

## **Bimonthly Report**

### **Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites**

#### **The First Half of June 2014**

## Highlights

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

- Mawla Asim Umar, a senior member of Al-Qaeda in Pakistan, calls on Muslims in Kashmir to wage jihad against the Indian regime. According to him, Muslims in India and Kashmir must aid in the effort to establish an Islamic caliphate.
- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and its leader, Emir Mullah Omar, welcome the prisoner exchange deal in the framework of which captive American soldier, Bowe Bergdahl, was released in return for five senior members of the Taliban in Afghanistan who were imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay.
- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) conquers the city of Mosul in Nineveh Province, Iraq, a move that is widely applauded by many jihad fighters and praised in the jihadist discourse on social networks. As a result of its occupation of Mosul, the organization publishes a document addressed to residents of Nineveh Province titled, “Covenant of the City” in which it details the rules and regulations to be imposed on the residents, such as the obligation to pray.
- In a video published by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Serge Lazarovic, a French abductee being held captive by the organization, appeals to the President of France to make efforts towards his release.
- AQIM claims responsibility for the attempted assassination of Tunisian Interior Minister, Lutfi Bin Jeddo.

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## New Publications

### Ideology

- During the first half of June 2014, the Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published a video in Urdu titled, “Continue the Fight in Kashmir” by Mawlana Asim Umar, a senior member of Al-Qaeda in Pakistan. In the video, Umar called on Muslims in Kashmir to follow in the footsteps of “their brothers” in Iraq and Syria, and wage jihad against the regime in India. According to him, Muslims in Kashmir and India are obligated to join global jihad efforts to re-establish the Islamic caliphate.<sup>1</sup>



The video banner

- The Markaz Aisha jihadist media institution published a revised and expanded second edition of a book titled, “The Clear Discovery of Lebanon as a Heretical [Entity]” by Sheikh Abu Asim Muhammad bin Umar al-Lubnani. The foreword to the book was written by Sheikh Abu Sa’ad al-‘Amili, a very prominent writer on jihadist Web forums. According to the writers, the Lebanese regime and army are considered infidels since they are controlled by Christians and Shi’ites, a reality that is unacceptable especially in light of their persecution of Sunnis in the country. Therefore, the writers called on Muslims in Lebanon to renounce the current regime and work to overthrow it through a war of jihad.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>2</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



The banner of the book

- The Al-Hayyat jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the ISIS, published a video titled, “Let’s Go for Jihad” that included songs in praise of jihad.<sup>3</sup> Another propaganda video titled, “Oh Soldiers of Truth Go Forth”, which praised the virtues of the mujahideen, was also published.<sup>4</sup>



The promos for the videos

### Al-Qaeda’s Internal Rift

Since April 2013, tensions have risen between the ISIS, and the Al-Nusra Front and Al-Qaeda. At the basis of this rift was Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi’s refusal to obey the dictates of Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, his unwillingness to retract his announcement declaring himself the Emir of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, and the expansion of ISIS operations from Iraq to Syria. Since then, jihad fighters have tried to find a compromise that is acceptable to both sides but so far those attempts have failed.

Against the backdrop of this internal crisis among jihad groups there has continued to be a wave of

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

<sup>4</sup> <https://twitter.com/wa3tasimu/status/473517027395907584>

publications condoning the swearing of allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS, on the one hand, and those criticizing this process and declaring support for Ayman al-Zawahiri on the other hand. During the first half of June 2014, this rift was evident in the following essays and responses:

- The Shumukh al-Islam jihadist media institution re-published a letter that was previously published four years ago by the Al-Sahab jihadist media institution titled, “To My Brothers, the Emirs of the Mujahideen” by Atiyyatullah al-Libi, a senior member of Al-Qaeda who was killed in a drone attack in 2011. In the letter, al-Libi appealed to the mujahideen to maintain good relations with one another, and to preserve the purity of jihad by carrying it out against heretical regimes and not against Muslim civilians unless they collaborated with the regime against the mujahideen.<sup>5</sup> It is clear that the reason for the letter’s re-publication was due to the rift and fighting between ISIS and other jihadist organizations.
- The jihadist Web forum, “The Lion’s Den of the Mujahideen”, which is affiliated with the Al-Nusra Front, published an article (26 pp.) titled, “The Eruption Resulting from the Exposure of Secrets and the Shameful Way in which they were Presented: Who Are the ISIS Security Guards?” by Abu Safiyyah al-Yamani, a former member of the ISIS who was freed by members of the Al-Nusra Front from a prison run by the ISIS. In the article, al-Yamani referred to the ISIS members who were responsible for managing the organization’s prisons, the condition of the prisoners being held in those prisons, the means of torture that were employed there, their connections to the Iraqi Ba’ath Party, and the manner in which he escaped from jail along with other prisoners.<sup>6</sup>
- The administrators of the Al-Platform media jihadist Web forum published a document titled, “The Al-Zawahiri That We Do Not Know”, referring to Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda. In the document, which constituted the first part of a future series, discussed al-Zawahiri’s personality. It presented him in a negative and tendentious light, since the Al-Platform Media Web forum is a prominent supporter of the ISIS, and expressed distaste for al-Zawahiri’s statements against the organization.<sup>7</sup>

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

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.al3aren.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>7</sup> <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The Al-Battar jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the ISIS, published an article titled, “The [Islamic] State and the Period of Dawah Preachers” by Abu Hamid al-Barqawi, an alleged jihad fighter from Afghanistan. According to the letter, some of the criticism directed at the ISIS was similar to the criticism directed at Sheikh Muhammad bin Abd al-Wahhab, founder of the Wahabi movement at the end of the 18th century, by his opponents. According to al-Barqawi, in both instances the criticism was baseless.<sup>8</sup>
- The Al-Jihad Al-Alami jihadist Web forum published an announcement on its home page, in which it decisively prohibited the publication of announcements and speeches regarding the ISIS. In addition, it formally declared its support for the Al-Nusra Front, an Al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria.<sup>9</sup>
- Shabab al-Tawhid lil-’Ilam, a Salafi-jihadist organization in Tunisia linked to Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia, published an expression of support for the ISIS by Sheikh Kamal Zaruq, a member of the organization.<sup>10</sup>

## Strategy

- A visitor to the Al-Fidaa jihadist Web forum discussed the benefits that could come to ISIS militants if they seize control of the Shi’ite city of Samarra in Iraq and suggested how they could do so. According to him, the city of Samarra is one of the most important Shi’ite cities and houses one of the holiest Shi’a monuments. According to him, the city can be conquered through intimidation and blitzkrieg, after sending a threatening letter to residents of the city to evacuate as well as a letter to the Sunnis living there to join the organization or suffer the consequences. According to the writer, these letters of intimidation will help ISIS militants to easily capture the city.<sup>11</sup>
- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum warned the mujahideen against carrying cell phones on their bodies since the enemy can locate them by using their cell phones to

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<sup>8</sup> [https://twitter.com/AL\\_Bttaar/status/474987172026527745](https://twitter.com/AL_Bttaar/status/474987172026527745)

<sup>9</sup> <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/AbouAlFida1> (Arabic).

<sup>11</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

identify their geographic location. As an example, he mentioned the IDF's use of cell phones to identify the location of Palestinians.<sup>12</sup>

- The Al-Battar jihadist media institution published an article titled, "The Educational Aspect of the Creation of the Islamic State". The article offered highlights and tools on how to construct the education system under the ISIS.<sup>13</sup>



The article banner

### Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- A member of the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum named Asim al-Sumali, a prominent member of the forum's military department, published several letters containing various explanations on how to assemble explosives. In addition, he advised adding particles in order to increase the injuries and loading the explosives into cars filled with petrol.<sup>14</sup> In another letter, he posted a link to a video that explained how to identify mines by using a radio.<sup>15</sup> In another letter, he published a video explanation on the production of drones.<sup>16</sup> Other explanations concerned the production of spy cameras<sup>17</sup> and the assembly of time bombs from pipes. According to him, this type of bomb can help any Muslim who wants to carry out terrorist attacks on US soil.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>13</sup> [https://twitter.com/AL\\_Bttaar](https://twitter.com/AL_Bttaar) (Arabic).

<sup>14</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

<sup>16</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>17</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>18</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



A time bomb made of pipes



From left to right: an illustration of a car packed with explosives and petrol that the visitor posted to the forum; a video clip explaining how to build a drone

### Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The jihadist media institution of the Turkestan Islamic Party, Sawt al-Islam, published a video in which Abdullah Mansur, the leader of the organization, eulogized Doku Umarov (aka Abu Uthman), the leader of the Islamic Caucasus Emirate who was killed at the start of 2014.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



**The video banner**

- The Al-Battar jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the ISIS, published a video in memory of a martyr named Abu Yaqin al-Libi, an ISIS militant who came from Libya.<sup>20</sup>



**Abu Yaqin al-Libi**

- The ISIS in Diyala Province published a document titled, “A Convoy of Martyrs” that contained photos of many martyrs who were killed while fighting for the organization and noted the operation in which each martyr was killed.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> [https://twitter.com/AL\\_Bttaar](https://twitter.com/AL_Bttaar); <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>21</sup> <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).



**A photo of one of the martyrs, a member of the ISIS**

- The Markaz Aisha jihadist media institution, which focuses on the Sunni population and the Salafi-jihadist movement in Lebanon, published a eulogy in memory of Adnan Ismail Najm (aka Asadullah al-Bilawi), a very senior ISIS commander who, prior to his death, led battles in Anbar, Nineveh and Salah-a-Din Provinces.<sup>22</sup>



**The banner launched in memory of Asadullah al-Bilawi**

## **Magazines**

- The Al-Hayat jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the ISIS, launched a new periodical in English (as well as in German), *ISIS Report*, and three issues have been published to date. The first issue described the training undergone by new prayer leaders and preachers by the ISIS, as well as the activities of the Consumer Protection Office in Al-Raqqah Province in northern Syria. The second issue documented the process of collecting charity from crops in Al-

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<sup>22</sup> [https://twitter.com/AL\\_Bttaar/](https://twitter.com/AL_Bttaar/) (Arabic).

Hasakah Province in northeast Syria as well as the activities of the Islamic Police in Al-Raqqah Province.<sup>23</sup> The third issue focused on the organization’s takeover of Mosul.<sup>24</sup>



The banners of the three issues of *ISIS Report*

- The Al-Hayyat jihadist media institution published three issues of the English-language magazine, *ISN NEWS*, which is devoted mainly to the organization’s military activities, and described ISIS operations against tanks in Ramadi in Iraq, executions in Syria, martyrs who fell in battle and the takeover of Mosul.<sup>25</sup>



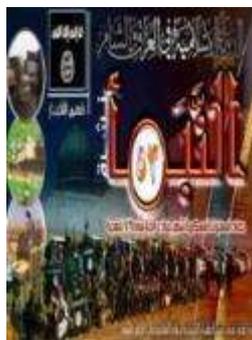
The banners of the three issues of *ISN NEWS*

<sup>23</sup> <https://twitter.com/wa3tasimu> (Arabic).

<sup>24</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>25</sup> <https://twitter.com/wa3tasimu> (Arabic).

- The ISIS published issue no. 53 of *Al-Naba* magazine, in which it documented the organization's operations in April 2014 in Iraq, divided by province. According to the report, a total of 1,634 operations were carried out by the organization during this period, with most of the operations having taken place in Al-Anbar Province (438 operations) and Nineveh Province (406 operations). The report also divided the operations by type, such as: bombings (682 operations), shooting attacks using various types of weapons (245 operations), the killing of Shi'ites by sniper fire or cold steel (244 operations), suicide attacks using car bombs (17 operations) and suicide attacks using explosive belts (24 operations).<sup>26</sup>



**Issue no. 53 of *Al-Naba* magazine**

- The third and fourth issues of the jihadist magazine, *Milat Ibrahim*, were published.<sup>27</sup>
- Issue no. 56 of the jihadist magazine, *Al-Waqi*, was published. The current issue included articles that were previously published by Al-Qaeda and its affiliates, such as a speech made by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri regarding the need to avoid further bloodshed among the mujahideen.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/06/the-isis-guide-to-building-an-islamic-state/372769> (English).

<sup>27</sup> <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>28</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



The magazine banner

## Reports from the Field

### Afghanistan-Pakistan

*The Afghani arena became turbulent following the second round of presidential elections. On June 6, 2014 presidential candidate, Abdullah, survived an assassination attempt. Two bombs exploded near the hotel in which he was staying in Kabul. Four people were killed and 16 others were injured in the failed assassination attempt.*<sup>29</sup>

*On June 15, 2014 the second round of elections in Afghanistan began in the shadow of severe violence carried out by the Taliban. Eleven people, including election workers, were killed when a roadside charge exploded next to the bus on which they were traveling. Meanwhile, there were reports that Taliban militants cut off the fingers of those who voted in the elections.*<sup>30</sup>

*The Taliban in Pakistan carried out one its largest and most sophisticated attacks in recent time. On June 9, 2014 Taliban militants infiltrated the International Airport in Karachi using fake identification documents. Upon entering the airport, they fired automatic weapons and threw grenades in all directions. 28 people were killed in the attack, including the ten terrorists. The Taliban in Pakistan claimed responsibility for the attack shortly after it was carried out.*<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>29</sup>[http://article.wn.com/view/2014/06/06/Afghan\\_presidential\\_candidate\\_Abdullah\\_Abdullah\\_escapes\\_assa\\_u/](http://article.wn.com/view/2014/06/06/Afghan_presidential_candidate_Abdullah_Abdullah_escapes_assa_u/) (English).

<sup>30</sup><http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/15/us-afghanistan-election-idUSKBN0EQ09420140615> (English).

<sup>31</sup><http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/10/us-pakistan-army-idUSKBN0EL09120140610> (English).

## ***The Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan (Taliban in Afghanistan)***

### **Prisoner Exchange Deal**

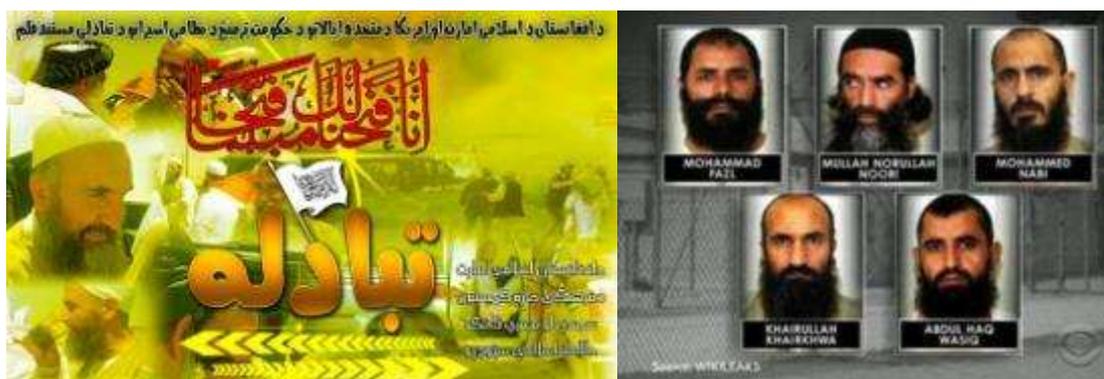
- In light of the release of five members of the Taliban in Afghanistan from US-owned Guantanamo Bay Prison in exchange for the release of American soldier, Bowe Bergdahl, who was held captive by the Taliban in Afghanistan, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan, El-Amara Studio, published the following:
  - An announcement by Mullah Muhammad Umar, the leader of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan, in which he welcomed the release of the five jihad leaders who were imprisoned by the US in Guantanamo Bay Prison. In the letter, he stated that their release was achieved with the help of Allah and with the coordination of the political bureau of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan. Mullah Muhammad Umar showered praise on all echelons of the organization for bringing about the prisoners' release.<sup>32</sup>
  - A letter of congratulations from the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan for the release of five of the organization's members from Guantanamo Bay Prison. The letter mentioned the names of the released prisoners and stated that they had spent 13 years in the American prison. The deal was reached following indirect negotiations between the Islamic Emirate and the United States, mediated by Qatar. It also stated that the prisoners would soon arrive in Qatar where many members of the political bureau of the Islamic Emirate would attend their reception, and that the Islamic principality intended to work for the release of all of the imprisoned mujahideen.<sup>33</sup>
  - A video documenting the prisoner exchange.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>33</sup> <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>34</sup> <http://bab-ul-islam.net/showthread.php?t=25948> (Urdu).



From left to right: the video banner; photos of the released members of the Taliban in Afghanistan

- A prominent visitor to the Al-Jihad Al-Alami jihadist Web forum published a letter from the prisoners released from Guantanamo Bay Prison in the prisoner exchange deal with the United States. The prisoners thanked Allah for their release, as well as Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Shura Council of the Islamic Emirate and members of its political bureau, and the country of Qatar for its role in the mediation. The prisoners announced that they were in good health and that they intended to abide by the conditions of the deal, which was signed by the Islamic Emirate and Qatar.<sup>35</sup>

#### ***Other jihadist organizations***

- The Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan published an announcement according to which its members carried out an attack on NATO forces on June 8, 2014 near the city of Jalalabad. At 22:00 suicide terrorists broke into a transport area and destroyed 166 vehicles and 226 tanks. The attack also led to deaths and injuries although the exact number of casualties was unknown.<sup>36</sup>
- The Jund al-Fidaa jihadist media institution published a video titled, “The Balochi Mujahideen in the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan: Lions of the Sahara”.<sup>37</sup>

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

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

<sup>37</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



A clip from the video

### ***The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan***

- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan published a video about a terrorist attack that was carried out by several of the group's members at the Karachi Airport in Pakistan on June 9, 2014.<sup>38</sup>
- Mujaahid Usman Ghazii, the Emir of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, published a statement addressed to officers and fighters in Khorasan, a region that covers Afghanistan-Pakistan. In the statement, Ghazii emphasized the importance of enforcing shari'a and the duty of all mujahideen to adhere to it. In addition, Ghazii criticized the widespread disagreements between the mujahideen in Khorasan today and called for the ranks to unite against regime in Pakistan.<sup>39</sup>

### **The Arabian Peninsula**

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

*The Yemeni army managed to gain an impressive achievement in the campaign that it began last month against AQAP militants. 500 AQAP militants were killed in battles waged between army forces and AQAP fighters in the beginning of June 2014 in Abyan and Shabwa Provinces. In addition, the Yemeni army reached a ceasefire agreement with the Shi'ite Houthi rebels in Amran Province after the battles reached the outskirts of Sana'a.<sup>40</sup> American drone attacks also resulted in military achievements against AQAP, as demonstrated by the killing of five militants, including a field*

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

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>40</sup> [www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/2014/06/04/اليمن-بشمال-اليمن-إطلاق-نار-في-عمران-بشمال-اليمن.html](http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/2014/06/04/اليمن-بشمال-اليمن-إطلاق-نار-في-عمران-بشمال-اليمن.html) (Arabic).

commander, in Shabwa Province on June 14, 2014.<sup>41</sup>

## Iraq

Despite the fact that June began with a painful blow to the ISIS with the deaths of 47 militants in Al-Anbar Province in western Iraq,<sup>42</sup> the rest of the month brought with it completely different developments. The escalation began with the takeover of the Al-Anbar University complex by the ISIS on June 7,<sup>43</sup> followed by the death of dozens of people in various terrorist attacks in Baghdad,<sup>44</sup> Tuz Khormato<sup>45</sup> and Samarra,<sup>46</sup> and culminated with the organization's complete takeover of Mosul, the capital on Nineveh Province and the second largest city in Iraq.<sup>47</sup>

It is important to note that the takeover of the city did not only represent a military success, but an economic success as well since it meant that ISIS members could get their hands on the enormous sums of money deposited in the banks of the occupied city. According to one estimate, the amount stood at 425 million dollars, making the ISIS the richest terrorist organization in the world.<sup>48</sup>

The takeover of Mosul led Nouri al-Maliki, the Prime Minister of Iraq, to announce an immediate state of emergency in the country and all-out war against the ISIS.<sup>49</sup> However, despite al-Maliki's aggressive statements, the Iraqi army's powerlessness in the face of the militants was demonstrated by the retreat of army forces from Mosul without a fight<sup>50</sup> as well as the flight of half a million civilians from the city in fear for their lives.<sup>51</sup>

The next city that fell to the ISIS immediately after Mosul was Baiji, situated halfway

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<sup>41</sup> <http://yna-yemen.net/news/localy/19874>

<sup>42</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140603\\_iraq\\_anbar\\_shelling\\_daesh\\_violence.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140603_iraq_anbar_shelling_daesh_violence.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>43</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140607\\_iraq\\_anbar\\_university\\_clashes.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140607_iraq_anbar_university_clashes.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>44</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140607\\_iraq\\_baghdad\\_blasts.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140607_iraq_baghdad_blasts.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>45</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/06/140609\\_iraq\\_blast.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/06/140609_iraq_blast.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>46</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140605\\_iraq\\_samaraa\\_violence.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140605_iraq_samaraa_violence.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>47</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140610\\_iraq\\_mosul\\_hq.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140610_iraq_mosul_hq.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/06/12/isis-just-stole-425-million-and-became-the-worlds-richest-terrorist-group> (English).

<sup>49</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140610\\_iraq\\_maliki\\_measure.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140610_iraq_maliki_measure.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/10899134/Iraq-crisis-Generals-in-army-handed-over-entire-city-to-al-Qaeda-inspired-ISIS-forces.html> (English).

<sup>51</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140611\\_iraq\\_baiji.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140611_iraq_baiji.shtml) (Arabic).

between Mosul and Baghdad. The city has a strategic advantage since it houses the largest oil refinery in Iraq, which the organization had not yet managed to seize control over, according to government declarations<sup>52</sup> After Baiji, the ISIS advanced south and seized control of Tikrit<sup>53</sup> (located 140 kilometers north of Baghdad) where mass killings of soldiers in civilian clothes were documented.<sup>54</sup> In light of the ISIS's southward advancement, we are left to wonder if the battle for the future of Iraq will be decided in the capital of Baghdad.

### **The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS)**

- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) published a summary of all its military operations throughout Iraq during April 2014, including the downing of four helicopters, 17 suicide attacks using car bombs and 24 suicide attacks using explosive belts.<sup>55</sup>

### **Response to the Occupation of Mosul by ISIS militants**

- The jihadist media institution of the ISIS, Al-Furqan, published a new speech by the spokesman for the organization, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, regarding the organization's recent achievements in Iraq.<sup>56</sup> In his speech, al-Adnani praised the ISIS and listed its virtues with respect to its recent successes, integrity and heavenly assistance. In addition, al-Adnani called on ISIS militants to forgive the Sunni residents in Iraq and accept those who seek to repent. At the end of the speech, al-Adnani eulogized Adnan Ismail Najm (aka Abu Abd al-Rahman al-Bilawi al-Anbari), a senior member of the organization who was killed on June 5, 2014 during the recent battles in Mosul.<sup>57</sup> Al-Adnani ended his speech with a threatening message for Nouri al-Maliki, the Prime Minister of Iraq.
- The Al-Battar jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the ISIS, published an article

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<sup>52</sup> <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/iraq-crisis-baiji-refinery-not-controlled-by-isis-militants-1452405>

<sup>53</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/06/140612\\_iraq\\_tikrit\\_isis.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/06/140612_iraq_tikrit_isis.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>54</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140615\\_iraq\\_killing.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140615_iraq_killing.shtml) (Arabic).

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

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

<sup>57</sup> <http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/2014/06/10/%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%AA%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%83%D8%A8%D8%B1-%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%B4-%D9%84%D9%85-%D9%8A%D8%B4%D9%87%D8%AF%D9%87.html> (Arabic).

titled, “The Islamic State and the Media War” by Ansar al-Ahlam.<sup>58</sup>

- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum claimed that, as a result of recent developments in Iraq, two members of the organization – one Chechen and the other Iraqi - had managed to fly a plane over Iraq. According to him, the time has come for jihad fighters to show initiative and fly planes as another tool of jihad.<sup>59</sup>
- Dr. Eyad Qunaibi, a Salafi preacher published a statement concerning the ISIS’s recent takeovers in Iraq. Qunaibi first blessed the Sunnis in Iraq on their recent victories over the army and criticized the media for presenting the situation in Iraq as a terrorist takeover of the country rather than a Sunni revolution against the Shi’ite regime. In addition, Qunaibi called on the ISIS in Iraq to direct their weapons against the regime and the remaining American presence, and not against other organizations. He expressed hope that the ISIS and other organizations in Syria will unite against their common enemy.<sup>60</sup>
- Sheikh Sulayman al-Ilwan was quoted on his Twitter account as praising the ISIS militants in Mosul, in the following words: “The release of prisoners from jail in Iraq pleases every believer and strikes terror in those who pass over the two sections”.<sup>61</sup>



#### The quotes from Sheikh Sulayman al-Ilwan’s Twitter account

- The Ifrika jihadist media institution, which deals mainly with reports about the world of jihad in Africa and the Maghreb (<https://twitter.com/ifrikya2>) published an announcement in

<sup>58</sup> <https://twitter.com/Albattarly> (Arabic).

<sup>59</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>60</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>61</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

which it congratulated the ISIS on its victories in Iraq, especially its takeover of Mosul.<sup>62</sup>

- Social networks were also full of joyful responses by jihad fighters in light of the ISIS takeover of Mosul. For example, some of the cheers were concentrated into the hashtag, *#الموصل\_تتحرر* (“Mosul is Free”).<sup>63</sup>



**In the photo published on the Twitter account of the Al-Raqqah Province by the ISIS in Syria, an ISIS member is seen distributing sweets in honor of the joyful occasion**

- The jihadist media institution of Ansar al-Sharia in Tunisia, Al-Bayariq, published a statement by Sheih Abu Iyad al-Tunisi in support of the ISIS takeover of Mosul.<sup>64</sup>

### ***ISIS – Nineveh Province***

- The ISIS in Nineveh Province in Iraq published an official claim of responsibility for the takeover of Mosul. According to the announcement, upon receiving instructions from the central leadership of the Islamic State, ISIS militants carried out the sophisticated plan, which included a great deal of intelligence efforts; militants entered the city with great military force from several entrances simultaneously and managed to take full control of the government headquarters. They freed hundreds of prisoners and the organization seized control of the entire city.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>63</sup> *الموصل\_تتحرر*

<sup>64</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>65</sup> <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The media department of the ISIS in Nineveh Province published a document addressed to the residents of the province following the takeover of Mosul titled, “Covenant of the City”.<sup>66</sup> In the document, which contained 16 paragraphs, the ISIS described, among other things, the rules and regulations to be imposed on the residents of Mosul from then on: the duty to pray every day; a ban on the trade or consumption of alcohol, drugs or cigarettes; a ban on carrying weapons or flying the flag of any organization other than the ISIS; the duty to destroy tombs used for pilgrimage (considered to be idolatry); and the obligation to preserve the modesty of women.



**Covenant of the City**

- The ISIS published a list of mujahideen who carried out suicide attacks during the course of the organisation’s widespread operations in Nineveh Province. The age and country of origin of each martyr was listed along with the operation in which he was killed.<sup>67</sup>
- The ISIS in Nineveh Province announced the release of prisoners from several prisons in the province. Hundreds of prisoners were freed from Tasfirat Prison in Mosul on June 9,<sup>68</sup> and all of the prisoners were freed from Badush Prison on June 9.<sup>69</sup>

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.almoumnoon.com/t10907-topic>  
<sup>67</sup> <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).  
<sup>68</sup> <https://twitter.com/Nnews/status/47623533910402528> (Arabic).  
<sup>69</sup> <https://twitter.com/Nnews/status/476289774647771136> (Arabic).

### **ISIS – Baghdad**

- The ISIS in Baghdad published an announcement in which it declared the launch of the “March Campaign” targeting Baghdad, the capital of Iraq. According to the announcement, the first wave of the operation began with two suicide attacks: the first took place on June 11, 2014 using a car bomb in Al-Kazimi Square in northern Baghdad where police and military forces were gathered; the second took place using an explosive belt in Sadr City, a suburb in northeast Baghdad. According to the announcement these two attacks, together with several small attacks, killed and injured over 200 people.<sup>70</sup>
- The ISIS in northern Baghdad published a claim of responsibility for a suicide attack using a car bomb that was carried out by a militant of Norwegian origin named Abu Aya al-Nurwiji. According to the report, the attack was carried out at an Iraqi army post in Al-Mushahada, and caused many deaths and injuries.<sup>71</sup>

### **ISIS – Al-Fallujah**

- During the first half of June 2014, the ISIS in Al-Fallujah published the following:
  - An announcement regarding an attack that its members carried out in Al-Fallujah. According to the announcement, Iraqi military forces continuously attack Muslims and have recently gone even further and bombed a hospital in Al-Fallujah at a time when it was full of patients who had been injured in other attacks carried out by the army. The role of the Islamic State is to protect Muslims and, therefore, it responded with an attack against the army that lasted several hours: a suicide terrorist broke into the grounds of army-owned hospital in an explosives-ridden car, detonated the car and injured over 70 army personnel.<sup>72</sup>
  - An announcement regarding an attack that its members carried out in Al-Fallujah on June 6, 2014 in which they detonated 18 bombs at the police and army headquarters in the province. Over 90 people were killed and injured in the attack.<sup>73</sup>

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

<sup>71</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>72</sup> <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>73</sup> <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

- A summary of all of its operations throughout Iraq during April 2014, including the downing of four helicopters, 17 suicide attacks using car bombs and 24 suicide attacks using explosive belts.<sup>74</sup>

### ***ISIS – Diyala Province***

- The ISIS in Diyala Province in eastern Iraq published an announcement regarding the raid that it carried out in memory of Asad Allah al-Bilawi Abu Abd al-Rahman (aka Adnan Ismail Najm), a senior ISIS commander who was killed at the start of the battle in Mosul. In the announcement, the ISIS claimed responsibility for five operations that were carried out in the province, including a raid on the military airport and a raid on several Iraqi army brigades.<sup>75</sup>

### ***ISIS – Al-Anbar Province***

- The ISIS in Al-Anbar Province published photos documenting the organization’s PR activities in the province, the destruction of Iraqi security forces checkpoints, etc.<sup>76</sup>



**The photo shows the distribution of ISIS leaflets to residents of Al-Anbar Province**

### ***ISIS – Southern Iraq***

- The ISIS in southern Iraq claimed responsibility for a suicide attack using a car bomb that was carried out on June 4, 2014 at a hospital in the Shi’ite city of Hillah, in which over 70 people

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<sup>74</sup> <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

<sup>76</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

were killed and injured. According to the announcement, the attack was a direct response to the regime's recent bombings of a hospital in Fallujah.<sup>77</sup>

- A prominent visitor to the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum published a link to a YouTube video in which Sheikh Said Bin Nasr expressed support for the ISIS.<sup>78</sup>

### ***Other Jihadist Organizations***

- The Islamic Army in Iraq published an announcement by the emir of the organization, who was not identified by name, in which he referred to the recent achievements by Sunnis in Iraq and emphasized the importance of preserving these achievements over the long run by avoiding internal wars or struggles with the Kurds in Iraq. In addition, he presented the achievements in Iraq and the fruits of the overall Sunni effort of which one should take pride, and he criticized the abduction of Turkish diplomats. Finally, the author called on jihad fighters not to delay and to enter Baghdad soon in order to avoid the arrival of additional Iranian forces to aid the Iraqi army.<sup>79</sup>
- Ansar al-Islam published a claim of responsibility for several operations in Mosul, including the detonation of an explosive device at a military vehicle on May 27,<sup>80</sup> an attack on Iraqi army checkpoints on June 1,<sup>81</sup> and the killing of a police investigation officer on June 3.<sup>82</sup>
- The spokesman for the Army of the Men of the Naqshbandi Order published an official statement in which it denied involvement in the battle against jihadist groups in Iraq without naming them. In the statement, the organization called on the media to cast doubt on reports originating from the government or its media institutions.<sup>83</sup>
- The Jaish al-Mujahideen jihadist organization published a video titled, "Raid in Memory of the Martyr, Abu Marwan", which documented the attack on an Iraqi military camp in Al-Anbar Province. The video included a speech by the commanders of the operation before they

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<sup>77</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

<sup>79</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.docdroid.net/ddao/iaiiq.pdf.html> (Arabic).

<sup>80</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>81</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

embarked on their mission, photographs of the operation itself, and a review of the attack's outcomes and the loot obtained.<sup>84</sup>

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

*In Syria, the month of June began with the election of Bashar al-Assad for a third term. The election results – which did not surprise anyone – constituted further proof of the survival of the Assad regime.<sup>85</sup> The difference between America's view of the elections as an "insignificant step"<sup>86</sup> and that of Russia, which described the elections as "fair and free",<sup>87</sup> was also not surprising.*

*The first two weeks after the elections demonstrated that Assad was determined to continue the military struggle for Syria and even achieved a measure of success in that regard. On June 15, the Syrian army announced that it had regained control of the strategic city, Kesab, which is located near the border with Turkey.<sup>88</sup> In addition to military operations, Assad also took political steps such as his announcement on June 9 to grant amnesty to all foreign fighters in Syria on condition that they surrender themselves within one month.<sup>89</sup> He also issued a general amnesty decree for prisoners in jails in Dar'a, Hama and Damascus, including social activists, reporters and journalists.<sup>90</sup>*

*Meanwhile, clashes and battles continued among the various jihadist organizations in Syria. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), 634 people –including civilians and children - were killed in the last six weeks as a result of clashes between the organizations.<sup>91</sup> Most of the battles took place between the ISIS and the Al-Nusra Front, especially in Dayr al-Zour, a strategic location for the ISIS as it connects Syria to Al-Anbar Province in Iraq.<sup>92</sup>*

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

<sup>85</sup> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/syrian-election-sends-powerful-signal-of-assads-control/2014/06/03/16876fca-eb2a-11e3-b98c-72cef4a00499\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/syrian-election-sends-powerful-signal-of-assads-control/2014/06/03/16876fca-eb2a-11e3-b98c-72cef4a00499_story.html) (English).

<sup>86</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140604\\_kerry\\_syria\\_lebanon.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140604_kerry_syria_lebanon.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>87</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140604\\_russia\\_syrian\\_elections\\_fair.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140604_russia_syrian_elections_fair.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>88</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/06/140615\\_syria\\_army\\_control\\_kasab.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/06/140615_syria_army_control_kasab.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>89</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140609\\_syria\\_assad\\_general\\_amnesty.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140609_syria_assad_general_amnesty.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>90</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/06/140612\\_syria\\_prisoners\\_release.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/06/140612_syria_prisoners_release.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>91</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140610\\_syria\\_isil\\_nusra\\_fighting.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/06/140610_syria_isil_nusra_fighting.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>92</sup> <http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=179469> (Arabic).

## Syria

### *The Al-Nusra Front in Syria*

- The Al-Nusra Front in eastern Ghouta published a video of a mortar-manufacturing plant.<sup>93</sup> The video, which demonstrated the stages of mortar production, was part of the Al-Nusra Front's efforts to advance and improve its military weapons manufacturing capabilities.<sup>94</sup>
- During the first half of June, 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. 82) documenting the hospital that the Al-Nusra Front runs in eastern Ghouta.<sup>95</sup>
  - A video (no. 83) documenting the distribution of food to the needy in Latakia.<sup>96</sup>



**The Al-Nusra Front distributing food to the needy in Latakia**

- Sheikh Abu Mohammed al-Maqdisi, a prominent jihadist sheikh, published a letter addressed to Abu Mohammed al-Golani, the leader of the Al-Nusra Front. Al-Maqdisi stated that several female Muslim believers had fallen into the hands of supporters of the infidels along the Jordan-Syria border, where they were forced to undergo a physical search and where some were even arrested and transferred to security facilities. Therefore, al-Maqdisi asked al-Golani to issue a clear order that prohibits the smuggling of women from the southern region where the Jordan-

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<sup>93</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>94</sup> <http://www.assafir.com/Article/63/347737/SameChannel> (Arabic).

<sup>95</sup> [https://twitter.com/Hemm\\_Agency/status/473062350715887616](https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/473062350715887616) (Arabic).

<sup>96</sup> [https://twitter.com/Hemm\\_Agency/status/474636544267911169](https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/474636544267911169) (Arabic).

Syria border is located in order to avoid such occurrences.<sup>97</sup>

- A prominent visitor to the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum published a list of dozens of military operations that the ISIS carried out in Syria. Next to each operation, a link was provided to a YouTube video documenting the operation.<sup>98</sup>
- A visitor to the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum published a link to a YouTube video in which a communications engineer from the ISIS was heard breaking the lines of communication of the Shura Council of the Mujahideen in the East.<sup>99</sup>

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

#### **ISIS Operations in Al-Raqqah Province**

- The ISIS continued its efforts to enforce shari'a in Syria. In the city of Manbij in northern Syria, four Muslims who drank alcohol received a sentence of flogging<sup>100</sup> and in Al-Raqqah Province, an ISIS stronghold, the organization's Islamic Police continued its operations, including policing, conflict resolution and holding detainees.<sup>101</sup>
- The ISIS in Al-Raqqah Province documented a training course for preachers and prayer leaders in Al-Raqqah Province.<sup>102</sup>



**A photo of the course graduates**

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<sup>97</sup> <http://shabakataljahad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>98</sup> <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

<sup>100</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>101</sup> <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>102</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

## ISIS Operations in Al-Baraka Province

- During the first half of June 2014, the ISIS in Al-Baraka Province (formerly Al-Hasaka Province) in northeast Syria published the following:
  - A series of photographs titled, “The Shattering of the Sykes-Picot Borders”. The organization used the photos, which were accompanied by captions and quotes, to demonstrate its takeover of the Iraqi army’s border crossing point as well as the destruction of fences and roadblocks, which enabled residents to pass freely between the countries.<sup>103</sup>



### The opening of the border between Al-Baraka Province in Syria and Nineveh Province in Iraq

- An announcement by Sheikh Omar al-Shishani, leader of the Army of Immigrants and Al-Ansar, a jihadist organization composed of foreign fighters including Chechens. In the announcement, al-Shishani called on all ISIS fighters throughout the provinces of Syria and Iraq to help the organization free Mosul since it was considered an emergency situation.<sup>104</sup>

## ISIS Operations in Aleppo Province

- The ISIS in Al-Bab in Aleppo Province published on its Twitter account photos documenting the execution of three Muslims who were accused of betraying the Muslim Nation.<sup>105</sup>

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<sup>103</sup> [https://twitter.com/albaraka\\_news/status/476657316436013057](https://twitter.com/albaraka_news/status/476657316436013057) (Arabic).

<sup>104</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic); [https://twitter.com/albaraka\\_news/status/476316155758403585](https://twitter.com/albaraka_news/status/476316155758403585)

<sup>105</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).



The three men sentenced to death

### ISIS Operations in Homs Province

- The ISIS in Homs Province published a monthly update documenting the operations that its members carried out against Alawite villages in the province.<sup>106</sup>



The banner of the organization's monthly update in Homs Province

### The Muslim Brotherhood Movement

- Dr. Haytham Rahma, the official spokesman for the "Commission for Civilian Protection", the military branch of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria, called on non-Syrian mujahideen to leave Syria and return to their countries. In an announcement that was published on the matter, he

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

expressed concern over the phenomenon of foreign fighters in Syria and emphasized that it only served the interests of the ISIS terrorist organization. He added that this trend was turning Syria into a haven for terrorists and a fertile ground for the dissemination of radical thought. He emphasized that the Syrian regime was considered a bitter enemy responsible for the spread of terrorism in the region. Finally, he noted that his organization was working to protect Syrian civilians.<sup>107</sup>



The announcement by the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria

### Other Jihadist Organizations

- The jihadist media institution of Sham Al-Islam, Al-Uqqab, published a video titled, “These are the ones Preserving the Covenant”<sup>108</sup>.

<sup>107</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>108</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



The video banner

### The Palestinian Authority – The West Bank

- A prominent visitor to the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum published regular reports regarding the abduction of three Israeli teenagers in Hebron on June 13, 2014. Most of the reports were copied from news sites but an official claim of responsibility for the abduction was published by a new Salafi-jihadist organization in the West Bank called “The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham Palestine – the West Bank”. In the announcement, the organization stated that the abduction was revenge for the killing of Mohammed Nayrokh, Mahmoud Al-Najar and Mousa Mokhamara, members of the organization, as well as an attempt to free prisoners. In addition, the full names and photos of the abducted teens were published before they were even released for publication by the Israeli media.<sup>109</sup>

### The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

*Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, a prominent jihadist organization in the Sinai Peninsula, tried to demonstrate that it is still alive and active following reports that the leader of the organization was killed (reports that were denied by the organization).*

*On June 9, 2014 gunmen opened fire at a military checkpoint in Al-Arish in the northern Sinai Peninsula. One civilian was killed in the attack and one soldier was injured, and a state of emergency was declared in the region. The attack took place as the elected President of Egypt, Abd al-Fatah al-Sisi, was being sworn in.<sup>110</sup>*

#### **Jaysh Al-Ummah**

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

<sup>110</sup> <http://thecairopost.com/news/114173/news/civilian-killed-soldier-injured-in-sinai-attack> (English).

- Jaysh Al-Ummah, a Salafi-jihadist organization operating in the Gaza Strip, published an announcement titled, “The Spread of Shia [Islam] in the Gaza Strip”. The announcement accused the Palestinian Islamic Jihad organization of collaborating with Iran and Hezbollah in order to spread Shia Islam in the Gaza Strip. Members of Jaysh Al-Ummah reacted angrily to these attempts, especially since the Palestinian Islamic Jihad was doing so via straw organizations that were established ad-hoc for this purpose.<sup>111</sup>

## The Maghreb [North Africa]

*In Libya, clashes escalated between Major General Khalifa Haftar and Islamist groups, and not only on the battlefield. On the one hand, Sadeq al-Ghariani, the head Mufti of Libya affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood, declared that anyone who fights alongside Haftar is an infidel and anyone killed while opposing him is a martyr.<sup>112</sup> On the other hand, Haftar himself promised to wipe out all of the “terrorist groups” operating in the country,<sup>113</sup> alongside similar declarations by the Prime Minister of Libya, Ahmed Maiteeq.<sup>114</sup>*

*In Tunisia, the government continued its counter-terrorism efforts. For instance, the Tunisian Minister of Interior, Lotfi Ben Jeddou, recommended expanding the army’s authority and enabling it to operate in cities in order to defeat terrorism. The suggestion was made at the same time as seven Ansar al-Sharia militants were sentenced to prison.<sup>115</sup>*

*Counter-terrorism efforts were also made in Algeria, where authorities detained a six-member terrorist cell near the border with Tunisia<sup>116</sup> and also made attempts to fight sources of terrorism funding, especially kidnapping ransoms.<sup>117</sup> On the other hand, these actions were taken while the Algerian government offered amnesty to thousands of Islamist prisoners under the “National Reconciliation Law”,<sup>118</sup> a step that raised Algerians’ concerns over the return of the*

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<sup>111</sup> <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>112</sup> [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/06/12/feature-01](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/06/12/feature-01) (English).

<sup>113</sup> <http://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=15062014&id=97b13df5-2452-4d6d-bd56-17c84938be3c>

<sup>114</sup> <http://www.elyaomnews.com/2014/06/08/arab-news/118713.html> (Arabic).

<sup>115</sup> <http://aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=12973&article=774501> (Arabic).

<sup>116</sup> <http://www.alwasat.ly/ar/news/tunis/22545> (Arabic).

<sup>117</sup> <http://www.echoroukonline.com/ara/articles/207423.html> (Arabic).

<sup>118</sup> <http://www.alarabonline.org/?id=25383> (Arabic).

*Islamic Salvation Front to the political arena in Algeria.*<sup>119</sup>

*In Morocco, King Muhammad VI declared a support program to prevent religious extremism in mosques.*<sup>120</sup> *The announcement came alongside the continued collaboration between Morocco and other countries in counter-terrorism efforts. On June 5, Morocco approved a security cooperation agreement with Qatar, including the exchange of security information and experience to combat terrorism and organized crime.*<sup>121</sup> *This step followed the signing of an agreement between Morocco and Azerbaijan for cooperation in emergency situations, including terrorist attacks.*<sup>122</sup>

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

- During the second half of May 2014, the jihadist media institution of the AQIM, Al-Andalus, published the following:
  - A video titled, “Message from a French Prisoner” named Serge Lazarivic, who was captured by the organization, in which he called on French President Francois Holland to invest more efforts for the sake of his release from captivity. In November 2011, AQIM militants kidnapped two French citizens from a hotel in northeast Mali, Philippe Verdon and Serge Lazarivic, who were visiting the area for work purposes. In March 2013, the organization announced that it had executed Philippe Verdon while the fate of the second captive remained a mystery. The above-mentioned video was the first proof of life from Serge Lazarivic. In addition to his appeal to the President of France, the captive also discussed his poor health in captivity.<sup>123</sup>



**The announcement banner**

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<sup>119</sup> [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/06/12/feature-03](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/06/12/feature-03) (English).

<sup>120</sup> <http://www.albawabhnews.com/634595> (Arabic).

<sup>121</sup> <http://www.hespress.com/politique/226151.html> (Arabic).

<sup>122</sup> <http://www.almaghribia.ma/News/Article.asp?idr=7&id=187565> (Arabic).

<sup>123</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- A claim of responsibility for the attempted assassination of Lutfi Bin Jeddo, the Tunisian Minister of Interior, at his home on May 28, 2014. The organization also claimed responsibility for an attack against Tunisian army forces that was carried out in August of last year that killed eight soldiers. In addition, the organization promised that even though it was not successful in its attempt to assassinate the Minister of Interior this time, it would surely be successful in its next attempt. The announcement also stated that even though Tunisia was the country in which the Arab Spring revolutions began, the new government was continuing in the path of the previous government by fighting against Islam and Muslims. It accused the Tunisian government of a series of illegal actions, such as banning the operation of Ansar Al-Sharia, adding it to the list of terrorist organizations, and executing military attacks against the mujahideen who cannot remain indifferent in the face of this persecution and are forced to defend themselves. AQIM explained that it intended to attack only those who take an aggressive stance against the organization and not the innocent Tunisian nation.<sup>124</sup>

### ***Other Jihadist Organizations***

- Jihad fighters in Tunisia published a video that documented the Tunisian police allegedly harassing Muslim women, destroying mosques and arresting innocent Muslims.<sup>125</sup>
- The Al-Battar Brigade, a jihadist organization operating in Libya and affiliated with the ISIS, published a death notice for one of its members, Mahdi Sa'ad Abu al-Abyadh al-Ghaithi. In the announcement, which was published on June 9, the organization accused the Abu Salim Martyrs Brigade of his murder and threatened to avenge his death.<sup>126</sup>

## **Egypt**

### ***Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis***

- Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, which operates in Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula, published a video titled, “Battle of Revenge for the Muslims of Egypt #3”. The video described an attack against the

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<sup>124</sup> <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>125</sup> <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>126</sup> <https://twitter.com/Albattarly/status/476166307617202176> (Arabic).

Egyptian Intelligence Headquarters in Ismaïlia that was carried out in October of last year. As a justification for the attack, the video presented a statement made by US Army General Martin Dempsey regarding cooperation between the US and the Egyptian Army. In addition, the video showed photographs of the headquarters before the operation, the mapped-out plan for the operation, and a video from the day of the attack itself, which was carried out by a militant named Abu Usama al-Misri.<sup>127</sup>

## **Nigeria**

### ***Boko Haram***

*Boko Haram militants continued to attack villages near the Nigeria-Cameroon border. In the beginning of June 2014, they attacked four villages in northeast Nigeria and killed dozens of people. The continuation of this trend and the increasing threat to Nigeria's security led to the decision by the British government to hold a conference on ways to cope with the terrorist organization. Representatives from the United States, Canada, the EU, Nigeria and its neighbors, including Chad, participated in the conference.*<sup>128</sup>

## **Somalia**

*Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, continued to be the dominant jihadist force in Somalia and, like the others, did not carry out many terrorist attacks recently.*

*Mohammed Said Atom, a prominent militant and former senior leader of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, surrendered himself to the government of Somalia on June 7, 2014. At a press conference, Atom claimed that he could no longer tolerate the conduct of the leader of the organization, Godane, who was continuously killing innocent people. Atom added that the fact that he left Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen did not mean that he was leaving Islam or jihad. His surrender was welcomed by the government of Somalia, which called it a "brave act".*<sup>129</sup>

*Meanwhile, reports circulated that Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen was planning to carry out*

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

<sup>128</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2014/06/140605\\_boko\\_haram\\_crisis\\_preachers\\_kil\\_dozens.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/worldnews/2014/06/140605_boko_haram_crisis_preachers_kil_dozens.shtml) (Arabic).

<sup>129</sup> [http://sabahionline.com/en\\_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2014/06/09/feature-01](http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2014/06/09/feature-01) (English).

attacks in Djibouti, which borders Somalia from the southeast. Among other things, it seems that Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen was planning to attack Western targets in the country, according to the Foreign Ministry.<sup>130</sup>

## China

- During the first half of June 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Turkestan Islamic Party, Sawt al-Islam, published the following:
  - A video in Uyghur in which it claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack at a train station in the city of Ürümqi in western China at the end of April 2014.<sup>131</sup> One was person was killed in the attack and 79 others were injured.



The video banner

- A video titled, “Blessings for the Foreign [Fighters]”.<sup>132</sup>

## The West

- Sheikh Anjem Choudary, a radical Islamic preacher in England, continued to publish controversial correspondence on his Twitter account. For example, he called on the British people to help Muslims implement shari’a in the future caliphate to be built on British soil.<sup>133</sup> He also published a link to an interview that he gave to an Italian magazine in which he

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<sup>130</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/12/somali-insurgents-al-shabaab-planning-attacks-djibouti> (English).

<sup>131</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>132</sup> <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

<sup>133</sup> <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary/status/475322051033825281> (English).

discussed how Muslims were going to take over Rome and overcome those who were trying to fight terrorism.<sup>134</sup>



**Choudary's message to the British people on his Twitter account**

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<sup>134</sup> <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary/status/476719568833224704> (English).  
<http://www.imolaoggi.it/2014/06/11/imam-di-londra-porteremo-la-sharia-fino-a-roma-e-in-europa-ci-saranno-attentati/> (Italian).

## 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.

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