

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The First Half of March 2014

Highlights

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

- The rift between the Al-Nusra Front and the leadership of Al-Qaeda, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS), is also evident in the cyber realm. Several jihadist media institutions and jihadist Web forums announce their support for the ISIS. In addition, the ISIS also receives support in a statement distributed by individuals who identify themselves as former Guantánamo Bay prisoners.
- Tensions among organizations in Syria are on the rise. A member of the Al-Nusra Front's Shura Council and a spokesman for the ISIS publish recorded speeches in which they hurl sharp accusations at one another.
- A new Egyptian organization called "I'dam" (Execution) threatens to launch an assassination campaign, to begin on March 19, against senior Egyptian government officials in protest of the military coup led by Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. Another new Egyptian jihadist organization called the "Ansar Al-Sharia" Battalions in Egypt also announced a military campaign against the Egyptian government.
- The Ibn Tamiyya jihadist media institution calls on Muslims to take immediate action in order to free Muslim prisoners being held in jails in Israel and the Palestinian Authority. In order to accomplish this, the media institution suggests kidnapping Israeli soldiers as a bargaining chip for a prisoner exchange or establishing special units trained to carry out prison breaks. Attempted jail breaks by the Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan, the Taliban-Pakistan and other jihadist organizations should serve as a model, according to the institution.
- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) publishes a new edition of the magazine, *Inspire*, in English, intended for Muslims living in Western countries. Among the topics covered in the current edition are a call for Muslims in the West to carry out individual terrorist attacks against Western countries using methods such as car bombs.

Table of Contents

Highlights	2
New Publications	5
Ideology	5
Strategy.....	7
Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets	8
Promoting the Myth of the Martyr.....	8
Magazines.....	9
Reports from the Field.....	12
Afghanistan-Pakistan	12
The Taliban in Pakistan.....	13
The Arabian Peninsula	14
Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.....	14
Other	15
Iraq.....	15
The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham.....	16
Ansar al-Islam	18
Jabhat al-Murabitin fi al-Iraq.....	19
Al-Sham [The Levant].....	19
The Al-Nusra Front in Syria.....	19
The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham: Operations in Syria and Lebanon	21
Other Jihadist Organizations	24
Lebanon	25
The Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon.....	25
The Abdullah Azzam Brigades	26
Other	26
The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip	26
Ansar Beit Al-Maqdas	27
Jundallah in Palestine	27
Other	28
The Maghreb [North Africa]	29
Tunisia.....	30

Egypt	30
Somalia	31
Indonesia	33
China	33
The Turkestan Islamic Party	33
The West.....	34
Women and Jihad.....	36
Facebook and Twitter	36

New Publications

Ideology

- On March 6, 2014 a letter was published on the Minbar Al-Tawheed Wal-Jihad jihadist Web portal titled, “I Stand with all of the Mujahideen who Support the Oneness of Allah”, by Sheikh Abu Mohammed Al-Maqdisi, a prominent Jordanian Salafi-jihadist sheikh imprisoned today and considered an authority in the world of jihad.¹ In his letter, al-Maqdisi referred to the rift among the mujahideen in Syria in general, and the conflicts between the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS in particular, and called for an end to the dispute.

The letter opened with a story told by al-Maqdisi: His youngest son came to visit him (in prison) and told him that some of al-Maqdisi’s friends had visited their home and asked the boy who he supported – the Al-Nusra Front or the ISIS. The boy answered, “I support all Muslims”. Al-Maqdisi explained that this is exactly the approach that should be taken.

The in-fighting among the mujahideen in Syria is a very painful matter as it involves various factions working for the same goal but fighting against one another. This is especially dangerous as Allah’s enemies are united in their war against the mujahideen who are pointing their weapons at one another instead of at the infidel Alawite regime.

Many hadiths (statements or actions of Mohammad) reflect the great importance of unity. It is mentioned more than once in hadith literature that fighters following the path of Allah should fight as one and not in separate groups. It should be emphasized that any action on the part of the mujahideen that sows division and deepens the existing rift is wrong and should be condemned. It is important to remember that the rift makes it easier for Western Intelligence agencies to take advantage of the opportunity to identify the mujahideen’s weaknesses and act against them.

Al-Maqdisi called on all Muslims to put an immediate end to the rift; he emphasized that the enemies do not differentiate between various groups of mujahideen, but rather they wage a comprehensive battle against anyone who raises the banner of jihad and Allah. Foreign elements, especially those the Western world, are developing plans day and night to establish a regime in Syria that will heed its demands. These elements, led by the United States, are even

¹ <http://tawhed.ws/r?i=06031401>

surpassing themselves and convincing their governments that intervention in Syria is a national interest for them. In light of all this, the mujahideen cannot allow themselves to fight separately and must unite immediately.

Aisha Media Center-The Sunni Platform in Lebanon jihadist media institution and the Media Front for the Defense of the Islamic State published an article by Sheikh Abu Muadh al-Shari', a member of the ISIS Shari'a Council, in which he criticized the claim made by Sheikh Abdallah al-Muhaysini, a Saudi preacher residing in Lebanon, that it is unacceptable to swear allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS, and to hail him as Emir.²

On January 23, 2014 al-Muhaysini published a draft of a ceasefire agreement between the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS titled, "Initiative of the Ummah", which was condemned by al-Shari' who claimed that allegiance to al-Baghdadi is legitimate and has a basis in Islamic religious law.

- The conflict between the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS was also evident among the administration of jihadist Web forums. The administration of the veteran jihadist Web forum, Shumukh al-Islam, published an announcement regarding the tension among jihadist organizations in Syria in which it expressed support for the ISIS but emphasized the need to continue to respect the leadership of Al-Qaeda. In addition, the administration advised the Al-Nusra Front to avoid fighting against the ISIS but, at the same time, asked the ISIS to establish joint shari'a courts in order to solve conflicts between the two organizations.³

The administration of the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum published an official announcement of support for the ISIS. It promised to publish information that would show the true face of the organization, as opposed to the Western media that tries to tarnish its image, while balancing it with reports about other various factions. The announcement ended with a general call for all Muslims to join the ranks of the ISIS.⁴

- The Al-Tibyan jihadist media institution announced its support of the ISIS and its merger with the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum.⁵

² <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).



The logo of the Al-Tibyan jihadist media institution

- The jihadist media institution for the Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Basira, published a video titled, “Contours of the Path of Islam’s Righteous Ancestors – Part 1” by Dr. Sami al-Aridi, member of the Al-Nusra Front’s Shura Council.⁶
- The Fursan al-Balagh jihadist media institution published a book titled, “The Plan for the Promised Caliphate” (101 pages), by Abu Nusayba al-Maqdisi, with a preface written by Sheikh Abu Talha al-Adnani al-Filastini.⁷



The banner of the book

Strategy

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum proposed establishing a separate department focused on publications by users suspected of belonging to the RAND Corporation, provided

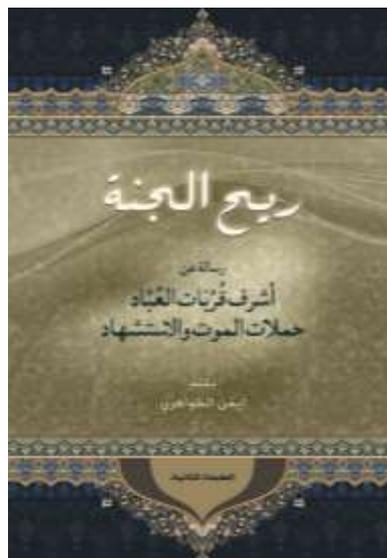
⁶ https://twitter.com/Albasira_in

⁷ <https://twitter.com/fursanalbalaagh>

that the suspicions are backed up by evidence and explanations. The visitor guaranteed that this would work to expose many activists.⁸

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, published the second edition of his book, “The Scent of Paradise” about suicide attacks from an operational and religious perspective. Al-Zawahiri explained that the purpose of the new edition was to correct several mistakes that were made in recent years in the framework of suicide operations (including harming innocent people, selecting a target not suitable for attack, tarnishing the image of the mujahideen, etc.). Despite the mistakes, al-Zawahiri noted the expansion of this method of operation in the framework of the jihadist struggle in recent years.⁹



The banner of the book

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The ISIS in northern Baghdad published photos of over 30 terrorists who carried out suicide attacks against Iraqi security forces or were killed during clashes with them. Attached to each photo was information about the terrorist, the operation that was carried out and the number

⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

of people who were killed in the operation. The list contained photos of terrorists from various countries including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Uzbekistan and Denmark.¹⁰



Some of the photos of suicide bombers published by the ISIS

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published new issues of its jihadist magazines in Arabic, English and Urdu: Issue No. 95 for March 2014 of the Arabic-language magazine *Al-Sumud* (44 pp.);¹¹ Issue No. 62 of the English-language magazine *In Fight* (150 pp.);¹² The March 2014 issue of the magazine *Nawai Afghan* (71 pp.),¹³ all of which cover jihad in Afghanistan.



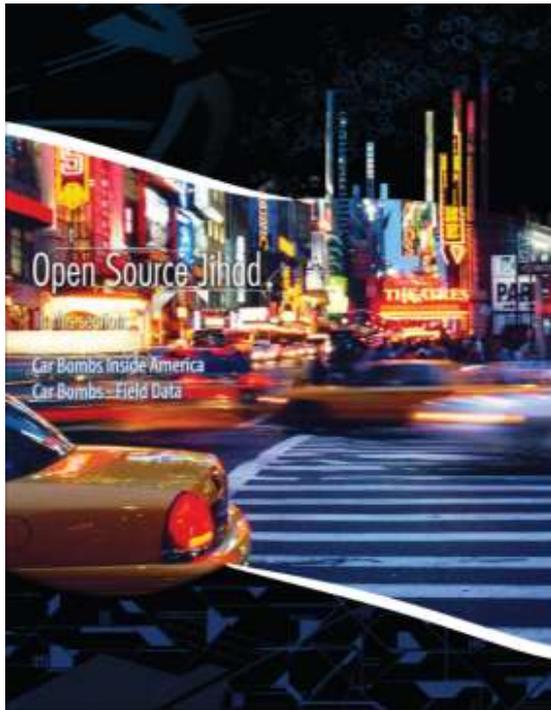
The covers of, from left to right, *In Fight*, *Al-Sumud* and *Nawai Afghan*

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

¹¹ <http://alsomod-iea.info/> (Arabic).

¹² [http://www.jhuf.net/showthread.php?21353-Islami-Emirate-Afghanistan-IN-FIGHT-62-\(02-2014\)](http://www.jhuf.net/showthread.php?21353-Islami-Emirate-Afghanistan-IN-FIGHT-62-(02-2014)) (English).

¹³ <http://nawaiafghan.blogspot.co.il/> (Urdu).



Open Source Jihad
 o-pen | 'ō-pən | source |sōrs| jī-hād |jī' hād|
 A resource manual for those who loathe the tyrants; includes bomb making techniques, security measures, guerrilla tactics, weapons training and all other jihād related activities.

- Informal A disaster for the repressive imperialistic nations: *The open source jihād is America's worst nightmare.*
- It allows Muslims to train at home instead of risking a dangerous travel abroad: *Look no further, the open source jihād is now at hands reach.*



CAR BOMBS INSIDE AMERICA
 w/ AQ Chef

Inspire Magazine's goal is to empower Muslim youth. And what is empowerment without being strong, powerful and intelligent? In this section, we give you strength, power and intelligence. Believe me, using car bombs gives you all that.

It is absolutely simple. And we will make it simpler for you, didn't I do, so that every Muslim, who loves Allah and His Messenger, and wants to accelerate Allah's victory, becomes prepared to make, even if this is the first military material his eyes has set on.

This recipe gives you the ability to make a car bomb even in countries with tight security and surveillance. The reason is primary materials easily available and they do not raise suspicion. These materials are not explosives in nature. But after you have assembled and prepared them, they become a bomb ready for destruction, *blatnik*.

This type of car bomb is not usually used to destroy buildings, but is very effective in killing individuals.

The merit of this method is that you can prepare a car bomb in a few hours during the availability of the primary materials. So there is less worry about your personal security.

My Muslim brother, before you start reading the instructions, remember that this type of operation if prepared well and an appropriate target is chosen, and Allah decrees success for you, history will never forget it. It will be recorded as a crushing defeat on the enemies of Islam.

THE GENERAL IDEA:
 We are going to mix two gases, one an oxidizer, another a fuel, in one sealed container that will change the normal combustion of the two materials into an explosive combustion. The explosion will start as soon as a flame emitted from a torch comes in contact with the gas that will burn rapidly under very high pressure.

OPERATIONAL IDEA:

- Pure 'Oxygen' was used as the cooking gas, cooking gas 'Propane' as the fuel, and Cooking Gas Cylinder as the sealed container.
- An amount of gas was discharged from the Cooking Gas Cylinder.
- The highly pressurized Oxygen Cylinder was connected to the Cooking Gas Cylinder.
- When the safety valves of both the cylinders were opened, Oxygen Gas moved into the Cooking Gas Cylinder directly. This was caused by pressure difference.
- The pressure inside the Oxygen Cylinder was very high compared to that inside the Cooking Gas Cylinder. We know that gas moves from a high pressure region to a lower pressure region.

PRESSURE DIFFERENCE:

- While the tap is closed, the pressure in the yellow balloon is 22psi, while the pressure in the red balloon is one.
- But when we open the tap, gas moves from the high pressure region (yellow balloon) to the low pressure region (red balloon) in such the pressure in the two balloons become equal.

BAROMETERS:
 Precious measuring instruments are called 'barometer'. There are different types of barometers, some measure up to 11 bars, others up to 200 bars, and others in between. Barometers used to measure the pressure usually measure up to 11, 12 or 16 bars.

Barometers used for gas cylinders differ as per the type of the cylinder. For example, large Oxygen cylinders use barometers of 240 bars or 280 bars. Medium cooking gas cylinders use barometers of 24 or 28 bars. There are also many other types of barometers.

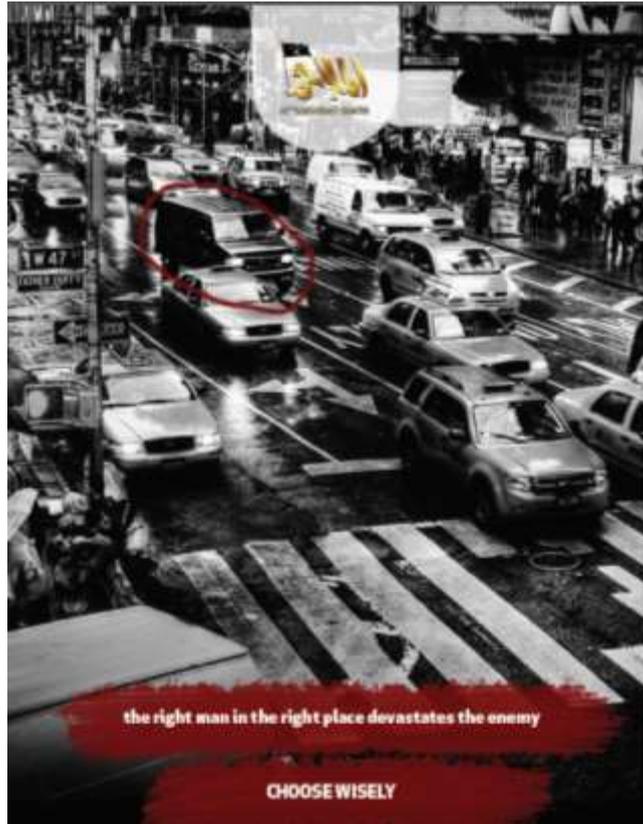
Barometers use different units, some use bars, others 'atm', pound per square inch (psi), Pascal (Pa) or millimeter of mercury (mmHg).

Here are some barometers:

- 1. This barometer is sometimes called a 'regulator'. We will use it in those instructions. The meter on the right measures the pressure in the oxygen cylinder - its maximum measurement is 28,000 kilopascals (kPa), equivalent to 280 bars. While the meter on the left measures the cooking gas cylinder - its maximum measurement is 1,400 kPa, equivalent to 14 bars.

PRESSURE UNITS:

- The standard atmosphere that we live in is a unit of pressure.
- The standard atmosphere is almost equal to one bar (1 bar = 1 atm).
- In this procedure we are going to use 'bar' as the standard pressure unit for the gas cylinders.
- When you come across any other unit in your barometer e.g. Pascal, kilopascal or psi, convert it into bar.
- Conversion is very simple. All you have to do is use a converter in your computer OS calculator.
- A Cooking Gas Cylinder can sustain up to 12 bars.
- An Oxygen Cylinder can sustain up to 135 bars.
- 'kg/cm²' is the same as atm (atmosphere).



Three illustrations published in *INSPIRE*, including tips and explanations on how to construct car bombs

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan is still fragile and it seems that these arenas vacillate between different stages of calm.

On March 2, 2014 a car bomb exploded in eastern Afghanistan; it apparently exploded earlier than planned due to a malfunction and killed 13 people, nine of whom were Taliban rebels.¹⁶

On March 1, 2014 the Taliban in Pakistan announced a one-month ceasefire as part of negotiations to reach a peace agreement with the Pakistan government. A spokesman for the organization declared that all of its fighters had been instructed to lay down their weapons for the coming month.¹⁷

Despite the announced ceasefire, terrorist attacks continue to take place in Pakistan. On

¹⁶ <http://news.yahoo.com/car-bomb-eastern-afghanistan-kills-13-123620968.html> (English).

¹⁷ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/01/pakistan-taliban-ceasefire-peace-talks> (English).

March 3, 2014 an armed fighter burst into a court in Islamabad, Pakistan, and shot 11 people to death, including the court judge; the attack was seemingly intended to show the Taliban's central leadership that the ceasefire was not genuine.¹⁸ On March 14, 2014 two simultaneous attacks took place in the cities of Peshawar and Quetta in Pakistan using car bombs; 12 people were killed in the attacks.¹⁹

- A visitor to the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum published photos of jihad fighters from Pakistan expressing support for the ISIS. In the photos, the fighters are seen waving the flag of the ISIS and calling out the name of its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The post received enthusiastic reviews from visitors to the forum as well as from some of the forum's administrators.²⁰



Jihad fighters from Pakistan expressing support for the ISIS

The Taliban in Pakistan

- The Taliban in Pakistan announced a one-month Hudna (ceasefire). The Spokesman for the Taliban in Pakistan, Shahidullah Shahid, said that the ceasefire announcement had been made on the recommendation of religious clerics and that its goal was enable renewed talks between the organization and the government, which had been suspended a month earlier.²¹

¹⁸ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/03/us-pakistan-attack-idUSBREA220B320140303> (English).

¹⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/14/us-pakistan-attacks-idUSBREA2D0Q920140314> (English).

²⁰ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

²¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

- The jihadist media institution of the Taliban in Pakistan, Umar, published a video titled, “To the Oppressed People of Balochistan” by Sheikh Khalid Haqqani, a member of the organization.²²

The Arabian Peninsula

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) continued to suffer casualties as a result of drone strikes by Yemeni security forces. For instance, it was reported that two AQAP militants were killed in a drone strike in Al-Jawf Province, on the border between Saudi Arabia and northern Yemen.²³ In an attempt to defend itself from such attacks, AQAP executed one of its members who was suspected of passing along information to the enemy regarding the location of AQAP militants in order to help the drones [target and] kill them. The organization affixed a note to the spy’s body in which it explicitly threatened to execute anyone who provides information to the enemy.²⁴

Meanwhile, AQAP militants continued to attack security targets in the country. On March 7, 2014 four militants were killed in clashes with Yemeni security forces after they attacked an army base in Abyan Province in southern Yemen.²⁵ In addition, there were reports that AQAP was planning to raid carry out jailbreaks in the near future in several provinces in Yemen, including the capital, Sanaa, in order to free the prisoners.²⁶

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, published a letter addressed to the mujahideen in Syria. The letter stated that the recent victories of the mujahideen in Syria have instilled hope in the heart of the Muslim Nation, but the fact that disagreements among jihadist organizations in Syria have deteriorated to the point of real combat was very worrying. The organization called on all Muslims wherever they are to stop fighting one another because to shed the blood of a jihad fighter is a terrible thing. AQAP declared that it was investing effort in achieving reconciliation among the various organizations fighting in Syria and emphasized that conflicts among the mujahideen only strengthen their

²² <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

²³ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/03/140303_yemen_qaeda_execution.shtml (Arabic)

²⁴ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/03/140303_yemen_qaeda_execution.shtml (Arabic).

²⁵ <http://www.albawabhnews.com/444618> (Arabic).

²⁶ <http://yemen-press.com/news28016.html> (Arabic).

infidel enemies, such as the Alawites, the Jews, the Crusaders and the rulers of the Gulf.²⁷

- AQAP published an announcement (no. 75) in which it announced the establishment of a new media institution called Al-Basha'ir, which it explained would distribute audio material including dawah, songs and support for jihad. In addition, the announcement states that its official publications and speeches would continue to be published through the Al-Malahem media institution.²⁸



The logo of the new Al-Basha'ir jihadist media institution

Other

- The Yemeni television station in Hadramawt, Al-Asriyya, published a video recording of a Yemeni fighter admitting to having collaborated with American Intelligence officials. In the recorded announcement, the man, Amin Abdullah al-Mu'allimi, said that he was recruited by Americans in Sweden and asked to plant tracking chips in the belongings of three people. At the end of the video, al-Mu'allimi was accused of causing the deaths of seven Muslims fighters.²⁹ The video was published after the body of man was found shot and crucified in the town of Shahr in Hadramout Province in Yemen, next to the flag of Ansar Al-Sharia and a sign accusing the deceased of helping the Americans.³⁰

Iraq

The month of March began with a series of terrorist attacks around Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, in which dozens of people were killed. Most of the attacks were carried out using car bombs

²⁷ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁹ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fANcpdu-8Fs>

³⁰ <http://www.hadarem.net/index.php?ac=3&no=4715>

and were directed against Shi'ite neighborhoods in the city, including Al-Sha'b in the north, Al-Za'franiyya in the south and Sadr City in the east.³¹ Another attack, in which dozens of civilians were killed, took place in Al-Hilla in southern Iraq.³²

Meanwhile, the first Baghdad International Counter-Terrorism Conference took place on March 12, 2014 with the participation of representatives from 56 countries and 12 organizations. The issues addressed at the conference included: the banning of terrorist propaganda, restriction of passage for fighters from state to state, the drying-up of sources of funding for terrorism, and the need for closer Intelligence cooperation between countries. Despite the lofty proclamations, the conference's final declaration did not include any decision that would require participating countries to provide concrete solutions to the problem of terrorism.³³

The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham

- On March 1, 2014 the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) published an announcement regarding a defamatory article that was published against the organization. According to the announcement, the article stated that the ISIS regarded the Taliban and even the leaders of Al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri and Osama bin Laden, as "infidels" ("takfir"). The ISIS refuted the allegations as lies with the sole purpose of defaming the organization; the path of the organization has always been, and will always continue to be, the path of the Sunnah and jihad. Many organizations in Syria are trying to spread rumors about the organization in order to tarnish its image and attribute many statements to the ISIS [that are not true]; it emphasized that only the organization's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and the Shura Council present its true positions. In addition, the ISIS denied any involvement in the death of Abu Khalid al-Suri, a senior commander in Ahrar Al-Sham, who was killed in an explosion in Aleppo on February 23, 2014 after being sent by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri to reconcile the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS.³⁴
- The ISIS published a report about its military operations in Nineveh Province in Iraq.³⁵ It also

³¹ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/03/140305_iraq_voience_baghdad.shtml (Arabic).

³² http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/03/140309_iraq_south_blast.shtml (Arabic).

³³ <http://www.elaph.com/Web/News/2014/3/885786.html>

³⁴ <https://twitter.com/wa3tasimu/status/439819113238523904>; <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁵ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

published a report about its military operations in a southern province in Iraq.³⁶

- The ISIS published a claim of responsibility for an attack that was carried out at the city council building in Samaraa in Saladin Province. The announcement listed the names of the three perpetrators of the attack and described the course of the attack, in which the building's security guards were killed, members of the city council were executed, a car bomb was activated and gunfire was exchanged for about four hours with police officers who were called to the site.³⁷ According to eyewitness accounts, the gunmen invaded the building dressed in army uniforms.³⁸



The three perpetrators of the attack on the city council building in Samaraa

- The ISIS in Al-Anbar Province published a claim of responsibility for a “quality terrorist attack” that was carried out on March 9, 2014 at the center of an Iraqi Air Force base using an explosives belt, in which six soldiers were killed.³⁹
- The ISIS in Saladin Province published a claim of responsibility for a terrorist attack that was carried out on March 10, 2014 in the center of the province. According to the announcement, militants from the organization were able to carry out a sophisticated military operation that included invading an Iraqi army base and using small arms and explosive devices.⁴⁰
- The ISIS in Saladin Province published a claim of responsibility for a suicide attack that was carried out on March 12, 2014 in the northern part of the province. According to the

³⁶ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

³⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁸ <http://www.alhayatp.net/?p=24610>

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

⁴⁰ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

announcement, the militant, Abu Kassem Al-Tunsi, detonated a car bomb in the heart of the police headquarters, killing and injuring dozens of people.⁴¹

- The ISIS in Nineveh Province published a claim of responsibility for a terrorist attack that was carried out in the province on March 12, 2014. According to the announcement, militants from the organization attacked the secret headquarters of the Iraqi army south of Mosul using a car bomb followed by a siege of the headquarters. The headquarters was completely burned in the attack and all military equipment inside it was destroyed.⁴²

Ansar al-Islam

- Al-Ansar, the jihadist media institution of Ansar Al-Islam – a jihadist organization in Iraq affiliated with global jihad – published a video on the organization’s official Twitter account titled, “The Training Camp of Abd al-Rashid Ghazi”.⁴³

The video opened with a short summary of the life of Abd al-Rashid Ghazi, a radical Islamic preacher in Pakistan known for his support for the Taliban in Pakistan and for his opposition to the pro-American policies of President Musharraf in the global war on terrorism. In July 2007, he led a siege on the “Red Mosque” in Pakistan and was killed when Pakistani soldiers stormed the mosque. The video then documented the training of organization members at a training camp.



The video banners

⁴¹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴² <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴³ https://twitter.com/ansar_al_islam

- Ansar Al-Islam published several announcements in which it claimed responsibility for operations that it carried out during the first half of March 2014, including: an attack on a police patrol in Kirkuk, an attack on a police outpost in Samarra and two attacks on army bases in Mosul.⁴⁴

Jabhat al-Murabitin fi al-Iraq

- The new jihadist organization, Jabhat al-Murabitin fi al-Iraq, published two new announcements in which it claimed responsibility for the destruction of Hummers in the city of Ramadi in Al-Anbar Province.⁴⁵

Al-Sham [The Levant]

On the third anniversary of the conflict in Syria, some statistics were published regarding the loss of life claimed by the war until now: over 140,000 people have been killed and 9 million people have been turned into refugees and displaced persons, with the daily average number of deaths standing at 170 in the past year.⁴⁶ Despite the anarchy that prevails in the country, the Assad regime remains stable and its army has even managed to regain control over several area that had been under control of rebel forces, such as the city of Yabrud near the Lebanon border.⁴⁷

The situation remains tense, not only between the rebels and Assad but also among the militant organizations themselves. For instance, despite the completed withdrawal of ISIS fighters from Aleppo to Al-Raqqah Province,⁴⁸ friction among the organizations re-emerged when a member of the Al-Nusra Front Shura Council and the official spokesman for the ISIS attacked each other while accusing one another's organization of betrayal.⁴⁹

The Al-Nusra Front in Syria

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

⁴⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁶ <http://www.nhregister.com/general-news/20140316/3-statistics-from-syrias-3-years-of-conflict> (English).

⁴⁷ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/03/140316_syria_army_statement_yabroud.shtml (Arabic).

⁴⁸ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/03/140301_syria_isis.shtml (Arabic).

⁴⁹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/03/isil-says-it-faces-war-with-nusra-syria-20143719484991740.html> (English).

- The jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Basira, published a recorded speech by Abu Abdullah al-Shami, a member of the Al-Nusra Front’s Shura Council, in which he attacked the ISIS and accused it of many things including: lies, theft of assets and resources belonging to the Al-Nusra Front, establishment of road blocks, lack of obedience to authority in the world of jihad, violation of alliances, use of perjury, provision of refuge for criminals, killing of senior jihadists, refusal to be judged in shari’a courts, and more. At the end of his speech, al-Shami declared that, in light of the ISIS’s conduct, it was permissible to fight against the organization but he also expressed hope that the ISIS would return to the right path and focus its efforts on fighting against the Assad regime.⁵⁰
- The jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manarah Al-Bayda’, published a video documenting an Al-Nusra Front training camp named Abu al-Fadiyya.⁵¹
- During the first half of March 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. 61) documenting a visit to one of the organization’s checkpoints near the village of Hama, responsible for dissemination of information materials.⁵²
 - A video (no. 62) documenting the construction of a bridge over the Al-Assi River on the outskirts of Hama by members of the organization.⁵³
 - A video (no. 63) documenting the PR activities of members of the organization at one of its camps near Hama.⁵⁴
 - A video (no. 64) documenting the construction of a main road in Al-Jadid village in Dayr-al-Zur Province by members of the organization.⁵⁵
 - A video (no. 65) documenting the distribution of winter clothing to fighters on the front in Dayr al-Zour.⁵⁶
- The Al-Nusra Front in Al-Raqqah Province in northern Syria published an announcement

⁵⁰ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETeMcZ2wjul#t=52>

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

⁵² https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/

⁵³ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/

⁵⁴ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/

⁵⁵ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/

⁵⁶ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/

addressed to all residents of the province. The announcement stated that anyone belonging to the ISIS will be considered a legitimate target for attack by the Al-Nusra Front since the ISIS crossed the line and conducted itself in a manner that is inconsistent with the principles of Islam.⁵⁷

- The Al-Nusra Front published an announcement (no. 473) in which it claimed responsibility for the takeover of a checkpoint in Khan Shaykhun in Idlib Province on March 6, 2014. The announcement described the course of the attack, which began massive machine gun fire, mortar explosions and tank shelling, followed by the fighters' infiltration of the checkpoint in order to seize control of it. Six soldiers were killed in the attack and many others were injured.⁵⁸



The Al-Nusra Front's takeover of a checkpoint in Idlib Province by use of a tank

- The Al-Nusra Front published a video documenting an attack that its members carried out against sites controlled by the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party, a Kurdish militant organization) in the city of Al-Manajir in northeast Syria on January 25, 2014. The attack, which began at dawn, included the penetration of buildings, exchange of gunfire and the explosion of a suicide bomber (the video included the final recorded statement by the suicide terrorist).⁵⁹

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

- During the first half of March 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS), Al-'Itisam, published the following:
 - A video titled, "Messages from the Land of Battles (Part 20)", which described battles

⁵⁷ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁹ <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/?p=11086>

waged by members of the organization in Dayr al-Zour Province, referred to as Al-Kayr Province by members of the organization.⁶⁰

- A video titled, “A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 50)””; an interview with an Albanian fighter known as Abu Turab al-Albani who related his experiences after being captured by members of the Free Syrian Army.⁶¹
- A sixth video about Sheikh Anwar al-Awlaki (1971-2011), a radical Islamic preacher and member of AQAP with American and Yemeni citizenship. Al-Awlaki was in charge of the English language jihadist magazine, *INSPIRE*, produced by AQAP and designed for the English-speaking Muslim population in the West in order to encourage them to carry out terrorist attacks on Western soil. The video was published in the framework of a series of publications titled, "A Series about Life in the Words of the Ulema Regarding the Islamic State Project".⁶²



A clip from the video

- The ISIS in Damascus published an announcement regarding its successful penetration of the large Palestinian refugee camp, Yarmuk, together with several other jihadist factions after killing several supporters of the Syrian regime.⁶³

⁶⁰ <https://twitter.com/wa3tasimu>

⁶¹ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDUxJqlsa0I>

⁶² <https://twitter.com/wa3tasimu/>

⁶³ https://twitter.com/dw_sham

- The ISIS in Al-Raqqah Province in Syria published an announcement in which it stated that the organization would begin raiding the homes of suspects without prior warning. The organization explained that this step was necessary to protect the lives of the mujahideen who were hit more than once as they waited outside suspects' houses. In another announcement released by the organization in the same province, it invited Muslims and Dhimmi Christians to file complaints regarding legal matters, property issues or assaults with the ISIS's Public Complaints Department.⁶⁴
- The ISIS in Homs Province published photos from a shooting training course that was held for its members. In the photos, members of the organization were seen holding rifles with telescopic sights and accompanied by the caption, "Professional Snipers Course".⁶⁵



A snipers course for members of the ISIS in Homs Province

- The ISIS launched five Katyusha rockets and three Grad rockets on two separate occasions towards Hezbollah targets in Laboue, Lebanon. The rocket fire was described as revenge for an attack on the Sunni population in Yabrud.⁶⁶
- During the first half of March 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS), Al-Furqan, published the following:
 - A recorded announcement by the official spokesman for the ISIS, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, in response to allegations that were hurled against the organization. In his

⁶⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁶ https://twitter.com/dw_sham/status/440880807276597249;
https://twitter.com/dw_sham/status/441938773471813632

speech, al-Adnani attacked the other organizations operating in Syria, including the Al-Nusra Front, which it called “The Front of Betrayal and Sacrilege”. In addition, al-Adnani claimed that the ISIS was wrongly accused of killing Muslims and that it did not refuse shari’a courts, but rather had even been judged in such courts on several occasions. At the end of the speech, al-Adnani responded to the recorded speech by Abu Abdullah al-Shami, a member of the Al-Nusra Front’s Shura Council, and called him a “liar”.⁶⁷

- A video titled, “Messages from the Land of Battles (Part 20)”, documenting the “Battle of Al-Khayr” in which the ISIS attacked Syrian regime army bases in Dayr al-Zour. The video showed the preparations for the operation as well as interviews with two Libyan fighters who served as suicide bombers in the attack.⁶⁸

Other Jihadist Organizations

- Jaish al-Islam, which is affiliated with the Islamic Front, published an official announcement in which it declared its separation from the Fath al-Sham Brigades. In the announcement, the organization explained that it was taking this step following attempts by some members of the brigade to reach an armistice with Bashar al-Assad and in light of the Fath al-Sham Brigades’ lack of obedience, both in terms of shari’a and militarily.⁶⁹
- Jund al-Aqsa, a jihadist organization operating in Syria, published an announcement stating that the death of its member, Abu Abd Al-Aziz, had not yet been confirmed. Abu Abd Al-Aziz was apparently injured while trying to mediate between the organizations fighting in Syria, and responsibility for his welfare rests on all those involved in the matter: the Al-Nusra Front, Ahrar Al-Sham and Suqur Al-Sham.⁷⁰
- In a published handwritten document, the Asifat al-Shamal Brigades (an armed group operating in the city of A’zaz, north of Aleppo), announced its merger with the Islamic Front and explained that the group had relinquished its previous name in order to unite with the Islamic Front - Liwa al-Tawhid.⁷¹

⁶⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQNPHj4ARTU>; <http://justpaste.it/enos>

⁶⁸ <https://twitter.com/wa3tasimu/status/442679294788395008>

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

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

⁷¹ <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/?p=11095>

Lebanon

The Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon

- During the first half of March 2014, the Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon published the following:
 - An announcement (no. 10) in which it claimed responsibility for the launch of three Grad rockets towards the Brital region on March 3, 2014.⁷²
 - An announcement (no. 11) in which it claimed responsibility for the launch of three Grad rockets towards Hezbollah targets in Al-Nabi Shayth in response to the massacres being carried out in Syria. In the announcement, the organization called on the Lebanese army and the Sunni Nation in Lebanon to distance themselves from Hezbollah and to avoid supporting it.⁷³



Grad rockets shooting by the Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon

- An announcement (no. 12) in which it claimed responsibility for the launch of six Grad rockets towards Hezbollah strongholds in El Hermel together with the Abdullah Azzam Brigades – Marwan Hadid Brigades.⁷⁴
- An announcement (no. 13) in which it accused the Lebanese army of not fulfilling its obligation to protect the Sunni residents of Lebanon. Instead, the Lebanese army is serving the Shi'ites and the Iranian program, and avoiding conflict with the Israeli and

⁷² <https://twitter.com/jabhalb>

⁷³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁴ <https://twitter.com/jabhalb>

Syrian armies. Therefore, Muslims must leave the Lebanese army and join the arenas of jihad.⁷⁵

- Announcements (no. 14-15) in which it claimed responsibility for the launch of Grad rockets towards Hezbollah targets in the Al-Nabi Shayth region.⁷⁶

The Abdullah Azzam Brigades

- The Al-Awzaey Media institution, which is affiliated with the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, published a written claim of responsibility for a double attack at the Iranian Cultural Center in Beirut that took place in February. In the announcement, the organization expressed regret over the deaths of several civilians who were mistakenly killed when the second explosive device malfunctioned and explained that the organization only targeted those affiliated with Iran and Hezbollah, and not the entire Shi'ite nation.⁷⁷ The media institution also published a claim of responsibility for the launch of six Grad rockets towards Hezbollah strongholds in the El Hermel region, along with the Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon.⁷⁸

Other

- The Aisha jihadist media institution published a letter by Sheikh Abu Asem Al-Lubnani regarding the Lebanese army, in which he wrote that the army, which is totally subordinate to Iran, was blatantly attacking Sunnis especially in light of the blessed events in Syria. One of the Lebanese army's crimes was that it helped the infidel Syrian regime in its fight against the mujahideen. Therefore, it is considered a serious offense of shari'a to join the Lebanese army and anyone who does so will be deemed an infidel.⁷⁹

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

It seems that the arena of jihad in the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip is calmer than usual. Global jihadist organizations did not play an active part in the rounds of escalation between Israel

⁷⁵ <https://twitter.com/jabhalb>

⁷⁶ <https://twitter.com/jabhalb>

⁷⁷ <http://justpaste.it/bayanmstsh>

⁷⁸ <https://twitter.com/azzambrigades>

⁷⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

and Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, and jihadist organizations in the Sinai Peninsula are laying low. On March 15, 2014 Ansar Beit al-Maqdas, a Salafi-jihadist organization operating in the Sinai Peninsula, announced the death of one of its founders, Tawfiq Mohammed Freij. According to the announcement, Freij was responsible for the planning of the gas pipeline blast that was carried out by the organization and for the failed assassination attempt of the Egyptian Minister of Interior, Mahmoud Ibrahim, in Cairo in September 2013.⁸⁰

Ansar Beit Al-Maqdas

- Ansar Beit al-Maqdas, a Salafi-jihadist group operating in the Sinai Peninsula, published a video in which it accused the Egyptian and Israeli armies of bombing areas in the Sinai Peninsula and causing the suffering of local residents. In addition, the video showed a man named Muhammad Sulayman Musallim who claimed to have worked for the Israeli Mossad and provided them with information about militants, escape tunnels and rockets.⁸¹



An interview with a man accused of spying for Israel

Jundallah in Palestine

- Jundallah in Palestine, a Salafi-jihadist organization in the Gaza Strip, condemned the abduction, beating and assault of the well-known Salafist sheikh, Majdi al-Maghribi, known for his

⁸⁰ <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/96722/Egypt/Politics-/Ansar-Beit-AlMaqdis-declares-founding-member-dead.aspx> (English).

⁸¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYx-qfOJfio>

propaganda against the Shia and Shi'ites, by unknown gunmen. According to the announcement, it seems that the organization blamed members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which has close ties to Shi'ite Iran, against the Salafist Sheikh Majdi al-Maghribi. The news agency noted that members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad confirmed that they were responsible for the attack. The announcement by Jundallah went on to demand that the Hamas government to catch and prosecute the perpetrators. In addition, the organization called on religious clerics to explain to the Muslim public the danger that it faces from the Shia.⁸² Another Salafi-jihadist organization in the Gaza Strip called the Ibn Baaz Islamic Charitable Society also condemned the attack, and called on all Palestinian organizations and forces to condemn the attack and bring the attackers to justice.⁸³

Other

- On March 2, 2014 the Ibn Tamiyya jihadist media institution, which focuses on the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula and the Palestinians, published an announcement regarding the great importance of the release of Muslim prisoners from jails in Israel. According to the announcement, Muslim prisoners in Israeli prisons suffer from shameful neglect and that some of them die from a lack of proper medical care and other causes. In light of this, it called on all Muslims to work towards their release and to make this issue the top priority. In conclusion, the media institution emphasized the following points:
 - We must invest all efforts in securing the immediate and urgent release of all prisoners from the jails of the Jews and their allies (i.e. the Palestinian Authority).
 - We must re-evaluate the methods used in dealing with the prisoner issue and tie them to shari'a.
 - We must benefit and learn from the successes of the ISIS, the Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan, the Taliban-Pakistan, and other jihad fronts, which helped to free a large number of prisoners by breaking into jails.
 - We must attempt to capture Israeli soldiers or settlers in order to exchange them for Muslim prisoners.

⁸² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/?p=11159>

⁸³ <http://jam-ibnbaz.com/AssociationNewsDetails.aspx?id=1852>

- We must start preparing an “Army of Invaders” or, in other words, a force trained to break into prisons to be entrusted with the task of freeing Muslim prisoners from the jails of the Jews and their allies in the Palestinian Authority.⁸⁴

The Maghreb [North Africa]

*The first half of March ended with a two-day counter-terrorism conference in Marrakech. Various officials at the conference clarified the need to increase border inspections, form closer international cooperation on the issue, and avoid surrendering to terrorists by paying ransom. In an announcement made by the King of Morocco, Mohammed VI, he emphasized the critical role of the civilian population in strengthening security and keeping the peace.*⁸⁵

An example of the civilian population’s integration in the war on terror was evident in Tunisia where, despite the announced end to the state of emergency in the country,⁸⁶ officials essentially admitted to the existence of a security threat and decided to offer a financial incentive to civilians who help the authorities capture terrorists.⁸⁷ This step was also accompanied by a declaration from the Tunisian authorities that it was freezing the assets and finances of individuals or groups with links to terrorist organizations.⁸⁸

Steps were also taken by the authorities in Algeria and Libya against local terrorism. Ahead of the elections set to take place on April 17, Algerian authorities launched a widespread operation in which several terrorists were killed and attempts to smuggle dozens of rockets from Libya through Algeria were foiled.⁸⁹ In Libya itself, authorities arrested a gang in the city of Sirte that was responsible for numerous acts of sabotage and assassinations of senior government officials.⁹⁰

Meanwhile, there is growing protest from the civilian population in light of the unstable security situation; on March 7, several hundred people held a protest in Benghazi, Libya, demanding that the government restore security to the streets;⁹¹ in southern Tunisia a music festival was held

⁸⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁵ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/03/14/feature-02 (English).

⁸⁶ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/03/11/feature-01 (English).

⁸⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/03/06/feature-01 (English).

⁸⁸ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/03/04/feature-02 (English).

⁸⁹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/03/05/feature-01 (English).

⁹⁰ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/03/13/feature-01 (English).

⁹¹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/03/10/feature-01 (English).

despite the disapproval of radical Islamic elements;⁹² and in Mali the beginning of a popular protest began to take place against the militant group led by Mokhtar Belmokhtar (an Algerian jihad fighter) operating in the country.⁹³

Tunisia

- Ansar al Sharia in Tunisia published a statement regarding the persecution of the Muslim population in Central Africa, in which it attacked Western countries, especially France, which it accused of ignoring the massacres being carried out in the Central African Republic. The statement ended with a call on Muslims, wherever they are to wage jihad and stand firm against the wave of persecution of Muslims and attempts at Christianization in Africa.⁹⁴

Egypt

- A new Egyptian organization called I'dam ("Execution") published a claim of responsibility for an armed attack that was carried out against a security forces base in Cairo. In the announcement, the organization protested the military coup led by Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and threatened that, beginning on March 19, any official who supports the coup and harms civilians will be considered a legitimate target for assassination. The organization, which was established at the end of January 2014, had made previous announcements regarding its intention to assassinate military and police officers and had even set alight police vehicles.⁹⁵
- A new Egyptian jihadist organization, the Ansar al Sharia Battalions in Egypt, announced its establishment on March 4, 2014 and declared that its main goal was to fight against the tyrannical Egyptian regime. In addition, the organization claimed responsibility for a series of assassinations of Egyptian military and police officers.⁹⁶

⁹² http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/03/13/feature-01 (English).

⁹³ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2014/03/14/reportage-01 (English).

⁹⁴ http://www.ansar-ashariaa.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=591:2014-03-09-15-50-48&catid=31&Itemid=285

⁹⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://elshaab.org/thread.php?ID=102674>;

<http://www.marsadamny.com/t~5369>

⁹⁶ <http://justpaste.it/emrf>

Somalia

The arena of jihad in Somalia continues to be led by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants, though with fewer operations than usual.

On March 5, 2014 Al-Shabab Al Mujahideen executed three individuals who were convicted of spying for the governments of Somalia and France. The judge who sentenced the spies to death warned that anyone found guilty of espionage should expect a similar sentence.⁹⁷

Meanwhile, it was reported that Somali and Ethiopian military forces managed to push out Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants from the city of Hudur in southwestern Somalia. According to a spokesperson for the African Union Mission in Somalia, members of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen were driven out following a battle with the army forces. In contrast, a spokesperson for the militant group claimed that nothing had changed and that Hudur was still under control of the group.⁹⁸

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Qaeda's affiliate in East Africa and Somalia, announced that it had executed three spies who had collaborated with Western Intelligence agencies and helped them to attack senior leaders of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in air strikes. The three spies, Ahmed Abdallah Muhammed Faruli, Muhammed Ghili Abdallah and Abd A-Rahman Abd Al-Latif Ahmed, had collaborated with Intelligence agencies for France, Puntland and Somalia.⁹⁹
- The jihadist media institution of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Kataib, published a video documenting the state of residents living under shari'a in the city of Bulobarde, Hiran Province.¹⁰⁰
- The jihadist media institution of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Kataib, published a video titled, "Mujahideen Moments 3" about Al-Muhajireen – fighters who arrive from various locations in order to wage jihad. The video showed the blurred faces of fighters from Kenya, Tanzania and other countries who had joined the organization, as they called on Muslims of all ages around the world to travel to various arenas of jihad in order to fight against the infidels. The end of the

⁹⁷ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/03/al-shabab-executes-three-men-spying-201435161155649148.html> (English).

⁹⁸ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/03/al-shabab-retreat-battle-town-201437145216588883.html> (English).

⁹⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁰ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

video demonstrated physical training being carried out by members of the organization.¹⁰¹



The video banner

- The jihadist Twitter account, Minbar As-Somal, an independent media account not affiliated with any specific organization that publishes announcements regarding the arena of jihad in Somalia, published an Arabic translation of a speech by Mokhtar Abu-Zubeyr, leader of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. Abu-Zubeyr opened with an introduction in which he explained that Christian countries, above all Ethiopia, that receive assistance from the West are trying to invade Muslim countries in East Africa, especially Somalia, and called it a modern incarnation of the imperialism that characterized Christians throughout history. Today, the United States is the Western country leading the invasions and it does not hesitate to use any means and any person to help it achieve its goals. The current goal of the West is to divide up what is left of Somalia between Ethiopia and Kenya, and establish a Western puppet regime that will strongly oppose the implementation of shari'a in the country. Nevertheless, it seems that the West has failed in its war against the mujahideen on all fronts; already this year, for instance, the United States withdrew from Afghanistan and the mujahideen are re-conquering all of the land that was taken from them. Abu-Zubeyr promised Muslims in Somalia that his organization will fight a bitter battle against the West and against democracy, and he called on all Muslims to join the fight because jihad is the need of the hour today.¹⁰²

¹⁰¹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰² <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

Indonesia

- Abu Bakr Ba'ashir, leader of Ansar Al-Tawheed in Indonesia, published a letter addressed to the mujahideen in Syria, in which he blessed them and emphasized that their battle is one of the most important battles being fought in the arena of jihad today. Ba'ashir asked the fighters in Syria to focus their efforts on fighting against Assad's Alawite regime and not against one another; he called on the mujahideen to unite despite their differences of opinion.¹⁰³
- A video was published on several jihadist Web forums in which a group of 14 masked Indonesian youths identified themselves as "Ashbal al-Tawheed in Indonesia" with the flag of the ISIS hanging in the background. During the course of the video, the youths sang songs in praise of jihad, express their wish to be soldiers in the ISIS, and called on all Muslims to support the organization and swear allegiance to its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.¹⁰⁴



A declaration of support for the ISIS from Indonesia

China

The Turkestan Islamic Party

- The jihadist media institution of the Turkestan Islamic Party, Sawt Al-Islam, published a speech by Sheikh Abu Dher Azzam titled, "We Have Strengthened Islam in the Depths of Our Hearts".¹⁰⁵

¹⁰³ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juptB0n1czc>; <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁵ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).



The video banner

The West

- A declaration of support for the ISIS was published on several jihadist Web forums, signed by “several prisoners released from Guantanamo Prison in Europe, Australia, Africa and the Arabian Peninsula”. The authors of the declaration praised the actions of the ISIS and called on others to join the organization, while hurling criticism at the leader of the Al-Nusra Front, Abu Muhammad Al-Julani, for disengaging from the ISIS. At the end of the document, the authors identified themselves as contemporaries of Osama bin Laden who were close to him before the events of 9/11.¹⁰⁶
- Sheikh Anjem Choudary, a radical Islamic preacher in England, continued to preach from his Twitter account that democracy, independence, secularism, human rights and other Western values are not compatible with Islamic values, and even conflict with them. He tweeted that Britain was not a safe place to live since it was killing Muslims outside of the country and occupying Muslim land. Choudary also accused the British government of the systematic persecution of Muslims in Britain and of attempts to curb and suppress the power of Islam. In addition, Choudary emphasized that he would never recognize the State of Israel and that the day will come when Muslims will liberate the land of Israel from its occupiers.¹⁰⁷
Choudary founded the al-Muhajiroun extremist group with the militant leader, Sheikh Omar Bakri Muhammad. That group was banned in 2004 but has re-emerged under different names

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://justpaste.it/goant>

¹⁰⁷ <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary>

and in various guises. He also established the radical Islamist group Islam4UK, which was banned in 2010.

 **Anjem Choudary** @anjemchoudary · Mar 3
Boris Johnson & David Cameron live in denial, they peddle the lie that the UK is safer because they kill Muslims abroad & occupy Muslim land

[Collapse](#) [Reply](#) [Retweet](#) [Favorite](#) [More](#)

RETWEETS	FAVORITES	
5	4	

5:55 AM - 3 Mar 2014 · [Details](#)

Anjem Choudary's tweets condemning Britain

 **Anjem Choudary** @anjemchoudary · Mar 13
Israel's example is like a man seeking refuge in your home, then slowly ousting you from it & eventually kicking you out of your own garden!

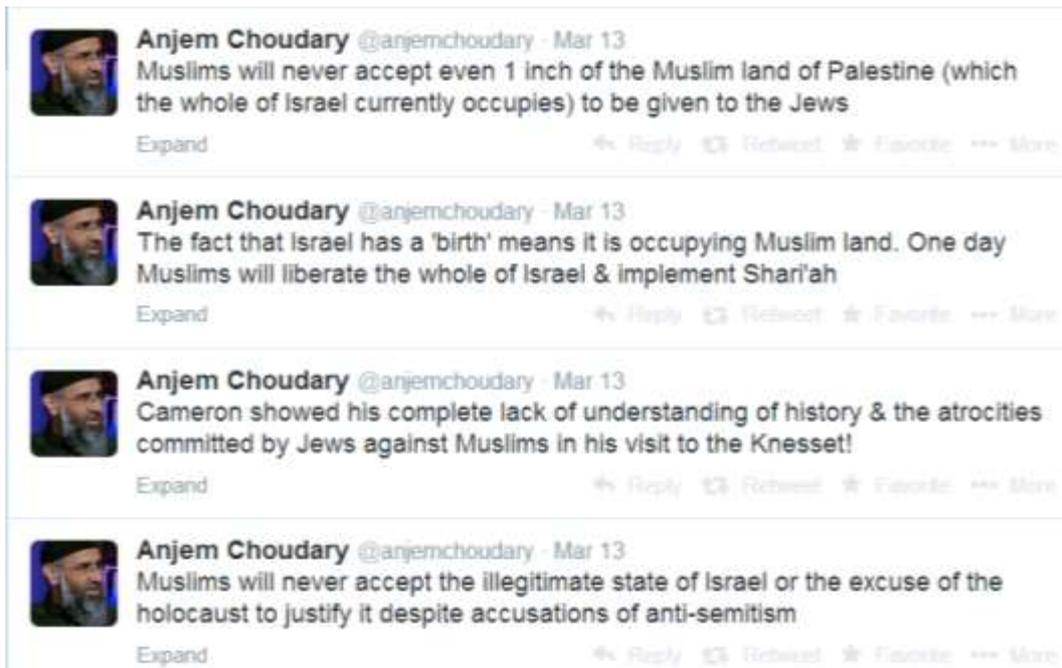
[Expand](#) [Reply](#) [Retweet](#) [Favorite](#) [More](#)

 **Anjem Choudary** @anjemchoudary · Mar 13
The State of Israel is an illegitimate child fathered by Britain nurtured by America & given a false birth certificate by the United Nations

[Expand](#) [Reply](#) [Retweet](#) [Favorite](#) [More](#)

 **Anjem Choudary** @anjemchoudary · Mar 13
The Balfour Declaration, the United Nations, Camp David etc... etc... Have absolutely no legitimacy whatsoever according to Islam & Muslims!

[Expand](#) [Reply](#) [Retweet](#) [Favorite](#) [More](#)



Examples of Choudary’s tweets condemning the State of Israel and refusing to recognize its existence

Women and Jihad

- The Al-Khansa Women’s Battalion, which was established by the ISIS in Al-Raqqah Province in Syria, raided two schools for girls. Several girls were arrested and flogged on the grounds that they did not comply with the dress code dictated by the organization.¹⁰⁸

Facebook and Twitter

- On March 2, 2014 the Al-Nusra Front in Syria published an official announcement in which it declared that the Al-Basira jihadist media institution was the official media institution of the organization and was responsible for its publications. According to the announcement, the media institution’s Twitter account is: https://twitter.com/Albasira_in.

In addition, the organization noted that several members of its Shari’a Council have Twitter accounts:

- A. Sheikh Abu Maria al-Qahtani: <https://twitter.com/algheebmohajer>
- B. Sheikh Dr. Sami al-Aridi: https://twitter.com/sami_oride

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/syria/2014/03/04/داعش-تجاد-الفتيات-إمعاناً-في-إذلال-أهل-الرقعة/>

C. Sheikh Abu Sulayman al-Muhajir: <https://twitter.com/abusulayman321>



From left to right: the logo of the Al-Basira jihadist media institution; the photo of Sheikh Abu Maria al-Qahtani's Twitter account; the photo of Sheikh Dr. Sami al-Aridi's Twitter account; the photo of Sheikh Abu Sulayman al-Muhajir's Twitter account

The end of the announcement stated that anyone who publishes propaganda material that tarnishes the organization's good name or violates the organization's PR policies will be put on trial and may be expelled from the organization. According to the organization, all of its members and supporters must adhere to balanced PR without resorting to slander.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁹ <https://twitter.com/JabhtAnNusrah>

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