response to the Al-Nusra Front's exaggerated claims. According to the announcement, the Al-Nusra Front's claims regarding attacks by the ISIS against it are false and exaggerated, and intended only to damage the ISIS's image. ISIS fighters are subordinate only to their leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and to Islamic law, and they only decided to take control of Deir al-Zour for the good of its residents.⁷⁸
- On his Twitter account, Mamun Hatim, a senior commander in AQAP, pointed out the ISIS's use of drones in Syria to attack targets belonging to the Syrian regime.⁷⁹



The photo that Mamun Hatim posted to his Twitter account, apparently indicating five drones. The caption on the right reads: ISIS carries out three suicide attacks against government bases in Deir al-Zour today. The caption on the left reads: ISIS gives you wings.

⁷⁶ <https://twitter.com/MarkazAisha>

⁷⁷ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁸ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁹ https://twitter.com/mamoo_n111

Suqur al-Sham Brigades

- The Suqur al-Sham Brigades posted a video on the Internet in the beginning of February in which it announced reconciliation with the ISIS. In the video, Rashed Tuggo, Head of the General Staff of the Suqur al-Sham Brigades, declared an end to the fighting between the two organizations throughout Syria and the appointment of a judge from each organization to resolve future conflicts that may erupt.⁸⁰

Jaysh Al-Mujahideen

- Jaysh Al-Mujahideen published a letter regarding the negotiation that took place in Geneva to solve the Syrian crisis. The letter stated that despite the terrible crimes committed by the Syrian regime, which began with Scud missiles and even led to chemical attacks, Jaysh Al-Mujahideen decided to stay quiet and not intervene in the negotiation in Geneva. However, there is no harm in telling anyone who pretends to represent the Syrian nation and its interests that, when reaching a settlement, one must not forget the blood of the martyrs who were killed by the al-Assad regime. In addition, any agreement must include the following clauses: A commitment from all countries that are helping Assad to immediately stop all forms of assistance; an end to the expulsion of residents from their homes; the release of child prisoners; and the complete removal of the blockade from all Syrian cities.⁸¹

Other Jihadist Organizations

- The Islamic Front - Ahrar al-Sham published a statement in which it attacked the ISIS and claimed that it violated the ceasefire agreement between the organizations. Ahrar al-Sham accused ISIS fighters of attacking its members in Al-Hasakah Province, stealing their weapons and forcing them to swear allegiance to the ISIS.⁸²

Lebanon

The Abdullah Azzam Brigades

⁸⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZKTrRgLEqC>

⁸¹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸² <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

- The Abdullah Azzam Brigades, a Salafi-jihadist organization operating in Lebanon and Syria, launched a new jihadist media institution, Al-Awza'y Media, to serve as its official publicity branch.⁸³ Al-Awza'y Media's first publication was a video titled, "The Raid on the Iranian Embassy in Beirut", which documented the attack on the Iranian Embassy in Beirut in November 2013, in which 23 people were killed. The video showed Iran's alleged crimes in various locations in the Sunni world, including the final interview with one of two suicide bombers who carried out the attack.⁸⁴



The logo of the Al-Awza'y Media jihadist media institution

General

- The Markaz Aisha jihadist media institution launched a publicity campaign on Twitter to free female Muslim prisoners held in prisons in Lebanon. The campaign included banners and photos on the subject.⁸⁵



The banner posted to Twitter in the framework of the campaign

⁸³ <https://twitter.com/azzambrigades>

⁸⁴ <https://twitter.com/azzambrigades>

⁸⁵ <https://twitter.com/MarkazAisha>; #اعتقال_الأخوات_في_لبنان

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

Tensions continued to flare in the Sinai Peninsula between jihadist organizations and the Egyptian army. On February 4, 2014 the Egyptian army shot and killed 21 gunmen affiliated with a radical Islamic group in the northern Sinai Peninsula who were suspected members of a terrorist cell; four military helicopters were involved in the operation.⁸⁶ Four days later, the Egyptian army killed 16 more gunmen in an air attack in Sheikh Zuweid in northern Sinai who were also involved in terrorist activity.⁸⁷

On February 11, 2014 unidentified gunmen blew up a natural gas pipeline in Al-Arish in the Sinai Peninsula; no organization claimed responsibility for the incident and no casualties were reported but the explosion caused damage to a nearby industrial area.⁸⁸ On February 15, 2014 it was reported that Egyptian border guard forces had destroyed ten tunnels in the Sinai Peninsula as part of an effort to create a separation zone between the Gaza Strip and Egypt.⁸⁹

- The Ibn Taimiyya jihadist media institution, which is responsible for publications regarding the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip, published an announcement in support of the ISIS in light of the recent savage attacks that were carried out against the organization. The announcement was posted to the institution's official Twitter account: <http://twitter.com/bentaymia>.⁹⁰

The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem

- The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem published an announcement (no. 43) regarding events in Syria and asked to clarify several points concerning the issue:
 - The main factor underlying the war in Syria stems from the negative attitude towards the ISIS and its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The ISIS was established in order to fight the infidel country of Iraq, which is led by Crusaders, and all Muslims must help [the organization]. However, there is a group of Muslims acting against the ISIS and striving

⁸⁶ <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=670563> (English).

⁸⁷ http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2014/02/egypts_army_says_16.php (English).

⁸⁸ <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/02/11/suspected-militants-bomb-gas-pipeline-sinai/> (English).

⁸⁹ <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=673719> (English).

⁹⁰ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

to establish a secular and democratic state while forming an alliance with the Shi'ites and renouncing the mujahideen.

- An agreement must be reached among the mujahideen in Syria regarding the establishment of an Islamic State as jihad needs a leader and borders. It should be remembered that the battles in Iraq and Syria are one and the same.
- There is a legal obligation to fight against the secular camp and libertarian democracy. Every Muslim must help the ISIS in its fight against them.
- The ISIS is entitled to defend itself from anyone who sanctifies war against it.
- It is best for the leaders of the ISIS to attack Muslims who killed other Muslims, stole prohibited funds or exploited the weakness of Muslims.
- It is best that all mujahideen reach a joint decision regarding one leader to command them according to the Qur'an and the Sunnah.⁹¹

In addition, the organization published a video in which it officially expressed its support for the ISIS and appealed to organizations in Syria to help the ISIS.⁹² As a result of the publication of the video, Hamas denied the existence of elements affiliated with the ISIS in the Gaza Strip.⁹³



A clip from the video: The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem declares its support for the ISIS

⁹¹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹² <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5DI9h74elw>

⁹³ <http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=134231>

As a result of the organization’s statement of support for the ISIS, Palestinian Salafi-jihadist activists, apparently from the Jerusalem area, posted to Twitter photos of placards in support of the ISIS and its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, against the backdrop of the Mosque of Omar in Jerusalem.⁹⁴



Photos that were posted to Twitter in support of the ISIS. In one of the photos, for example, the sign reads: “Blessings, love and friendship from Jerusalem to the glory of the Nation, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi”

Ansar Beit Al-Maqdis

- On February 13, 2014 Ansar Beit Al-Maqdis, a Salafi-jihadist group operating in the Sinai Peninsula, published a video titled, “The Revenge Attack of Egypt’s Free People: Damage to the Intelligence Building in Anshas”.⁹⁵

The Yahya Ayash Battalions

- The Yahya Ayash Battalions, a Salafi-jihadist organization in the Gaza Strip, published its first announcement in which it claimed responsibility for the shooting of five rockets towards Sderot on January 14, 2014 when the funeral for Israel’s former Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, was

⁹⁴ https://twitter.com/_1Bushra/status/430920582096764928/photo/1; #بعد_بيان_مجلس_شورى_المجاهدين

⁹⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

taking place there. The organization emphasized that it sees fit to continue its attacks against the Jews.



The logo of the Yahya Ayash Battalions

Others

- Al-Nusra al-Maqdisiyya lil-Dawla al-Islamiyya, a group of Palestinian Salafi-jihadist fighters in the Gaza Strip, announced the launch of a publicity campaign to defend the activities of the ISIS from the false campaigns being waged against it by its rivals, including foreign intelligence agencies and Awakening movements. The group turned to Internet users to help in the publicity effort by sending the group audio-visual and written jihadist materials via its Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/dawlanoor>.⁹⁶



The announcement posted to the Twitter account of Al-Nusra al-Maqdisiyya lil-Dawla al-Islamiyya: "To All Who Want to Help the ISIS"

⁹⁶ <https://twitter.com/dawlanoor>

The Maghreb [North Africa]

The countries of the Maghreb continued to hold discussions and conferences in order to strengthen the ties between them and find new ways to fight terrorism. At a conference held in Casablanca on February 10, 2014 the European Union's ambassador to the Kingdom emphasized Morocco's importance in the fight against the threat of terrorism. In addition, the analyst Abdellah Mahnaoui noted the need for close cooperation between Morocco and Algeria in fighting terrorism.⁹⁷ Discussions on the subject of coping with terrorism were also held in February between the Prime Minister of Tunisia and his Algerian counterpart.⁹⁸

Another alliance of increased collaboration exists between Spain and the countries of the Sahel. The Spanish Minister of Defense, Francisco Martinez Vázquez, visited Mauritania and Senegal in the beginning of the month in order to discuss the fight against terrorism and cyber-crime.⁹⁹ In addition, discussions regarding the countries of the Sahel were held in Brazil and were attended by the Prime Minister of Mali, the Nigerian Minister of the Interior, and terrorism and security experts.¹⁰⁰

Violence in eastern Libya continued to increase; there were reports of more abductions,¹⁰¹ shooting attacks against security forces¹⁰² and the planting of explosive devices.¹⁰³

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Al-Andalus, published a video titled, "The Da'awa Convoy of the Mujahideen in the Great Sahara", regarding the importance of preaching jihad in the Maghreb region.¹⁰⁴

⁹⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/02/13/feature-03 (English).

⁹⁸ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/02/03/feature-02 (English).

⁹⁹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/02/07/feature-02 (English).

¹⁰⁰ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/02/11/feature-04 (English).

¹⁰¹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/02/03/feature-01 (English).

¹⁰² http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/02/12/feature-01 (English).

¹⁰³ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/learningenglish/dailyprogrammes/2014/02/140205_libya_benghazi_school_attack.shtml (English).

¹⁰⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



A clip from the video

- In a discussion on the Hanein jihadist Web forum about AQIM, one visitor reported that Algeria was currently enjoying a period of security and stability. In response, another visitor calling himself “USMA SUNNI” and claiming to be a resident of Algeria, painted a different picture and reported that the comrades spread out in the mountains were preparing the next generation of jihad fighters through religious study, practical training and the teaching of languages. The visitor emphasized that jihad was still alive and well in Algeria and that his claims would be proven in the days to come.¹⁰⁵

Ansar Al-Sharia in Libya

- The Al-Raya jihadist media institution, which represents Ansar Al-Sharia in Libya, published an announcement by the organization’s Shari’a Council. The announcement explained that Ansar Al-Sharia has no connection with the uprising taking place in the streets of Libya against the regime, which is being carried out according to the rules of the game of Western democracy; nevertheless, it is meaningless as the organization is not looking out for the interests of Muslims in the country. One must be wary of the influence of the West, which seeks to create the same situation in Libya as is currently taking place in Egypt and is liable to take advantage of the current uprising for this purpose.¹⁰⁶ In addition, Al-Raya published a video in which armed members of the organization can be seen carrying out patrols around the city of Benghazi and stopping cars for inspection and to search for alcohol.¹⁰⁷
- Against the backdrop of the trend in which members of Ansar Al-Sharia travel from Tunisia to Syria, a member of the jihadist Web forum of Ansar Al-Sharia in Libya asked if members of the

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁶ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GSWltnQFiE>

organization were really taking part in the battles. In response, he was told that Sheikh Abu Iyadh, the leader of Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia, instructed [his followers] not to go the Syria since Tunisia needs all of its sons to help the organization make extensive contributions to communities across the country.¹⁰⁸

Other

- A visitor to the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum published a letter in which the sheikhs of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Libya expressed support for the ISIS.¹⁰⁹

Mauritania

- According to reports by the Mauritanian news agency, Anbaa, several jihadist prisoners in Mauritania published an announcement in which they called on AQIM and on Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad to immediately and unconditionally release the Red Cross workers who were kidnapped from northern Mali in the beginning of February, claiming that the Red Cross works to improve their prison conditions.¹¹⁰

Egypt

Ajnad Masr

- Anjad Masr published an announcement (no. 4) in which it claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack that was carried out against Egyptian security forces in Giza Square.¹¹¹
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum published a call from the Muslim Brotherhood to act within the framework of the popular resistance against police and security forces, and against “all types of Israeli military, economic or political presence in Egypt”. Another visitor to the forum reacted strongly and asked [others] not to forget to allocate resources and efforts against the Jews in particular.¹¹²

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.ansar-alsharee3a.com/showthread.php?t=4712>

¹⁰⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹⁰ <http://www.anbaa.info/spip.php?article14520>

¹¹¹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹² <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

Somalia

*The arena in Somalia was unusually quiet and jihadist organizations have recently been keeping a low profile. A terrorist attack carried out by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, stood out against the relative quiet. In the attack, which took place on February 13, 2014, a remote-controlled car bomb exploded next to a UN convoy at the entrance to the city's international airport and killed at least seven people. As stated above, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack a short time after it occurred. It should be noted that the attack took place in a particularly protected and guarded area that was supposed to be impenetrable.*¹¹³

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Kataib, published a video titled, “Mujahideen Moments: Part 2” in which several fighters can be seen wearing masks and chanting in praise of jihad. Among other things, the fighters swore to cut off the heads of Kenya’s President, Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, and other Kenyan politicians.¹¹⁴



The video banner

¹¹³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/13/us-somalia-blast-idUSBREA1C0H820140213> (English).

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

The Indian Subcontinent

- Jihadist Web forums announced that Handholah al-Khurosany, the General Administrator of the Indonesian jihadist Web forum, Forum Islam Al-Busyro, and known as Irhaby07, had been killed on February 6, 2014 in an exchange of fire with Indonesian security forces.¹¹⁵



The banner announcing the death of the Al-Busyro Web forum administrator

- A visitor to the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum published an announcement regarding the conference to show solidarity with the ISIS that was held on February 8, 2014 in Indonesia. At the conference, which was led by Abu Saleh A-Timrawi, support was expressed for ISIS activities and for the idea of establishing an Islamic shari'a state in Iraq; opposition to American involvement in Iraq was also expressed.¹¹⁶



A scene from the Conference

¹¹⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic); the address of the Indonesian jihadist Web forum: www.al-busyro.info/vb (Arabic); the Twitter account of the forum administrator: <https://twitter.com/Irhaby07>

¹¹⁶ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

China

- During the first half of February 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Turkestan Islamic Party, Sawt Al-Islam, published the following:
 - A video titled, “Pave the Way for the Caliphate”.¹¹⁷
 - A video in Russian titled, “The Greatest Salvation of the Act of Sacrifice”.¹¹⁸
 - A video in Uyghur titled, “Advice to our Mujahideen in Respected Al-Sham”.¹¹⁹

The West

- The G.I.M.F. jihadist Web forum published a video titled, “Allah is the Sustainer” by Abu Talha al-Almani, who is known as the German rapper, Deso Dogg. He was a member of Millat Ibrahim, a Salafi-jihadist group in Germany affiliated with Al-Qaeda working towards the establishment of a global Islamic caliphate.¹²⁰

Women and Jihad

- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham established two women’s brigades in Raqqah Province, Syria, called Al-Khansa and Umm-Rayyan. The integration of women in the organization was designed to provide a solution to situations in which members of other organizations disguised themselves as women in order to avoid being checked at ISIS roadblocks around Syria.¹²¹

Miscellaneous

- Jihadist Web forums announced the launch of two new jihadist media institutions:
 - Markaz al-Sahel – this media institution is supposed to focus on news regarding the mujahideen in Azwad, a northern region in Mali that was declared to be an independent state by the Tuareg tribe and by Mali in April 2012.¹²² The media institution also has a Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/alsahelmedia>.

¹¹⁷ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹⁸ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

¹²⁰ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹²¹ <http://al-mashhad.com/News/568914.aspx>

¹²² <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).



The banner of Markaz al-Sahel

- Nasaim lil-Intaj al-Sawti - this media institution is supposed to be responsible for the publication of audio files. The announcement stated that the institution in meant to help the mujahideen in various arenas of jihad and Muslims in prison.¹²³



The banner of Nasaim lil-Intaj al-Sawti

- The Fursan al-Balagh jihadist media institution published an index of jihadist publications that were previously published in January 2013.¹²⁴

¹²³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic); the new media institution also has a Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/nsam2014>

¹²⁴ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

ABOUT THE ICT

Founded in 1996, the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) is one of the leading academic institutes for counter-terrorism in the world, facilitating international cooperation in the global struggle against terrorism. ICT is an independent think tank providing expertise in terrorism, counter-terrorism, homeland security, threat vulnerability and risk assessment, intelligence analysis and national security and defense policy. ICT is a non-profit organization located at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya, Israel which relies exclusively on private donations and revenue from events, projects and programs.

ABOUT THE JIHADI MONITORING GROUP

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.

[Click here for a list of online JWMG publications](#)

For tailored research please contact us at JWMG@ict.org.il

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