



ICT
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ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group **PERIODIC REVIEW**

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The First Half of April 2014

Highlights

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

- The leader of Al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, delivers a eulogy for Abu Khalid al-Suri, his emissary to Syria who was sent with the purpose of reconciling the ISIS and the Al-Nusra Front. In addition, al-Zawahiri calls for attacks against any organization in Syria that refuses to establish independent shari'a courts to arbitrate conflicts.
- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claims responsibility for an attack that was carried out in the beginning of April against the Yemeni military headquarters in Aden in response to the use of American drones in Yemen.
- A recording from April 2013 is leaked in which Majid al-Majid, leader of the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, warns of the danger in declaring an ISIS affiliate in Syria and of the subsequent disputes that will arise.
- Sheikh Abu Dhar Azzam, who serves as mufti of the Turkestan Islamic Party, emphasizes that jihad against China is necessary due to its collaboration with Pakistan and its oppression of Muslims.
- A new jihadist media institution called Al-Tibyan is established to focus on the distribution of jihadist materials in German.

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New Publications

Ideology

- The Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published a video titled, “A Dawah Lesson – Advice for the Groups Fighting for the Sake of God” by Sheikh Abu Khalil al-Madani, a member of Al-Qaeda’s Shura Council. In the video, al-Madani emphasized the importance of undertaking the commandment to wage jihad against the enemies of Islam. He also emphasized the importance of establishing a shari’a council to be composed of clerics from every jihadist fighting group. The job of the council will be to discuss and approve decisions, and solve problems that arise among the mujahideen. In addition, al-Madani noted the need for a security committee to be established as part of the shari’a council, to be composed of representatives from each of the fighting groups in order to uncover enemy plots against jihad and the mujahideen, and expose Muslim hypocrites. Finally, he emphasized the great importance of the clerics in representing the interests of the mujahideen and assisting their efforts.¹



Sheikh Abu Khalil al-Madani

- The Al-Furqan jihadist media institution published another speech by Abu Muhammad al-Adnani al-Shami, spokesman for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS), in which he appealed to the Sunnis citizens of Iraq and called on them to reject democracy and any attempt at reconciliation with the country’s Shi’ite population. Al-Shami also presented the mujahideen as defenders of the weak members of society, and guaranteed the safety of all those who lay down their arms and stop fighting against the ISIS. Al-Shami concluded his speech by calling on

¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

ISIS fighters to re-draw the map of the area, and expressed hope that they would reach Jerusalem, Mecca, Medina and even Rome.²

- Several visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum held a discussion regarding the abduction and murder of tourists. Some of the visitors claimed that there is no prohibition against killing tourists since the infidel regime in Muslim countries is not qualified to offer protection to those tourists, especially when they travel to Muslim countries for purposes involving sex or alcohol.³
- During the first month of April 2014, the jihadist institution of the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, Al-Battar, published the following:
 - An article titled, “Our jihadi propaganda soldiers were firm with the infidels and compassionate with you?” by Sheikh Abu Saad al-Amili, a prominent writer on jihadist Web forums. In the article, al-Amili emphasized the importance that should be ascribed to jihadist propaganda. In addition, he called on those involved in jihadist propaganda to avoid unnecessary conflict and not to favor one jihadist group over another, but rather to maintain unity among the ranks.⁴
 - An essay titled, “The Shortcomings of Islam” by Sheikh Muhammad Abd al-Wahhab, the founder of the Islamic movement, Wahhabism, in the 18th century, with commentary by Abu Turab al-Najdi.⁵
- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem, published an audio clip titled, “The Believers are Brothers” by Sheikh Harith bin Ghazi al-Nazari Muhammad al-Mirshadi, a senior member of AQAP.⁶

Al-Qaeda’s Internal Rift

The rising tensions between the ISIS, and the Al-Nusra Front and Al-Qaeda leadership worsened following the refusal by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS, to follow the order given by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri to retract the declaration that he made in 2013 (appointing himself Emir of the ISIS and announcing its annexation of the Al-Nusra Front, an affiliate of Al-Qaeda in Syria) and focus

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

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

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

⁵ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

only on the arena of jihad in Iraq. The failed attempts to reconcile the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS – most significantly demonstrated by the killing of Abu Khalid al-Suri, who was sent by Ayman al-Zawahiri to reconcile the two groups but was killed by members of ISIS - only added to the growing rift among the jihadist groups.

Against the backdrop of this internal rift, there was a significant increase in the number of publications in support of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's declaration and call on the mujahideen to swear allegiance to him, as well as articles criticizing al-Baghdadi's actions and emphasizing the importance of support for Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri. The following section refers to articles that were published as a result of this rift during the first half of April 2014.

- The jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Basira, published a video of an interview, conducted in English, with Sheikh Abu Sulayman al-Muhajir, a member of the organization's Shari'a Council and a former preacher in Australia. In the interview, al-Muhajir discussed the rift between the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS. He harshly criticized Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS, and accused him of denying the oath of allegiance that he swore to Ayman al-Zawahiri.⁷



The banner of the filmed interview

- The Al-Nusra Front published an announcement (no. 8) regarding the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, which it said supported the Al-Nusra Front in the past. However, according to the announcement, the forum has supported the ISIS since the start of the conflict between the Al-

⁷ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

Nusra Front and the ISIS, despite its negative actions and against Ayman al-Zawahiri's orders. Recently, the forum strengthened its support of the ISIS despite the organization's increased acts of aggression; the forum went even further and published a letter in which it called on the Al-Nusra Front to retract its actions. Therefore, the Al-Nusra Front announced that it would immediately stop publishing its official publications on the Shumukh al-Islam Web forum until such time as the forum returns to the correct path and continues to serve all mujahideen everywhere.⁸

- During the first month of April 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, Al-Battar, published the following:
 - An article titled, "Had He Been Alive, He Would Have Sworn Allegiance to You" by Abu al-Muhnid al-Urduni, a jihad fighter in Afghanistan. The article praised the oath of allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS.⁹
 - An article titled, "Join the Convoy or Remain with the Convoy" by a writer named Abu Ubayda al-Lubnani, according to which global jihad positioned itself in a united front against the enemies of Islam following the events of September 11, 2001. Its leadership was in Afghanistan and its members were spread out from Afghanistan to Morocco, through Iraq, Yemen, Mali and Somalia. Nevertheless, after the killing of Sheikh Osama bin Laden and the outbreak of the popular revolution termed the "Arab Spring", a split began to form among the ranks of the mujahideen and their supporters, who were divided into two main camps. Heading the first camp is the ISIS, which fights the enemies of Islam and seeks to establish Islamic rule and implement shari'a. Heading the second camp is the leadership of Al-Qaeda, which is also interested in fighting the enemies of Islam but through peaceful methods such as mass demonstrations and protests, rather than through battle. Therefore, [the Al-Qaeda leadership] tried to persuade the other Islamic movements to cooperate with it; a failed attempt demonstrated by the removal of President Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood from power in Egypt, and from the religious and public spheres. Therefore, the path taken by the Al-Qaeda leadership is incorrect and contrary to Islam's sacred texts, while the ISIS chose the correct path.

⁸ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

According to the article, jihad groups in Yemen, Somalia, the Maghreb, the Sinai Peninsula and the Sahara must examine the positions of both camps and decide which convoy or camp to join.¹⁰

- The jihadist media institution, Nukhbat al-Ilam al-Jihadi, leaked a recording from April 2013 by Majid al-Maid, the leader of the Abdullah Azzam Brigades who died in custody in Beirut on January 4, 2014. In the recording, al-Majid appealed to the leader of Al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, and warned him of the danger in declaring an ISIS affiliate in Syria and of the subsequent disputes that would arise, especially with the Al-Nusra Front. The recording ended with a warning by al-Majid that “the declaration of the establishment of an Islamic state in such a manner and under such circumstances, will serve as a life preserver for the [Syrian] regime, for the State of the Jews and for the West, enabling them to re-draw the borders of Syria as they please.”¹¹
- Mamoon Hatem, a prominent member of AQAP, explained on his Twitter account that the ISIS does not consider Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of global Al-Qaeda, to be an infidel. This clarification was published as a result of al-Zawahiri’s support for the Al-Nusra Front and his shunning of the ISIS.¹²
- A Salafi-jihadist cleric named Ubayda Al-Athbage published a letter in which he expressed support for Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS, as well as for ISIS members and their actions. He claimed that they were fighting for the Nation of Islam as no other group has done in the past.¹³

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) in Nineveh Province published a book titled, “Why Are We Fighting and Who Are We Fighting?”, by Abu-Hamza Al-Baghdadi, about the ideology of the organization.¹⁴

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

¹¹ <https://nokbah.com/~w3/?p=4440> (Arabic).

¹² <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹³ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic); https://twitter.com/obaida_athbage

¹⁴ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published a recorded message by Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, in which he delivered a eulogy for Abu Khalid al-Suri, a senior commander in Ahrar al-Sham who was killed at the end of February 2014 in an attack that was attributed to the ISIS. In the eulogy, al-Zawahiri discussed his longstanding acquaintance with al-Suri and the “fitna” (“strife”) among the organizations fighting in Syria that led to his death. Without naming the organizations, al-Zawahiri called for attacks against anyone who refuses to establish independent shari’a courts to arbitrate conflicts.¹⁵



The eulogy banner

- The Al-Furqan jihadist media institution published a video in memory of Abu Usama al-Maghribi, an ISIS commander in Aleppo. The video relayed the story of how he came to join the organization and blamed the Al-Nusra Front for his death.¹⁶



The video banner

¹⁵<http://www.arahmah.com/arabic/rthaa-shhyd-al-ftnt-ash-shykh-aby-khald-as-swry-rhmh-al-lh-llshykh-aymn-az-zwahry-hfzh-al-lh.html> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuhMvoQZXIA>

¹⁶ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJruttLBYEk>; <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

- The jihadist media institution of AQAP, Al-Malahem, published the 14th chapter in a series of publications titled, “The Martyrs of the Arabian Peninsula”, which focused on the life of an AQAP member named Abu Khaled Abdallah Abu Bakr Bawazir.¹⁷



Abu Khaled Abdallah Abu Bakr Bawazir

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published issue no. 96 of the Arabic-language magazine *Al-Sumud*, which included: an article opposed to elections in the country, criticism of American policies, promotion of the myth of the martyr and statistical data about operations that were carried out during March 2014.¹⁸



¹⁷ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁸ <https://ia701207.us.archive.org/14/items/alsomod96/alsomod96.pdf>

The cover of *Al-Sumud* (edition no. 94)

- The second edition of the jihadist magazine, *Hasad al-Jihad*, was published, which discussed recent events in Egypt and even included the official announcements that were published by the jihadist groups fighting in Egypt.¹⁹ The third edition of the magazine was published the following week and its focus was also mainly on events in Egypt.²⁰

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

For the first time in the country's history, democratic presidential elections took place in Afghanistan. The voter turnout was higher than expected, especially in light of the clear threats made by the Taliban to attack anyone who went out to vote. Indeed, the election passed relatively quietly with almost no attacks by the Taliban.²¹ The official results are only expected to be published six weeks after the election but for now it seems that the candidate, Abdullah, is in the lead.²²

On the eve of the presidential election, a foreign journalist was shot to death on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. The journalist, Anja Niedringhaus, was shot by a police officer while covering events in Afghanistan ahead of the election.²³ In addition, on April 7, 2014, 15 people were killed by a roadside bomb in Kandahar.²⁴

Meanwhile, terrorism continued to strike in Pakistan. On April 3, 2014 former Pakistani President, Pervez Musharraf, survived an assassination attempt when he escaped at the last moment after a bomb exploded next to a convoy that was transporting him.²⁵ On April 7, 2014 Pakistani security forces killed 30 rebels in Baluchistan.²⁶ Over the next two days, two large terrorist attacks took place in the country: On April 8, 2014, 14 people were killed in an explosion on a train

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

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

²¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/05/us-afghanistan-election-idUSBREA331N920140405> (English).

²² <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/13/us-afghanistan-election-idUSBREA3C07T20140413> (English).

²³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/04/us-afghanistan-journalists-idUSBREA330D220140404> (English).

²⁴ <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/suicide-bomber-hits-foreign-troops-afghanistan> (English).

²⁵ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2595781/Pakistans-Musharraf-escapes-bomb-attack.html> (English).

²⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/07/us-pakistan-baluchistan-idUSBREA360UY20140407> (English).

in Baluchistan,²⁷ and on April 9, 2014, 20 people were killed when a bomb exploded in the center of a crowded market in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan.²⁸ To date, it is not known who was behind the attacks.

The Taliban in Pakistan (TTP)

- Shahidullah Shahid, spokesperson for the Taliban in Pakistan, published a statement in which he denied the organization's involvement in an explosion that took place in Rawalpindi in northern Pakistan on April 9, in which 23 people were killed.²⁹ In the statement, he condemned the killing of innocents and blamed an "invisible hand" that carried out similar attacks in the past while attributing them to TTP.³⁰
- The Taliban in Pakistan published a statement in which it announced that it had abided by the terms of the ceasefire while the government did not meet even one of its obligations, including: the establishment of a free movement zone, the release of prisoners who were not involved in fighting, and the cessation of operations against the TTP throughout the country. In the statement, the organization accused the government of carrying out arrests and raids, torturing prisoners, and cremating bodies.³¹

The Arabian Peninsula

The first half of April 2014 was characterized by continuing clashes between Yemeni security forces and AQAP militants.³² On April 2, AQAP militants attacked the Yemeni military headquarters in Aden. According to Yemeni security sources, six soldiers and three AQAP militants were killed in the attack.³³ On the other hand, Yemeni security forces credited themselves with success for the

²⁷ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/08/us-pakistan-blast-idUSBREA370PB20140408> (English).

²⁸ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/09/us-pakistan-blast-idUSBREA380A520140409> (English).

²⁹ <http://indianexpress.com/article/world/neighbours/blast-kills-23-in-pakistani-city-of-rawalpindi-close-to-capital>; <http://abttakk.tv/eng/shahidullah-shahid-has-denied-any-role-in-the-rawalpindi-blast> (both in English).

³⁰ <http://www.boltaunsa.com/2014/04/09/islamabadtargeting-innocents-haram-shahidullah-shahid> ;

³¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

³² <http://www.aljazeera.net/news/pages/67105664-b16b-422b-be97-491cee103a5e>

³³ <http://alhayat.com/Articles/1535935/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%85%D9%86--%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84%D9%89->

*arrest of eight AQAP militants who were planning to assassinate the President of Yemen, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi.*³⁴

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published an announcement (no. 76) in which it claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack against the Yemeni military headquarters in Aden that took place on April 2, 2014. According to the announcement, the attack was another response to U.S. drone attacks in Yemen and its goal was to destroy the joint operations room from which the drones are activated. The announcement detailed the method of operation used in the attack, which included a car bomb driven by a suicide terrorist in order to penetrate the compound, and a siege carried out by nine gunmen in two groups who took over some of the buildings and barricaded themselves inside them. According to the announcement, approximately 50 military personnel were killed in the attack, and a great deal of damage was caused to buildings and vehicles. The organization promised to continue to carry out such attacks as long as American aggression against Muslims in Yemen continues.³⁵

Iraq

*Preparations began in Iraq for the election set to take place on April 30.*³⁶ *According to most estimates, no party will win an absolute majority, which will lead to long negotiations to form a government.*³⁷ *In addition, in light of the security situation in Al-Anbar, it was decided not to hold elections in that province at this time,*³⁸ *and a bill was even proposed to declare a state of*

[%D9%87%D8%AC%D9%88%D9%85--%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%A9--%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%82%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%B4-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%B9%D8%AF%D9%86-%D8%A5%D9%84%D9%89-11](#)

³⁴ <http://almashhad-alyemeni.com/news35872.html>

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

³⁶ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140401_iraq_election_campaign.shtml (Arabic).

³⁷ <http://akhbar.alaan.tv/news/post/29453/start-legislative-election-campaign-iraq>

³⁸ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/interactivity/2014/04/140410_comments_iraq_elections_anbar_updates.shtml (Arabic).

emergency in the country.³⁹

An example of the precarious security situation in Al-Anbar Province was evident in Fallujah, which was besieged by security forces for several weeks. As a result of the prolonged blockade, ISIS gunmen seized control of the Fallujah dam and caused intentional flooding in several areas in order to make it difficult for Iraqi security forces to deploy in the field.⁴⁰ Despite attempts by the ISIS to harm the army, the main victims of the dam closure were the residents of Fallujah, thousands of whom were forced to abandon their homes as a result of the flooding.⁴¹ It should be noted that the blockade on Fallujah led some ISIS forces to advance to rural areas near Baghdad in order to recover from the siege and gain a foothold close to the capital.⁴²

In addition to “water terrorism”, familiar attacks against security forces and symbols of the regime continued to take place in Iraq. At least 20 soldiers and police officers were killed in various attacks against security stations and patrols in Kirkuk, Mosul and Tikrit.⁴³ In addition, a convoy of vehicles escorting Saleh al-Mutlaq, the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, was attacked by gunmen west of Baghdad who killed one of the guards and injured five others.⁴⁴

Baghdad itself saw an increase in violence: three different explosions took place in the capital on April 10, killing 18 people and injuring 44 others. This brought the death toll from acts of

³⁹<http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/2014/04/03/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82-%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8D-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D9%8A-%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B9%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A6-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AF.html>

⁴⁰ <http://www.ar-economist.com/arabic-news/iraq/2014/31221.html>

⁴¹ <http://www.alqurtasnews.com/news/17334/%D9%82%D8%B5%D9%81-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%88%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%B6%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%87%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%AF%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%87%D8%AC/ar>

⁴² <http://www.alhurra.com/content/%D8%B9%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D9%86%D8%B8%D9%8A%D9%85-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%B4-%D9%8A%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%84%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%AF%D8%AE%D9%88%D9%84-%D8%A8%D8%BA%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AF-%D8%A8%D8%B9%D8%AF-%D8%AD%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%87%D9%85-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D9%84%D9%88%D8%AC%D8%A9/247034.html>

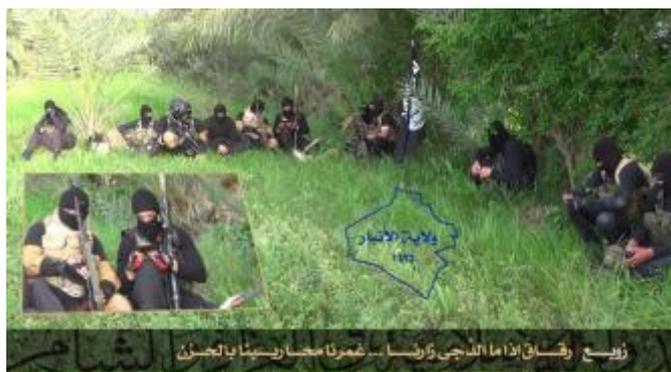
⁴³ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140413_iraq_unrest_police_kirkuk.shtml (Arabic).

⁴⁴ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140408_iraq_mutlaq_attack.shtml (Arabic).

violence in Iraq to approximately 2,450 since the beginning of the year.⁴⁵

The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham

- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) published photos from the raid on Zu'be (a tribal region in Iraq) that showed many Iraqi soldiers who were killed, as well as Abu Mujahid Al-Muhajir, an ISIS member who was also killed in the fighting.⁴⁶



Preparations for the raid on Zu'be

- The ISIS in Al-Anbar Province published a statement in which it accused other organizations operating in Iraq of claiming responsibility for operations that were actually carried out by the ISIS. For example, it accused the Military Council of the Iraqi Rebels of falsely claiming responsibility for the raid on Zu'be that the ISIS carried out. The announcement ended with a threat and warning that anyone who takes credit for ISIS operations will make himself an enemy and legitimate target of the organization.⁴⁷
- The ISIS published a report describing its military operations in Diyala Province in Iraq, including an attack on an Iraqi army convoy.⁴⁸
- The ISIS published an announcement in which it claimed responsibility for an attack that its members carried out in Salah A-Din Province on April 7, 2014. According to the announcement, the martyr, Abu Saleh Al-Jazrawi, detonated a car bomb containing 5.5 tons of explosive

⁴⁵ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140410_iraq_killing_update.shtml (Arabic).

⁴⁶ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁸ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

material at the headquarters of the “infidel Iraqi police”.⁴⁹

- The ISIS published an announcement in which it claimed responsibility for an attack that its members carried out in Salah A-Din Province on April 7, 2014. According to the announcement, the martyr, Abu Qasura Al-Tunsi, attacked an Iraqi police barrier near Samara, completely destroying it, and causing deaths and injuries among the police forces.⁵⁰
- The ISIS published an announcement in which it claimed responsibility for an attack that its members carried out in Salah A-Din Province on April 8, 2014. According to the announcement, after careful monitoring, ISIS members managed to assassinate the infidel traitor, Zuheir Muhammed Al-Jawari, one of the government officials responsible for matters in Salah A-Din Province who had fought hard against Islam and Muslims, and especially against the mujahideen.⁵¹
- The ISIS in Nineveh Province published photos of a terrorist attack that its members carried out in the province that included two explosions directed against Iraqi military vehicles.⁵²



The destruction of Iraqi army vehicles in Nineveh Province

- The ISIS in Al-Anbar Province published photos of two different incidents⁵³ showing police officers, soldiers and members of the Awakening Councils who decided to “repent” and stop

⁴⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁵¹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵² <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵³ https://twitter.com/Alanbar_news/status/451310505282392064

fighting against the mujahideen.⁵⁴

- The ISIS in Baghdad published reports regarding its recent military operations in the area, which mainly included attacks against Iraqi soldiers.⁵⁵

Ansar al-Islam

- Ansar Al-Islam, a jihadist organization in Iraq affiliated with global jihad, published a claim of responsibility for several operations, including the destruction of a military vehicle and the deaths of two soldiers in an explosion in Fallujah,⁵⁶ the launch of rockets aimed at the home of a senior officer in the Iraqi army in Salah A-Din Province,⁵⁷ and the bombing of a group of police officers in a mortar attack.⁵⁸

Al-Sham [The Levant]

At the start of April, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that over 150,000 people have been killed in the Syrian war since it began three years ago. According to the estimate, approximately one-third of those killed were civilians and it is likely that the actual number of fatalities has reached 220,000.⁵⁹ Meanwhile, the UN Refugee Agency reported that the number of Syrian refugees registered in Lebanon has reached one million, making Lebanon the country with the largest number of refugees in relation to its population in the world.⁶⁰

Despite the continuing conflict, a statement was made by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who claimed that the war in the country will end by the end of the year.⁶¹ In addition, in a speech delivered by Assad on April 13, he noted that fighting in the country had reached a turning point in light of “the achievements of the army and the armed forces”.⁶² In light of these statements, it is no wonder that the regime in Damascus announced that presidential elections would be held at the

⁵⁴ https://twitter.com/Alanbar_news/status/454971789303488513

⁵⁵ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁷ https://twitter.com/ansar_al_islam/status/451351964824403968

⁵⁸ https://twitter.com/ansar_al_islam/status/452789675481374720

⁵⁹ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140401_syria_death_toll.shtml (Arabic).

⁶⁰ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140403_syria_lebanon_refugees.shtml (Arabic).

⁶¹ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140407_syria_assad_end_of_fighting.shtml (Arabic).

⁶² http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140413_syria_assad_claims.shtml (Arabic).

appointed time in July 2014.⁶³

The Syrian army is in the process of retaking control of multiple sites in the country, such as the city of Ma'loula, in Rif Dimashq Province, which was under rebel control for seven months.⁶⁴ The regime also managed to retake control of the small town 'Assal al-War, next to Ma'loula,⁶⁵ as well as Rankous in the Qalamoun region.⁶⁶

Meanwhile, clashes continued between the ISIS and the Al-Nusra Front. In an attack that was carried out in the beginning of April, ISIS fighters tried to take over an Al-Nusra Front position in the city of Bukamal, next to the Iraqi border. Dozens of ISIS fighters were killed in the battle, which was apparently intended to turn Bukamal into a link connecting ISIS fighters in Syria to those in Iraq.⁶⁷

The Al-Nusra Front in Syria

- During the first half of April 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manarah Al-Bayda, published the following:
 - A claim of responsibility for two car bomb explosions that took place on April 9 in the Karam al-Luz district in Homs. Dozens of people were killed and injured in the attack, which targeted a stronghold of Assad supporters, and extensive damage was caused to buildings and vehicles.⁶⁸
 - A claim of responsibility for the takeover of the Al-Masbah checkpoint in Khan Shaykhun, in western Syria (announcement no. 481),⁶⁹ and the Al-'Amiyya checkpint near Hama by carrying out a suicide attack.⁷⁰
 - A video documenting a battle for control waged by Al-Nusra Front fighters in the rural region of Quneitra on the way to the city of Nawa.⁷¹
 - A video by the organization's media institution in Hama titled, "The Organization's

⁶³ <http://www1.youm7.com/News.asp?NewsID=1588944#.U1YxgVWSx48>

⁶⁴ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140414_syria_maalula_retake.shtml (Arabic).

⁶⁵ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140415_syria_maaloula_neighbourhoods_recapture.shtml (Arabic).

⁶⁶ <http://www.raya.ps/ar/news/856508.html>

⁶⁷ <http://al-shorfa.com/ar/articles/meii/features/2014/04/14/feature-01>

⁶⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁷⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷¹ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

Military Program in the Rural Region of North Hama”. The video showed the organization’s military operations in the region, including the takeover of checkpoints, suicide attacks and military operations against Syrian security forces.⁷²



From left to right: the video banner, an explanation of the organization’s military operations in Hama

- The Al-Nusra Front “Eastern Region Headquarters” published its first two announcements. In the first announcement, the organization accused the ISIS of taking over areas that were under the control of the Al-Nusra Front and Ahrar Al-Sham in eastern Syria, and provoking fights over tribal issues among the residents. In addition, the announcement emphasized that the ISIS had no part in the takeover of areas in the east, especially Dayr al-Zour, and that it was continuing its aggression and killing of senior Al-Nusra Front officers, including Abu Ibrahim Al-Homsi. The announcement also accused Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS, of dispatching fighters for the explicit purpose of fighting against the Al-Nusra Front instead of against the Alawite regime. It further accused ISIS fighters of invading areas in which they had no presence, and of even sending suicide bombers to harm members of the Al-Nusra Front. At the end of the announcement, members of the Al-Nusra Front called on fighters to end this aggression and to support Ayman al-Zawahiri.⁷³

In the second announcement, the organization denied rumors that Al-Nusra Front fighters had retreated from their position in Dayr al-Zour.⁷⁴

- During the first half of April 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:

⁷² <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁷⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

- A video (no. 73); a description of the bombing of the Mus`ab ibn `Umair mosque in Dayr al-Zour.⁷⁵
- A video (no. 74); a visit to a medical center in Dayr al-Zour.⁷⁶
- A video (no. 75); the distribution of firewood by the Al-Nusra Front to poor people in Damascus.⁷⁷
- A video (no. 76); the establishment of an Institute for Shari`a Studies for Boys in Daraa, in southwest Syria.⁷⁸
- The Al-Nusra Front posted an official announcement on its Twitter account in which it announced the establishment of an “Operations Room for the Battle of Al-Anfal”. The joint operations room was established on March 21 and composed of four different Syrian factions: the Ansar al-Sham Brigades, the Al-Nusra Front, the Sham al-Islam Movement and the Ahrar al-Sham Movement. According to the announcement, thanks to the cooperation among the organizations, the mujahideen successfully liberated the city of Kesab in northern Syria within five days.⁷⁹



The seals of the four factions that compose the “Operations Room for the Battle of Al-Anfal

- In a video posted to YouTube,⁸⁰ a senior cleric in the Al-Nusra Front, Abu Laith, claimed that it is more important to fight against the ISIS than against Assad’s Alawite regime in Syria.⁸¹

⁷⁵ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/452229569458630656

⁷⁶ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/452229983289622529

⁷⁷ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/453313753069547520

⁷⁸ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/454958190652706816

⁷⁹ <https://twitter.com/JabhtAnNusrah/status/451454513006649344/photo/1/large>

⁸⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWSbZ1INe5Q>

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

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

- During the first half of April 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS), Al-Furqan, published the following:
 - A video titled, “He Called You Muslims”, which showed fighters from various countries who went to Syria and rejected their home countries, including a young Jordanian who burned his passport while threatening the King of Jordan, a Saudi who called for the elimination of borders between Muslim countries, and an English speaker who called for the destruction of Canada and the United States.⁸²



From left to right: the video banner, ISIS fighters burning the passports from their home countries

- A video that described the Islamic court system that was established by ISIS members in several Syrian provinces. In the video, residents from various provinces were interviewed and expressed their satisfaction with the services of the Islamic court system.⁸³

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

⁸³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



The video banner

- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS), Al-'Itisam, published a video of a speech given by Abu Yahya al-Libi, a senior member of Al-Qaeda who was killed in June 2012, concerning the image of the Islamic state to which one should aspire to establish.⁸⁴



A clip from the video

- The ISIS in Al-Raqqah Province in northern Syria published an announcement according to which Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS, ordered the establishment of a council to support

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

widows and orphans in Al-Raqqah Province by providing them with stipends and food, among other things.⁸⁵

- The ISIS published an announcement regarding the establishment of a police group in Al-Raqqah Province to supervise passage. The group was made up of 30 members spread across 10 different posts in the province.⁸⁶
- The ISIS published an oath of allegiance made by the Al-'Umur tribe, one of the largest tribes in Syria, to the organization.⁸⁷
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum raised the following question for discussion: Has the ISIS been as successful in managing the civilian lives of the Syrian people as it has in managing military operations?⁸⁸ According to some of the visitors who took part in the discussion, considering the fact that the organization is composed of various factions and is in a state of war, the ISIS has managed to provide residents under its rule with an adequate standard of living. As an example of the ISIS's concern for citizens, one visitor noted that the ISIS had established oil refineries in Jarabulus in northern Syria in order to produce and sell gas to residents at a reduced price.⁸⁹ In contrast, other visitors claimed that even if the organization had been somewhat successful in managing the lives of citizens in Syria, the same cannot be said for Iraq.

Other Jihadist Organizations

- The jihadist organization, Failaq al-Sham, published a summary of its operations in Aleppo, which included: mortar fire at a stronghold of Assad's army in Sheikh Najjar, machine gun fire at Shabiha forces in Shabiha, and Grad rocket fire at Assad's forces in Jabal Shwhihna.⁹⁰
- The Al-Battar Brigade, one of the smaller jihadist factions operating in Syria, published an announcement regarding the Al-Nusra Front. According to the announcement, the reason that the Al-Battar Brigade refuses to swear allegiance to the Al-Nusra Front is because of the great

⁸⁵ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁶ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

contempt shown by the latter to other factions, including the Shura Council of the Mujahideen led by Sheikh Abu Al-Athir; for example, when the Al-Nusra Front fights alongside another faction and finds bounty, it does not share it equally.⁹¹

- The jihadist organization Liwa Al-Qa'qa', which operates in Syria, announced that it had sworn allegiance to the ISIS.⁹²

Lebanon

- The Markaz Aisha jihadist media institution published an article titled, “An Urgent Call to Our Sunni People in Lebanon” by Sheikh Abu Saad al-Amili, a prominent writer on jihadist Web forums. In the article, al-Amili called on the Sunni population in Lebanon to fight against the Alawites and Shi’ites in Syria and Lebanon in order to help their Sunni brothers in Syria and thwart the plan to purge the region of Sunnis. According to him, the battle raging today against Sunnis is part of the Zionist-Crusader war against the Muslim Nation. Therefore, Sunnis in Lebanon must demonstrate heroism and fight against their enemies.⁹³

The ISIS

- The ISIS in Damascus claimed responsibility for firing Grad rockets on several occasions at Hezbollah strongholds in the Lebanese city, Laboue, in order “to help support the weak Sunni population in Lebanon”.⁹⁴



⁹¹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹² <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁹³ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁴ https://twitter.com/dw_sham/status/452117490982600704; <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

The ISIS in Damascus firing at a Hezbollah stronghold in Lebanon

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

The Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip have been quieter than usual, which can be attributed to the great success of the Egyptian army's operations in the Sinai Peninsula. In addition, it is possible that terrorist organizations are gathering strength ahead of the regime change set to take place in the country.

On April 8, 2014 security forces arrested 24 people in a series of operations that were carried out in many areas in the northern and southern Sinai Peninsula, in which prominent members of terrorist organizations were arrested and many weapons were confiscated.⁹⁵

On April 9, 2014 the U.S. State Department officially declared Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, a Salafi-jihadist organization operating in the Sinai Peninsula, to be a terrorist organization. Such an announcement means a series of restrictions on trade, assets and movement that is liable to harm the organization.⁹⁶ Shortly afterwards, the Court for Urgent Matters in Cairo also declared Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis to be a terrorist organization.⁹⁷

Other jihadist organizations

- Al-Nusra Al-Maqdisiyya, an organization composed of several Salafi-jihadist groups in the Gaza Strip that supports the ISIS, published an article that contained advice for ISIS fighters from a writer named Nasir al-Qaeda. For example, the writer noted that the ISIS will coordinate publicity efforts to spread its teachings among the public.⁹⁸

The Maghreb [North Africa]

In Morocco and Tunisia, authorities continued the struggle against terrorist organizations. In the beginning of April, authorities in Morocco managed to identify and dismantle a terror cell that

⁹⁵ <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/04/08/24-arrested-sinai-raids>

⁹⁶ <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/04/09/us-declares-ansar-beit-al-maqdis-terrorist-organisation> (English).

⁹⁷ <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/04/14/cairo-court-officially-rules-ansar-beit-al-maqdis-terrorist-organisation> (English).

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

was allegedly involved in recruiting young people and sending them to Syria as jihad fighters in coordination with terrorist organization operating in Syria, such as Sham al-Islam, the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIS.⁹⁹ In Tunisia, authorities successfully dismantled a terror cell in Sfax made up of eight militants from Ansar al-Sharia, and on April 10 clashes were reported between security forces and members of Ansar al-Sharia after the latter tried to attack a police station in Rouhia, a small town in central Tunisia.¹⁰⁰

In Libya, on the other hand, the security situation continued to deteriorate, especially in Benghazi in the eastern part of the country: on April 9, a Libyan Air Force commander was killed when his car exploded, and his wife and daughter were seriously injured,¹⁰¹ and on April 2 security forces took control of a medical center in the city after shots were fired in the emergency room.¹⁰² Until now, authorities in eastern Libya have failed to ensure the personal safety of the residents as plans to install security cameras in Benghazi also proved unsuccessful.¹⁰³ The worsening security situation led to the declaration of a national day of protest that took place on April 6 in the framework of which the international airport in Benghazi temporarily went on strike, and schools and banks were closed.¹⁰⁴

In Algeria, despite the tension that accompanied the presidential campaign, few incidents of violence were reported.¹⁰⁵

Nevertheless, it seemed that the fog surrounding the future of Algeria had re-kindled the ethnic conflict, as demonstrated by the clashes between the Arab population and the Berber population in Ghardaïa, central Algeria.¹⁰⁶

⁹⁹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/04/15/feature-01 (English).

¹⁰⁰ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/04/11/feature-03 (English).

¹⁰¹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/04/11/feature-02 (English).

¹⁰² <http://www.alwafd.org/%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%80%D9%8A/652671-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%85%D9%86-%D9%8A%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%B7%D8%B1-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%A8%D9%86%D8%BA%D8%A7%D8%B2%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D8%A8%D9%89>

¹⁰³ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/04/03/feature-01 (English).

¹⁰⁴ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/04/07/feature-03 (English).

¹⁰⁵ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/04/10/feature-01 (English).

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/north-africa/algeria/2014/04/12/%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%8A%D9%84-%D9%8810-%D8%AC%D8%B1%D8%AD%D9%89-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%85%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%AC%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%AF%D8%A9->

Meanwhile, a two-day conference of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) was held on April 3-4 in the city of Rabat in Morocco. During the conference, in which representatives from the countries of the Maghreb, Europe and America participated, Morocco earned praise for its counter-terrorism policies.¹⁰⁷

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

- Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) published a condemnation of the operation carried out by the Algerian army in Jijel Province, in which the young daughter of a jihad fighter was killed. The statement ended with a reminder of the crimes committed by the Algerian army against children in 2006 and a threat that the organization would not stand for such crimes.¹⁰⁸

Libya

- A new organization called “Majlis Shura Shabab al-Islam” was established in the city of Derna in eastern Libya. In its first official announcement, the organization declared Jews and Christians who are hostile to the Prophet Mohammad to be enemies and announced the establishment of a Shari’a Council to serve as an arbitrator in interpersonal conflicts according to shari’a.¹⁰⁹



Majlis Shura Shabab al-Islam

[%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%BA%D8%B1%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9-.html](#)

¹⁰⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/04/04/feature-03 (English).

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=433184476784625&set=pcb.433184693451270&type=1&theater>

Tunisia

- On April 6, the Tunisian Ministry of Interior published an announcement that eight members of Ansar al-Sharia in Sfax, the second largest city in Tunisia, were arrested in a building where they were trying to make improvised bombs in preparation for carrying out terrorist attacks.¹¹⁰ A writer on the Ansar al-Sharia Web forum condemned the publication and said that it was full of lies since it would not make sense for Ansar al-Sharia to harm its homeland and the assets of the Tunisian people.¹¹¹
- On April 11, the Tunisian authorities suppressed a demonstration by Salafists in Rouhia in northern Tunisia following the arrests of 16 activists.¹¹² As a result, the jihadist media institution of Ansar al-Sharia in Tunisia, Al-Bayariq, published an announcement expressing support for, and solidarity with, the people of Rouhia while encouraging them to maintain their religious identity. The announcement also included a call to all Tunisian citizens to stand with them against the “deserters of Islam” who declared war on the people of Tunisia.¹¹³

Egypt

Egypt itself saw an increase in the wave of terrorist attacks carried out by jihadist organizations, especially after the exclusion of the Muslim Brotherhood from the religious and public spheres, and the wave of arrests of militants from the Muslim Brotherhood and other Salafi-jihadist organizations. For instance, in the beginning of April Egyptian authorities ordered Mohammad al-Zawahiri, the brother of Ayman al-Zawahiri, and 67 of his friends to stand trial for their ties to Al-Qaeda and their support for terrorism against the country.¹¹⁴ In addition, Egyptian security forces in Cairo reported that they had arrested Thirwat Salah Shehata, a very senior Al-Qaeda leader who

¹¹⁰ <http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=767506&issueno=12914#.U1kcbVWSx-E>

¹¹¹ <http://www.ansar-alsharee3a.com/showthread.php?t=5502>

¹¹² <http://alaanonline.com/News/%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%82-%D9%85%D8%B8%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%BA%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%81%D9%89-%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3.html>

¹¹³ <http://www.ansar-alsharee3a.com/showthread.php?t=5687>

¹¹⁴ <http://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/b91f293d-512a-4877-bbab-be209cf5c609>

had served as a close deputy to Ayman al-Zawahiri when they led the Egyptian Islamic Jihad.¹¹⁵

*In light of the increase in terrorist attacks and the number of jihadist organizations operating in Egypt, several claims have been made regarding the reasons for this increase that should be carefully considered. Egyptian security forces claimed that a main reason for the rise in terrorism stemmed from Qatar's financing of jihadist organizations in protest against the military coup in Egypt. Nabil Naim, the former leader of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, claimed that the Ajnad Misr terrorist organization had branched out from one of the armed militias of the Muslim Brotherhood, and that it receives funding from the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas and foreign groups. According to him, the organization itself is located in Libya and its members infiltrate to the organization via Egypt.*¹¹⁶

Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis

- Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis published a video in which it revealed the identity of the perpetrator of the terrorist attack that was carried out against the security administration of Dakahlia Province in Egypt. The attack was carried out on December 24, 2013, killing 16 people and injuring dozens more.¹¹⁷ The video showed the explosives material being prepared before the attack and included a speech made by the terrorist, Abu Mariam Imam Mar'i, in which he attacked the army and police. In addition, the video documented the terrorist as he travelled to the attack site but the moment of the attack itself was not filmed "for security reasons".¹¹⁸



¹¹⁵ <http://classic.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=767676>

¹¹⁶ <http://www1.youm7.com/News.asp?NewsID=1594269>

¹¹⁷ <http://www.demotix.com/news/3565756/aftermath-deadly-blast-mansoura>

¹¹⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVAjCcN2OPU>

Ajnad Misr

- The Egyptian jihadist organization, Ajnad Misr, published a claim of responsibility (announcement no. 5) for a terrorist attack at Cairo University. In the attack, which was carried out on April 2, 2014, militants from Ajnad Misr approached a gathering of senior Egyptian security officers near Al-Nahda and detonated three bombs, killing and injuring many people. One bomb was not detonated due to innocent passer-by's who were in the area. Ajnad Misr warned all infidel soldiers that if their actions continued, the responses would continue as well.¹¹⁹

The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt published a condemnation of the attack at Cairo University that took place on April 2, in which a senior police officer was killed. The organization condemned all bloodshed, even in instances of political differences.¹²⁰

Other jihadist organizations

- Rabitat Ulama Ahl A-Sunnah, an association of Sunni clerics in Egypt, published a fatwa regarding the Egyptian police force. In response to many questions that were addressed to the association's sheikhs, the fatwa stated that it is forbidden to work in in the Egyptian police force because of the many destructive operations carried out by the police against Muslims in the country, including arrests, torture and threats. Such operations are contrary to the spirit of shari'a, which supports the existence of security mechanisms, in principle, and therefore one must not join them.¹²¹

Nigeria

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum referred to several attacks that were recently carried out in Nigeria by Boko Haram, in which dozens of people were killed. The visitor mentioned one attack that was carried out at a college in which the library was set alight, and claimed that the

¹¹⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹²⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹²¹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

attack did not serve the purpose of jihad and tarnished the image of the mujahideen. In response, others who took part in the discussion claimed that there was a news blackout that prevented them from finding out the facts. One visitor noted that Boko Haram needs to establish a media institution to help it explain its operations.¹²²

Somalia

In Somalia, relative quiet has recently been maintained and a drop in terrorist attacks was recorded.

On April 7, 2014 two UN consultants, one French and one British, were shot to death at the Bosasso Airport in Somalia. It remains unclear who was responsible for the attack but UN members have been targets of attacks by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in the past.¹²³

In Mombasa, Kenya, unknown assassins killed Sheikh Abu Bakr Sharif Ahmed, a radical Islamic preacher. Ahmed was a recruiter for Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.¹²⁴

- During the first half of April 2014, the jihadist media institution of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Kataib, published the following:
 - A summary of operations that were carried out during the first two weeks of March 2014, including mortar shell fire at an army base in Lower Shebello in southern Somalia, the destruction of military vehicles and clashes with the armies of Ethiopian, Djibouti and Kenya.¹²⁵
 - A video titled “Mujahideen Moments – Part 4”.¹²⁶

¹²² <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹²³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/07/somalia-un-idUSL6N0MZ2P720140407>

¹²⁴ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-26845185>

¹²⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹²⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



The video banner

The Indian Subcontinent

Indonesia

- The Sawt Al-Jihad Nusantara jihadist media institution published a message in Arabic and English from Abu Bakr Ba'ashir, leader of Ansar al-Tawheed in Indonesia. In the message, Ba'ashir expressed his support for all jihad fighters in Syria, called on them to avoid divisiveness, and noted that he himself would join jihad if not for the fact that he was imprisoned in an Indonesian jail.¹²⁷



A scene from the announcement banner

China

- During the first half of April 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Turkestan Islamic Party, Sawt Al-Islam, published the following:

¹²⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

- A video in Urdu titled, “The Truth [Behind] the Alliance between China and Pakistan by the Burmese sheikh, Abu Dhar Azzam, who serves as Mufti of the organization. In the video, Abu Dhar Azzam emphasized that jihad against China was necessary due to, among other things, its cooperation with Pakistan and its policies of oppression against Muslims. He emphasized that participation in the war of jihad against China will contribute to the conquest of India just as the Prophet Mohammad promised according to several Islamic traditions.¹²⁸



The video banner

- A video in Urdu titled, “Do Not Hide the Truth”.¹²⁹

The West

- During the first half of April 2014, the new jihadist media institution, Al-Tibya, which focuses on the distribution of jihadist materials in German, published the following videos:
 - A recorded lecture in German by Mohamed Mahmoud, an Austrian Islamist convicted of aiding terrorist organizations and imprisoned in Turkey, also known as Abu Usama al-Gharib.¹³⁰
 - A one-hour long video in German titled, “My Oath to the Islamic State”, which featured Abu-Talha al-Almani ("the German"), a former rapper named Denis Cuspert who was

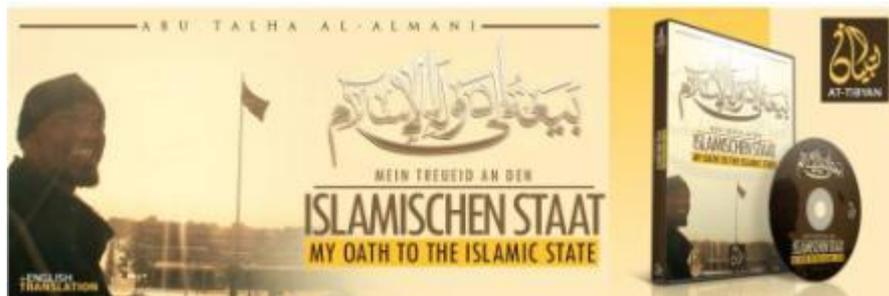
¹²⁸ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹²⁹ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹³⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/tibyan.media>;

<https://ia701200.us.archive.org/28/items/AbuUsamaAlGharibDerWegAusDerErniedrigungfinal/WegAusErnie drigung.ogv>

known as Deso Dogg before he converted to Islam and took part in the fighting in Syria. In the video, al-Almani related his life story and explained why he decided to swear allegiance to the ISIS and renounced his German citizenship.¹³¹



“My Oath to the Islamic State”

- Sheikh Anjem Choudary, a radical Islamic preacher in England, published on his Twitter account photos from a demonstration that he and his supporters held on April 11, 2014 in London for the release of Salafi-jihadist militants from prison. For example, the protesters waved signs showing photos of Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a senior member of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan, and Omar Bakri, former leader of the al-Muhajiroun organization in England who is imprisoned in Lebanon.¹³²

¹³¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹³² <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary>



From left to right: Choudary holding a sign that says in Arabic “The Sunnis will Establish an Islamic Caliphate on the Ruins of Democracy”; Choudary and his supporters hold signs with photos of prisoners.

Miscellaneous

- The Fursan Al-Balagh jihadist media institution published an index that listed all of the jihadist publications published by jihadist media institutions for March 2014.¹³³



The banner of the index

- The Al-Platform media jihadist Web forum published an announcement about the establishment of a new jihadist media institution, Al-Wosom, which supports all jihadist groups

¹³³ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

and plans to publish official materials and publications concerning the Salafi-jihadist movement in general and the ISIS in particular.¹³⁴ The media institution's official Twitter page is: <https://twitter.com/alosom0>.

- The Al-Platform media jihadist Web forum published an announcement regarding the establishment of a new jihadist media institution, Al-Wafa, to serve as the media wing of the Al-Tahadi network.¹³⁵ The media institution's official Twitter page is: https://twitter.com/alwafaa_4.



The logo of the Al-Wafa jihadist media institution

Women and Jihad

- Visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum held a discussion about an announcement that was published in Deutsche Welle regarding the inclusion of German women and teenage girls as jihad fighters in Syria.¹³⁶ Some of the participants in the discussion claimed that, in their opinion, the announcement was a fake in light of the young age of the girls mentioned in the article.¹³⁷

¹³⁴ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹³⁵ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹³⁶ www.dw.de/التحاق-نساء-المانيات-بصفوف-المجاهدين-في-سوريا/a-17537142

¹³⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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