

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The Second Half of April 2014

Highlights

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

- In a new video, Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri acknowledges that foreign powers, such as the Syrian regime, may try to break into the ranks of various jihadist organizations in Syria in order to sow seeds of division among them. For this reason, he calls [on jihadist organizations] to maintain unity among the ranks and to avoid shedding the blood of jihad fighters.
- The trend of mutual accusations and arguments continues between the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) and supporters of Al-Qaeda, and the Al-Nusra Front and its supporters. Abu Qatada al-Filastini and other supporters of the Al-Qaeda leadership accuse the ISIS of distorting the principle of jihad and spilling the blood of innocent Muslims. Al-Adnani, spokesman for the ISIS, accuses Al-Qaeda of betraying the principles of the organization and its founders, including Ibn Laden, by submitting to secular powers and cooperating with them and their attempts to destroy the vision of establishing an Islamic state and caliphate.

Against the backdrop of this rift, Sheikh Mokhtar Belmokhtar, leader of Al-Murabitun and a member of the organization's Shura Council operating in the Sahara in the Maghreb, declares his oath of allegiance to Ayman al-Zawahiri.

- A new Salafi-jihadist organization called the "Ma'an Martyrs Brigade" swears allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS, and calls for the start of a jihad campaign against the Jordanian regime.
- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen members in Somalia threaten to carry out additional terrorist attacks such as the one carried out by members of the organization at the Westgate Mall in Kenya. In addition, they call on believers to immigrate to Somalia in order to join the ranks and fulfil the commandment to wage jihad.

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New Publications

Ideology

- The Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published a two-part interview with the leader of Al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, titled “The Reality – Between Pain and Hope”,¹ in which he grappled with queries on the following topics:
 - Regarding jihad waged by Al-Qaeda today against the United States, al-Zawahiri announced that, despite the death of several leaders in the organization, Al-Qaeda will still have the upper hand in the long run in its war against the United States.
 - Regarding the conflicts and rivalries among jihadist organizations in Syria, al-Zawahiri raised the possibility that foreign elements – perhaps even those connected to the regime – had penetrated some of the organizations in order to drive a wedge between them and divert them from the correct path. In addition, Al-Zawahiri again noted that the only solution to the disagreements among the organizations is the establishment of independent shari’a [Islamic law] courts to arbitrate between them. He added that every jihad fighter must demonstrate personal responsibility and, if his Emir commands him to attack other jihad fighters, to disobey the command.
 - Regarding the rift between Al-Qaeda and the ISIS, al-Zawahiri explained that Al-Qaeda aspires, first and foremost, to attack the United States and to avoid harming innocent people. In addition, he criticized the declaration of an Islamic state without prior notice and added that it would require broad popular support in order to succeed.
 - Regarding the situation in Egypt, al-Zawahiri said that the presidential elections and al-Sisi’s candidacy constituted “a crime that must be fought against” and welcomed the actions undertaken against the Egyptian army. Nevertheless, he noted that such actions must be carried out within the guidelines of shari’a and in a manner that avoids alienating the public from jihad fighters.
 - Regarding methods of freeing imprisoned jihad fighters, al-Zawahiri recommended capturing Westerners, especially Americans, in order to carry out prisoner exchanges.

¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytbjtbnRqbA>

- During the second month of April 2014, the jihadist institution of the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, Al-Battar, published the following:
 - An article titled, “For the Stability and Survival of the Islamic State (Part I): The Role of Aid Providers” (11 pp.), written by Sheikh Abu Saad al-Amili, a very prominent writer on jihadist Web forums. The article opened with praise from al-Amili for the efforts of the ISIS to establish an Islamic state in Iraq and Syria. According to him, conditions in the field are ripe for the establishment of an Islamic state: the presence of land area, residents, soldiers and leadership. According to him, another factor essential to the existence of an Islamic state is the local population’s support of the mujahideen, which is supposed to manifest itself in several ways including the allocation of human and material resources. According to him, this factor is sustainable and unique to the ISIS. Al-Amili then discussed at length the various roles that can be undertaken by supporters of the mujahideen, who he described as “soldiers harboring a tremendous capacity to alter the course of events [...] they are soldiers of a new kind that the enemy does not consider and is unable to expose or destroy [...]”. For example, he emphasized the importance of supporting jihadist propaganda and of aiding jihadist media institutions, providing logistical support to the mujahideen in arenas of jihad, engaging in espionage and reconnaissance of the enemy and its institutions, etc.²
 - An article titled, “Religious Legal Insights for the Destruction of the Idol of Democracy” by Sheikh Abu Saad al-Amili, a very prominent writer on jihadist Web forums. The article stated that the democratic form of government is a contradiction of Islam according to Islamic law.³
- The jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Basira, published a video titled, “The Path of the Righteous Ancestors of Islam – Part 3” by Dr. Sami al-Aridi, a member of the Shari’a Council of the Al-Nusra Front.⁴

Al-Qaeda’s Internal Rift

² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁴ https://twitter.com/Albasira_jn (Arabic).

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 an order given by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri to retract the declaration that he made in 2013 (in which he appointed himself Emir of the ISIS and announced its annexation of the Al-Nusra Front, an affiliate of Al-Qaeda in Syria) and focus 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 his 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 during the second half of April 2014 as a result of this rift.

- The jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Basira, published a letter by Abu Qatada al-Filastini titled, "To Jihad Fighters and Their Loved Ones", in which he criticized the ISIS leadership for waging jihad against fellow Muslims. In addition, he thanked Al-Nusra Front members for their advocacy efforts in demonstrating the mistakes made by the ISIS leadership.⁵

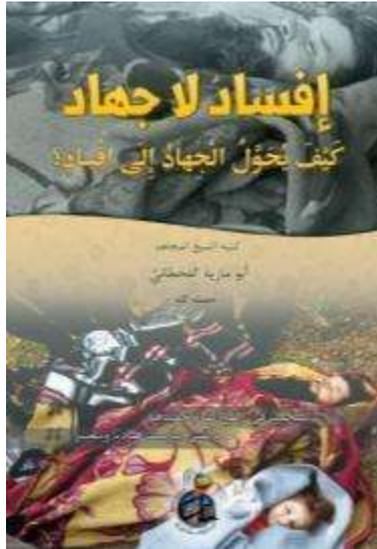
⁵ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).



The article banner

- The jihadist media group, Nukhbat al-‘Ilam al-Jihadi, published an article titled, “Corruption, not Jihad...How was Jihad Corrupted?” (20 pp.) by Sheikh Abu Mariya al-Qahtani, a member of the Shari’a Council of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria. In the article, al-Qahtani harshly criticized the ISIS for corrupting the course of jihad by imposing takfir (the practice of one Muslim declaring another an unbeliever) on any Muslim who does not fit into its worldview, and for harming innocent Muslims. Al-Qahtani included quotes from former senior members of Al-Qaeda who were killed, including Atiyah Allah al-Libi, which emphasized the importance of avoiding shedding the blood of Muslims.⁶

⁶ <https://nokbah.com/~w3/?p=4470> (Arabic).



The article banner

- Sheikh Khalid Abu Abbas, also known as Mokhtar Belmokhtar, a council member of Al-Murabitun and leader of the organization in the Sahara region of the Maghreb, declared his allegiance to Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri and his commitment to adhere to his orders. This announcement was published against the backdrop of the deepening rift between Al-Qaeda and the ISIS, and the damage [it has created] to the authority of its leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri.⁷



- The Al-Furqan jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the ISIS, published a recorded speech by the organization's spokesperson, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, in which he harshly attacked the Al-Qaeda leadership. After reviewing the history of jihad in Iraq and the establishment of the ISIS, al-Adnani voiced his criticism of the Al-Qaeda leadership and claimed that it had deviated from the correct path. Al-Adnani also explained that Al-Qaeda is no longer

⁷ <https://twitter.com/SGHURABAA> (Arabic).

what it used to be in light of the support that it receives from the Lightening Councils and from secular parties. Al-Adnani even noted that the Al-Qaeda leadership has become “an axe whose job it is to destroy the project of an Islamic state and caliphate” and accused the organization of adopting the ways of peace and populism. At the same time, al-Adnani rejected accusations according to which ISIS members were Kharijites (a Muslim secessionist sect) and claimed that the allegations were baseless. Towards the end of his speech, al-Adnani announced that despite attempts to get the ISIS to change and even withdraw from Syria back to Iraq, the organization would remain loyal to the path of Osama bin Laden and Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi: fighting against infidels and tyrants.⁸

- During the second month of April 2014, the Tarjuman al-Asawirti jihadist media institution published the following:
 - A video titled, “The Islamic State, We Fought Against the Exaggerators [in Religion], What is this Heresy?”, in which it criticized statements that were made against the ISIS by Sheikh Abu Mariya al-Harari, a member of the Shura Council of the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda’s affiliate in Syria.⁹
 - An audio clip by Abu Jarir al-Shamali, a fighter from Afghanistan who apparently left central Al-Qaeda and declared his support for the ISIS, in which he praised the ISIS for its adherence to the correct path and rejected the allegations that have been directed at the organization.¹⁰
- During the second month of April 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, Al-Battar, published the following regarding the above-mentioned rift:
 - An article titled, “A Warning Call to Al-Qaeda Affiliates” by Ahlam al-Nasr in which he expressed regret over attempts by enemies of Islam, especially the West and Gulf rulers, to harm the ISIS and destroy the organization’s vision of establishing an Islamic state. According to him, there is nothing wrong with establishing an Islamic state and anyone who criticizes this vision, including Al-Qaeda, is mistaken. In light of this, al-Nasr called on Al-Qaeda affiliates to re-examine their position regarding the ISIS and not blindly

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

⁹ <https://twitter.com/AsawirtiMedia> (Arabic).

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/AsawirtiMedia/status/456625108589617152> (Arabic).

follow the position of Al-Qaeda. According to him, Al-Qaeda affiliates must support the ISIS and its vision of establishing an Islamic state.¹¹

- An article titled, “To the Wise Ones in the [Al-Qaeda] Organization” by Abu al-Muhnid al-Urduni, a jihad fighter in Afghanistan, in which he addressed Al-Qaeda and its affiliates and expressed distress over their attitude and aberrant conduct towards the ISIS. According to him, the real enemy is not the ISIS and, therefore, he urged them to renounce their policy against the ISIS.¹²
- An article titled, “Assistance for the Islamic State by al-Azdi: A Letter to the Sages and the Mujahideen, and all Muslims Regarding Events in Syria and Iraq” by Sheikh Abu Abdullah al-Azdi, a jihad fighter from the Arabian Peninsula. In the article, al-Azdi explained why it was important to build an Islamic state under the leadership of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.¹³
- An article by Abu Saad al-Najdi against Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri’s criticism of the ISIS.¹⁴
- A video titled, “Exposing the Shame of the Deserters: Testimony from Abu Abd al-Wahhab al-Muhajir”. The video recounted the testimony of a jihad fighter in Syria about the efforts of the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda’s affiliate in Syria, to harm ISIS fighters and accused it of trying to thwart the establishment of an Islamic State.¹⁵



The video banner

¹¹ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹² https://twitter.com/AL_Bttaar (Arabic).

¹³ https://twitter.com/AL_Bttaar (Arabic).

¹⁴ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁵ https://twitter.com/AL_Bttaar (Arabic).

- A written interview with Salah al-Din al-Maqdisi, brother of Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a senior member of the Salafi jihadist movement imprisoned in Jordan. During the short interview, Salah al-Din al-Maqdisi recounted his experiences in the arenas of jihad and called on the Muslim Nation to support the ISIS in order to establish an Islamic caliphate that operates according to shari'a (Islamic law).¹⁶



Salah al-Din al-Maqdisi

- The Al-'Itisam jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the ISIS, published a video titled, "The Path to Glory" that included a meeting with a militant named Sadaam al-Jamai who had previously served as commander of the Eastern Front in Syria on behalf of the Free Syrian Army before he became religious and joined the ISIS. In the video, al-Jamal accused the Al-Nusra Front of collaborating with the Free Syrian Army and the West, and he praised the ISIS. The second part of the video included an overview of the operation to free prisoners who, according to the organization, were captured by the Al-Nusra Front in Bukamal in eastern Syria near the border with Iraq.¹⁷

¹⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



The video banner

- A visitor to the Al-Platform Media jihadist Web forum, which announced its support for the ISIS, wrote that following the death of the organization's prominent leaders – Osama bin Laden, Sheikh Atiya Allah and Sheikh Abu Yahya al-Libi – new leaders arose in the organization who do not completely represent the path of their predecessors. In a collection of articles, he attacked the current leadership of Al-Qaeda, especially Hussam Abd al-Rauf.¹⁸
- Supporters of the ISIS announced their support for the jihadist Web forums, Al-Minbar al-Ilami al-Jihadi and Shmukh Al-Islam, due to their support for the organization and stated that they were withdrawing their support from other forums.¹⁹

Strategy

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum started a discussion regarding attacks against the State of Israel. Among other things, the visitor noted that despite the presence of many jihadist movements in Syria, not even one rocket had been fired at the Golan during three years of fighting. Another visitor replied that the outbreak of fighting on several fronts does not serve the purposes of jihad, in Syria in particular and on other fronts in general.²⁰

¹⁸ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

²⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

- Visitors to the Hanein jihadist Web forum held a discussion regarding programs and methods that enable the tracking of a cell phone and read the user’s messages. Several visitors noted that they use outdated cell phones in order to avoid tracking programs that can be planted in smartphones.²¹

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- A visitor to the Al-Minbar al-Ilami al-Jihadi jihadist Web forum published Part 7 of the “Jihadist Encyclopedia”, including religious and military articles.²²

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The Al-Malahim jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with AQAP, published a video in memory of the martyr, Zaid al-Daghari (aka Abu al-Baraa’), in which al-Daghari was praised for the virtues and religious education that led him to join the training camps of the mujahideen in Yemen. The video particularly emphasized al-Daghari’s ability to prepare explosives and post ambushes, actions that he continued to carry out until he was killed in a shooting during clashes with Yemeni security forces.²³



The martyr, Zaid al-Daghari

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

²² <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

²³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum opened a page dedicated to the memory of Libyan ISIS militants who were killed in Syria and Iraq. A photo was posted for each martyr under which his name was listed along with the operation in which he was killed.²⁴



Libyan ISIS martyrs

- The Shabab al-Tawhid jihadist media group launched a new series of biographies of martyrs titled, “The Martyrs of Tawhid in Tunisia”. The first biography was dedicated to the martyr, Hilmi al-Rataybi.²⁵



The banner of Hilmi al-Rataybi’s biography

- Palestinian Salafi-jihadist supporters from the Gaza Strip affiliated with the ISIS published a video in memory of an ISIS member of Palestinian origin named Abu Musab al-Maqdisi who was killed on Syrian soil.²⁶

²⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁵ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁶ <https://twitter.com/dawlanoor> (Arabic).



The video banner

Magazines

- The fourth and fifth editions of the jihadist magazine, *Hasad al-Jihad*, was published, which addressed issues of jihad in the Egyptian arena.²⁷
- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic Party of Turkestan, Sawt al-Islam, published the 14th edition (54 pp.) of its jihadist magazine, *Islamic Turkestan*, in Arabic. The current edition discussed the need to intensify jihad against China, terrorist attacks that were carried out by the organization against targets in China, the demonization of the Chinese regime, and more.²⁸



The edition banner

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

²⁸ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

In Afghanistan, the winds continue to rage surrounding the democratic elections taking place in the country for the first time. It was recently reported that there would be a second round of elections in which Abdullah, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Ashraf Ghani, a former economist at the World Bank. The second round was expected to take place on June 7, 2014.²⁹

On April 30, 2014, Afghani soldiers, assisted by Western air forces, killed 60 gunmen near the Pakistan border. According to Afghani security sources, the gunmen who were killed were members of the Haqqani network, a radical Islamic group affiliated with the Taliban engaged in armed combat against the Afghan government. The incident began when 300 gunmen from the group tried to break into an army base in the Ziruk area.³⁰

Meanwhile, on April 16, 2014 the Taliban in Pakistan announced the end of a ceasefire with the government. After a 40-day ceasefire, it was decided not to extend it but a spokesman for the Taliban claimed that there was still room for talks with the government.³¹ One week later, Pakistani air forces attacked a terrorist hiding base (according to the Pakistanis) in the Khyber tribal region, killing 37 people.³²

The Taliban in Pakistan (TTP)

- The Umar Media jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the Taliban in Pakistan, published a video titled, “Lions of Mohmand 8” about the media war being waged by the West against Islam. Among other things, the video blamed the West for trying to distort the image of the mujahideen in order to create a rift among the Muslim Nation.³³

²⁹<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/26/us-afghanistan-election-results-idUSBREA3P0F020140426> (English).

³⁰<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/30/us-afghanistan-insurgents-idUSBREA3T05X20140430> (English).

³¹<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/16/us-pakistan-taliban-ceasefire-idUSBREA3F15X20140416> (English).

³²<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/southasia/2014/04/scores-killed-deadly-pakistan-attack-201442415844299216.html> (English).

³³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://worldanalysis.net/14/2014/05/english-text-tehrik-taliban-pakistan-lions-mohmand-8> (English).

- The Taliban in Pakistan published a statement in which it announced the end of a ceasefire with the government in light of the latter's non-compliance with its commitments. In the announcement, the Taliban accused the government of killing 50 militants, torturing prisoners and conducting raids across the country.³⁴

The Arabian Peninsula

The Yemeni regime has shown itself to have the upper hand in its war against AQAP militants especially due to its use of drones. On April 20, 2014, 25 members of AQAP were killed in a drone strike on the organization's training camps in Abyan Province in southern Yemen.³⁵ The next day another series of air strikes in Abyan was reported, in which 55 AQAP militants were killed.³⁶

Despite these successes, the trend of assassinations of senior Yemeni security forces by AQAP has intensified, especially in the capital of Saana, despite the top security committee's decision to prohibit the movement and sale of motorbikes in the capital several months ago. For example, the assassination of two Yemeni intelligence officers in Saana was reported on April 21, 2014. The officers had been responsible for the investigation of assassinations in Saana that took place over the last two years by unknown assailants riding motorbikes. The next day, unknown assailants assassinated two more senior officials in the Yemeni military police.³⁷ Since Abd Rabbuh Mansur al-Hadi was appointed the President of Yemen in February 2013, 289 officers and senior officials from Yemen's military, security and intelligence forces have been killed by members of the organization.³⁸

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- The jihadist media institution of AQAP, Al-Malahem, published an audio clip by a commander in the organization named Jalal al-Marqashi (aka Hamza al-Zinjibari) in response to the latest American attack in Yemen.³⁹ In the announcement, al-Marqashi denied that an AQAP

³⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁵ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140420_yemen_new_drone_raid_shtml (Arabic).

³⁶ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/04/yemeni-launches-offensive-against-al-qaeda-201442981250135195.html>

³⁷ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140422_yemen_policeman_killed.shtml (Arabic).

³⁸ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140421_yemen_alqaeda_attacks.shtml (Arabic).

³⁹ www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/20/us-yemen-violence-idUSBREA3J0K420140420

commander had been killed in the bombing, as was reported in the media. At the end of the announcement, al-Marqashi sent a threatening message to Britain and the United States.⁴⁰

Iraq

Terrorist attacks against various targets continue in Iraq: in northern Iraq, 12 soldiers were killed in an attack on an army base⁴¹ and dozens of people were killed in Baghdad in several attacks,⁴² including a suicide attack at a religious college in the north of the capital⁴³ and an explosion at an election center in a mostly Shi'ite region.⁴⁴

Meanwhile, on April 27, Iraqi attack helicopters carried out an attack in eastern Syria against a convoy of fuel tankers and trucks that were transporting ISIS militants. This was the first time that Iraqi military forces attacked in Syria in an operation whose goal – according to the spokesman of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, Brigadier General Sa'd Ma'an Ibrahim – was to prevent the convoy from entering Iraq and prevent the supply of fuel to gunmen in Al-Anbar Province.⁴⁵

The Prime Minister of Iraq himself, Nouri al-Maliki, addressed the situation in Syria and claimed that his country, and every other country calling for a war on terrorism, must intervene and fight against Al-Qaeda and the Al-Nusra Front in Syria.⁴⁶ Al-Maliki also accused Saudi Arabia and the Arab League of spilling blood in Syria. In addition, al-Maliki explained that in his opinion, the Free Syrian Army no longer exists and that every weapon transferred to the Syrian opposition eventually reached the terrorists and were even transferred to Iraq.⁴⁷

As expected, the current election (which demonstrated a greater abundance of parties and candidates than in the 2010 election⁴⁸) was a focus of jihadist discourse during the end of April. Therefore, despite the many security efforts made,⁴⁹ the fear of attacks on polling stations came true: at least 20 people were killed and 48 others were injured in various attacks on election centers

⁴⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴¹ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140417_iraq_military_attack.shtml (Arabic).

⁴² http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/04/140421_iraq_attacks.shtml (Arabic).

⁴³ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140420_iraq_violence_collage.shtml (Arabic).

⁴⁴ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140425_iraq_blast_rally.shtml (Arabic).

⁴⁵ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140427_iraqi_attack_syrian_convoy.shtml (Arabic).

⁴⁶ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/04/140425_iraq_maliki_syria_terror.shtml (Arabic).

⁴⁷ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140425_maliki_interview_bbc_arabic.shtml (Arabic).

⁴⁸ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/04/140430_iraq_elections_videowall.shtml (Arabic).

⁴⁹ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/04/140430_iraq_security.shtml (Arabic).

in Baghdad and Kirkuk.⁵⁰

The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham

- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) published a speech regarding the elections in Iraq in which it stated that the infidel regime had decided to move the elections to schools and force teachers to oversee the election process. The ISIS repeated its position regarding democratic elections: it is an act of heresy and paganism that allows for the establishment of a regime that does not adhere to the path of Allah. Therefore, the ISIS turns to all officials in the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture, and calls on them to stay away from places where elections are taking place in order to keep out of harm's way.⁵¹
- During the second half of April 2014, the ISIS in Diyala Province published several announcements on its Twitter account, including:
 - A claim of responsibility for a suicide attack at a training camp for soldiers in the Iraqi army near the town of Balad Ruz in the center of the province. According to the organization, over 50 people were killed and injured in the attack, vehicles were destroyed and damage was caused to the building.⁵²
 - A file containing reports about its military operations in the province, which included: a small-arms attack against police officers and a bomb explosion against supporters of the Iraqi army.⁵³
- During the second half of April 2014, the ISIS in Nineveh Province published several announcements on its Twitter account, including:
 - A claim of responsibility for an attack that was carried out on April 16 against the company headquarters of the Iraqi army south of Mosul. After laying siege to the building and shooting at it with small-arms and light weapons, militants blew up the building using explosives, and destroyed and stole several military vehicles, and the entire building went up in flames. According to the announcement, at least 12 members

⁵⁰ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140428_iraq_violence_elections.shtml (Arabic).

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

⁵² <https://twitter.com/diyala1435/status/456741577935712257>

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

of the military forces were killed.⁵⁴

- An announcement regarding the invasion that its members carried out in Nineveh Province. The announcement stated that, according to the instructions of the military wing and as part of a series of invasions in the province, members of the organization invaded the province from south of Mosul, attacked approximately 60 soldiers at a secret army base in the region, and even managed to seize military plunder.⁵⁵
- A file containing reports about its military operations in the province, including: an attack against Iraqi soldiers and the throwing of grenades at a military structure.⁵⁶
- A list summarizing the organization's operations in February 2014. The report detailed 487 operations in chronological order, including the bombing of military vehicles and shooting at military and police posts.⁵⁷
- The ISIS in southern Iraq published on its Twitter account an announcement regarding the placing of ballots at schools and the appointment of teachers to oversee the voting process. In the announcement, the organization attacked the government and explained its complete opposition to the democratic process, which it called "paganism". At the end of the announcement, the organization called on school faculty members to avoid taking part in the elections since anyone who participates in the election is a legitimate target for the ISIS.⁵⁸
- The ISIS in Baghdad published a claim of responsibility for a terrorist attack that took place at Al-Kazem University. The announcement stated that ISIS militants had broken into the university, which is affiliated with the Shi'ite movement in Iraq, in response to the regime's acts of aggression against Sunni Muslims in the country. The two suicide bombers who broke into the university wore explosive belts and detonated themselves in the heart of the place where heresy was being taught.⁵⁹
- The ISIS in Al-Anbar Province in Iraq published a file containing reports about its military operations in the province, including: the blowing up of military vehicles and the bombing of an

⁵⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁵⁶ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁷ <https://twitter.com/Nnewsi/status/460825598529929216> (Arabic).

⁵⁸ https://twitter.com/jnob_isis/status/457844475252207616 (Arabic).

⁵⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

army base using rockets.⁶⁰

- The ISIS in Salah-A-Din Province published an announcement in which it called on residents of the province not to participate in elections as such an act constitutes heresy; the announcements that were allegedly distributed by the ISIS calling for participation in elections were fake.⁶¹
- The ISIS in Kirkuk Province in Iraq published a file containing reports about its military operations in the province, including: the killing of an Iraqi intelligence officer and the bombing of an Iraqi army base.⁶²

Other jihadist organizations

- Ansar Al-Islam published a claim of responsibility for several operations, including: an assault on police forces in Baghdad using hand grenades on April 15,⁶³ the detonation of an explosive device on an army vehicle in Kirkuk on April 9,⁶⁴ and the destruction of an army vehicle and its occupants in Salah al-Din Province on April 22.⁶⁵
- The jihadist media institution, Army of the Men of the Naqshbandi Order, published a video (no. 185) that included a description of the training undertaken by members of the organization as well as documentation of several rocket attacks that were carried out against army bases in Iraq.⁶⁶

Al-Sham [The Levant]

The conflict between the ISIS and the Al-Nusra Front was again seen during the second half of April 2014 with the murder of Abu Muhammad al-Ansari, Emir of the Al-Nusra Front in Idlib Province in northwest Syria. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), four ISIS militants

⁶⁰ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶¹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁶³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

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

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

killed al-Ansari along with his wife, daughter and other family members.⁶⁷

Meanwhile, the ISIS in Al-Raqqah Province executed 12 people and hung two of them on a cross.⁶⁸ Despite the fact that Al-Raqqah is considered an ISIS stronghold, several announcements published towards the end of April indicated that some ISIS commanders in Al-Raqqah had retreated to Iraq.⁶⁹ The retreat had taken place at the same time as a campaign started by several human rights activists under the heading “Raqqah is Being Slaughtered Silently” in protest against the rigid rule of the ISIS in the province, which includes random arrests, public flogging and executions.⁷⁰

Against the backdrop of this weakening of the ISIS, and in light of the growing conflict between the Syrian opposition and all its factions (together with weakening pressure from the West), it seems that the Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad, has a strong chance of staying of power. His confidence in the stability of his regime even led him to declare that presidential elections would take place on June 3, 2014,⁷¹ a step that drew criticism from both the Arab League and the American government.⁷² Additional evidence of Assad’s confidence can be found in the continued use of explosive barrels,⁷³ and even chemical weapons,⁷⁴ against civilians. Therefore, it seems that the most likely scenario is an ongoing war of attrition in which the regime has the upper hand most of the time and in most places.⁷⁵

The Al-Nusra Front in Syria

- During the second half of April 2014, the jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manarah Al-Bayda, published the following:
 - A video documenting the organization’s siege of the Al-Masbah checkpoint in Khan Shaykhun in western Syria. The video showed the planning and implementation of the operation, which included artillery fire at the checkpoint, the launch of Kornet rockets at

⁶⁷ <http://www.alquds.com/news/article/view/id/499755> (Arabic).

⁶⁸ <http://www.alquds.com/news/article/view/id/499755> (Arabic).

⁶⁹ <http://www.elaph.com/Web/News/2014/4/898787.html> (Arabic).

⁷⁰ <http://www.dp-news.com/pages/detail.aspx?articleid=162337>

⁷¹ <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/04/21/world/meast/syria-civil-war> (English).

⁷² http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140421_syria_elections_est_concern.shtml (Arabic).

⁷³ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/04/140428_uk_bbc_aleppo_destruction.shtml (Arabic).

⁷⁴ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2014/04/140422_syria_chemical_weapones.shtml (Arabic).

⁷⁵ http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/04/140415_assad_syria_conflict.shtml (Arabic).

a tank and the sending of armed forces to take control of the checkpoint.⁷⁶

- A video documenting the containment and elimination of Syrian auxiliary policemen in Daraa.⁷⁷
- A video documenting the Al-Nusra Front militants fighting and taking control of western Al-Tal al-Ahmar near Quneitra.⁷⁸
- An official statement titled, “An Explanation of the Issue Concerning the Al-Raqqah Revolutionary Brigade”. According to the statement, about six months ago members of the Al-Raqqah Revolutionary Brigade joined the Al-Nusra Front and expressed their willingness to study shari’a and commit to the principles of the Al-Nusra Front. After the ISIS attacked and the organization was forced to withdraw from Al-Raqqah, contact with it was lost. Therefore, the Al-Nusra Front declared the cessation of all organizational ties with the Al-Raqqah Revolutionary Brigade.⁷⁹
- The English text to a video titled, “This is Their Way: Uncovering the Details of the Assassination of Amir Abu Muhammad Fateh and his Family Members”.⁸⁰
- An announcement regarding various military operations that were carried out by members of the organization against Syrian regime forces. One of the announcements (no. 484) described, in detail, the plan for a raid that members of the organization carried out in order to seize control of an area in Homs, during which 70 Syrian security forces were killed.⁸¹
- During the second 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:
 - A video (no. 77); the removal and neutralization of an unexploded missile in Hama in an effort to prevent injuries and damage.⁸²

⁷⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁷ <https://twitter.com/JabhtAnNusrah> (Arabic).

⁷⁸ <https://twitter.com/JabhtAnNusrah> (Arabic).

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

⁸⁰ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸¹ <https://twitter.com/JabhtAnNusrah> (Arabic).

⁸² https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/458220981476003840 (Arabic).

- A video (no. 78); the restarting of agricultural irrigation systems in Dayr al-Zour.⁸³
- In an announcement attributed to the Al-Nusra Front in Dayr al-Zour in Syria, it stated that the ISIS was carrying out operations against Muslims in the area in collaboration with the heretical regime of Bashar al-Assad. It also accused the ISIS of murdering innocent people in Alboukmal.⁸⁴
- Sheikh Abu Mohammed al-Ansari, leader of the Al-Nusra Front in Idlib Province in northwest Syria was assassinated along with his wife and children in Ras Al-Husn by the Jamal Maruf group.⁸⁵
- The Central Shari'a Board in the Eastern Region, which appears to serve the Al-Nusra Front, published a video of an execution of a man accused of murder that was carried out in the city of Mayadin in eastern Syria. In the video, the narrator explained that the execution was carried out in accordance with shari'a in order to prevent an act of vengeance against the killer's family.⁸⁶

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

- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS), Al-'Itisam, published a video (Part 9) in a series of publications titled, "The Series of Life". The video addressed a speech given by Sheikh Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the initial leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq who was killed in 2006, regarding the need to establish an Islamic state and the struggle against all those who oppose its establishment.⁸⁷

⁸³ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency/status/459996698169720832 (Arabic).

⁸⁴ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

⁸⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



A clip from the video

- The ISIS in Al-Baraka Province, known as Al-Hasaka Province among ISIS militants in Syria, published the following:
 - An announcement in which the ISIS claimed that rumors that the organization kills any militant who becomes religious are untrue, and called on all militants affiliated with the Al-Nusra Front or its allies to distance themselves from the organization and lay down their weapons in order to ensure that harm does not befall them.⁸⁸
 - An announcement in which the ISIS called on all members of the Al-Nusra Front and other factions to repent and join the ISIS. The announcement stated that war between the factions only harms them and even noted that everyone is welcome to join the ISIS – including those who fear that al-Golani, leader of the Al-Nusra Front, will harm them if they leave.⁸⁹
- “Baqiya”, an unofficial jihadist media institution that serves the ISIS announced the broadcast of news updates on a daily basis about ISIS military, security-related and social activities. The first edition was published on April 21 and addressed the following topics: the oath of allegiance to the ISIS taken by various organizations, the driving back of Assad’s forces in Homs, clashes with army forces in Diyala Province in Iraq, and more.⁹⁰

⁸⁸ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

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



The banner of the jihadist media institution, “Baqiya”

- The ISIS published a report stating that the Sheikh Abd Al-Aziz Battalion, which operates in the northern Rif Homs region, had sworn allegiance to the ISIS.⁹¹

Other Jihadist Organizations

- The jihadist organization, Failaq al-Sham, which was founded on March 10 in Aleppo as a result of the merger of 19 factions,⁹² published a video that described its achievements and successes after a month of operations. Among the operations were: shooting at Shabiha strongholds in Talbiseh, in Homs Province; artillery fire at the Al-Madajin checkpoint in Hama Province; and the launch of Grad rockets at forces loyal to the Assad regime in Bahlouiyeh and Qardaha in the coastal region.⁹³
- The Islamic Front – Ahrar al-Sham published a video documenting a factory that was built to manufacture weapons and ammunition. The video explained that the factory is mainly manufacturing mortars now but that it plans to manufacture more sophisticated weaponry in the future.⁹⁴

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

⁹² <http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/202325> (Arabic).

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

⁹⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



The factory manufacturing weapons for the Islamic Front

- Several factions operating in Homs in western Syria published an announcement regarding the establishment of a joint operations room called, “Help for the Oppressed”, which includes the Al-Nusra Front, the Islamic Front and the Liwa 313 Brigades, among others.⁹⁵ In addition, they published the Facebook and Twitter pages of the joint operations room: <https://www.facebook.com/nmustat3afin>, <https://twitter.com/nmustat3afin>



The logo of the joint operations room called “Help for the Oppressed”

- The Al-Ansar Brigades, which is affiliated with Liwa al-Haqq in the Islamic Front, published a video documenting an ambush against Shabiha militants in Homs. According to the organization, several members of the Shabiha were killed and injured in the ambush.⁹⁶

Jordan

- The Al-Hashd jihadist media institution published a recorded message from a new organization called the Ma’an Martyrs’ Brigade to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the ISIS. In the video, an

⁹⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁶ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

unidentified speaker swore his organization's allegiance to the ISIS in the hopes of raising the banner of jihad in Jordan.⁹⁷ The announcement was made against the backdrop of riots against the regime that took place in the city of Ma'an in southern Jordan after the death of a young man at the hands of security forces.⁹⁸

- The Salafi-jihadist Web portal, Manbar al-Tawhid al-Jihad, published part 14 in a series of publications: the biography of Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi.⁹⁹

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

It seems that the relative quiet in the Sinai Peninsula has been disturbed and the first signs of a return to escalation are beginning to show. On April 16, 2014 an explosion took place in Al-Arish in the northern Sinai Peninsula in which a policeman was injured; this occurred a short time after the Egyptian Interior Minister announced a joint operation with the armed forces to stop terrorism in the Sinai Peninsula.¹⁰⁰ About one week later, the Egyptian army reported that it had "achieved full control over the situation in the Sinai Peninsula and the radical Islamic groups within it".¹⁰¹

The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem

- The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem published an announcement (no. 45) in condemnation of the Palestinian national reconciliation between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority headed by Abu Mazen.¹⁰²

The Maghreb [North Africa]

The security situation continues to deteriorate in Libya. On April 21, 2014 a jihadist organization known as Shabab al-Tawhid published a video showing an employee at the Tunisian embassy begging for his life. In return for freeing the kidnapped prisoner, the organization demanded the release of several Libyan militants who were accused of carrying out terrorist attacks

⁹⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁹⁸ <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=692546> (English).

⁹⁹ <http://www.tawhed.ws/dl2?i=18041401> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/04/16/explosion-sinai-injures-police-officer/> (English).

¹⁰¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/24/us-egypt-sinai-idUSBREA3N1IO20140424> (English).

¹⁰² <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

in 2011.¹⁰³ This abduction followed the abduction of the Jordanian ambassador on April 15, 2014.¹⁰⁴

In addition, the infiltration of Algerian terrorist, Mokhtar Belmokhtar, into Libya certainly has not helped the security situation in the country. According to several security sources, the dangerous wanted terrorist escaped to Libya out of fear that he would be arrested or killed in northern Mali, his former arena of operation. Belmokhtar's presence in southern Libya concerns not only the authorities in Libya but also those in Niger, which borders Libya from the south.¹⁰⁵

In Algeria, despite the volatile situation, the presidential elections passed with relative quiet and resulted in Bouteflika winning a fourth term.¹⁰⁶ After the elections, clashes were reported between the army and terrorist groups. On April 19, 11 Algerian soldiers were killed in an ambush set by terrorists in Tizi Ouzou, a city in northern Algeria.¹⁰⁷ As a result of the incident, the army went in pursuit of the terrorists, aided by air support.¹⁰⁸

Meanwhile, a conference for NGO's from around the world was held in Casablanca on April 24, 2014 on the topic of counter-terrorism. The goal of the conference was to examine various ways of coping with terrorism and the systems in place for dispatching terrorists to carry out suicide attacks.¹⁰⁹ In Tunisia, the interim Prime Minister, Mehdi Jomaa, recorded a statement in which he called for tracking the terrorist threat even before it reaches the country in light of clashes in Jebel Chaambi between army forces and terrorists near the border with Algeria in which one soldier was killed.¹¹⁰

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

- The Al-Andalus jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), published a claim of responsibility for an ambush that AQIM militants carried out on April 19 in Tizi Ouzou, in which they killed and injured 30 soldiers and plundered some of their weapons. The announcement ended with a statement that the operation was carried out

¹⁰³ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/04/21/feature-02 (English).

¹⁰⁴ <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/04/15/world/meast/libya-ambassador-kidnapped> (English).

¹⁰⁵ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/04/16/feature-01 (English).

¹⁰⁶ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/04/21/feature-01 (English).

¹⁰⁷ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2014/04/21/newsbrief-01 (English).

¹⁰⁸ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/04/22/feature-01 (English).

¹⁰⁹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/04/28/feature-01 (English).

¹¹⁰ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/04/23/feature-02 (English).

in revenge for the deaths of their comrades who were martyred, and a call on the Muslim Brotherhood to support AQIM and its members.¹¹¹

Libya

Ansar Al-Sharia

- The Al-Raya jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Ansar al-Sharia in Libya, published photos of its members guarding schools in the city of Benghazi.¹¹² Members of the organization also began to deploy forces and carry out patrols in the city of Sirte in northern Libya.¹¹³ This development was further evidence of the inadequacy of Libyan authorities and the deterioration of the security situation in the country in recent months.



Members of Ansar al-Sharia in Benghazi guarding schools

- Ansar al-Sharia in Libya published photos of a military parade held by the organization in Benghazi.¹¹⁴

¹¹¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

¹¹³ https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa_ly/status/456288709491429377 (Arabic).

¹¹⁴ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).



A military parade held by the organization in Benghazi

Tunisia

- Ansar al-Sharia in Tunisia posted several items to its Twitter account, including a post encouraging the release of Muslim prisoners through fighting¹¹⁵ as well as a post on the topic of jihad by Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filastini,¹¹⁶ the Egyptian Muslim philosopher, Sayyid Qutb,¹¹⁷ and the Emir of the organization, Abu Iyad al-Tunisi.¹¹⁸

Egypt

Ajnad Misr

- During the second half of April 2014, the Egyptian jihadist organization, Ajnad Misr, published the following:
 - A video documenting the organization's operation against government and police forces in Egypt. The video, which was dedicated to mothers who lost their children in the demonstrations that took place in Egypt, covered eight operations that the organization carried out during 2014 and at the end of 2013 using explosive devices. The video ended with a call to defend the women of Egypt and avenge the harm done to them by members of the security forces.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa/status/456539207280758784> (Arabic).

¹¹⁶ <https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa/status/460522455065317377> (Arabic).

¹¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa/status/461586190076895233> (Arabic).

¹¹⁸ <https://twitter.com/AnsarShariaa/status/460877644829974529> (Arabic).

¹¹⁹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PZnlxOyl28>

- A claim of responsibility (announcement no. 6) for a terrorist bombing against Egyptian security forces in Lebanon Square in Cairo. In the same announcement, the organization also claimed responsibility for two terrorist attacks in which explosives were planted in a senior police officer's car and a police station in the city.¹²⁰
- A claim of responsibility (announcement no. 7) for the assassination of Ahmed Zaki, who organized the riots against Egyptian security forces. The announcement detailed how members of the organization planted a hidden explosive device in Zaki's car after a long period of surveillance despite the many precautions that he had taken. The terrorists selected the time and place of the explosion – the 6th of October suburb – so as to harm as few innocents as possible.¹²¹

Somalia

In Somalia, the situation continues to be quieter than usual as Al Shabab Al-Mujahideen is not carrying out many attacks but is still displaying its presence.

On April 21, 2014 Isak Mohammed, a member of the Somali Parliament, was killed in a car bomb explosion in Mogadishu. The bomb was planted in his car and also injured another member of Parliament who was in Mohammed's car at the time of the explosion. Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen said that it had planted bombs in the cars of Parliament members in order to punish them for their support of foreign forces in the country.¹²²

Several days after the attack, Nicholas Kay, the official UN representative in Somalia declared that Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen was weakened but more dangerous as ever. Nevertheless, he claimed that recent developments had improved the future security of the country.¹²³

- Abd al-Aziz Abu Musa'b, the spokesperson for Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published an official announcement in which he declared the killing of a senior officer in the Djibouti army during

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

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

¹²² <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/04/somali-mp-killed-car-bomb-attack-201442194056481593.html> (English).

¹²³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/video/africa/2014/04/un-official-shabab-weaker-but-more-dangerous-201442904054801542.html> (English).

clashes between the organization and army forces near the city of Buloburde in Somalia.¹²⁴

- The Al-Kataib jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, published the fourth part in a series titled, “Mujahideen Moments”, which described the operations and activities of members of the organization. In the video, militants praised the Westgate terrorist attack, threatened to carry out similar attacks in the future, and called on followers to immigrate to Somalia in order to join the militants and wage jihad. The end of the video showed a clip from a speech given by Sheikh Aboud Rogo, a Kenyan Islamic preacher who was killed in 2002.¹²⁵

Nigeria

*The Boko Haram jihadist organization is intensifying its terrorist attacks in Nigeria and initiating attacks against the civilian population in Nigeria. On April 14, 2014 Boko Haram militants kidnapped 129 schoolgirls in Burno Province in southern Nigeria after killing the soldiers who were guarding the school.*¹²⁶

- Boko Haram published a video clip in which it claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack that was carried out in Abujo, the capital of Nigeria, at a passenger station on April 14, 2014. 75 people were killed in the attack.¹²⁷



A clip from the video showing the leader of the organization, Abu Bakr Shekau

¹²⁴ <http://www.somalimemo.net/index.php/maqal/8763-dhageysotaliska-ciidanka-al-shabaab-oo-sheegay-in-taliye-sare-oo-jabuutiyaan-ah-ku-dileen-degmada-buula-barde> (English).

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

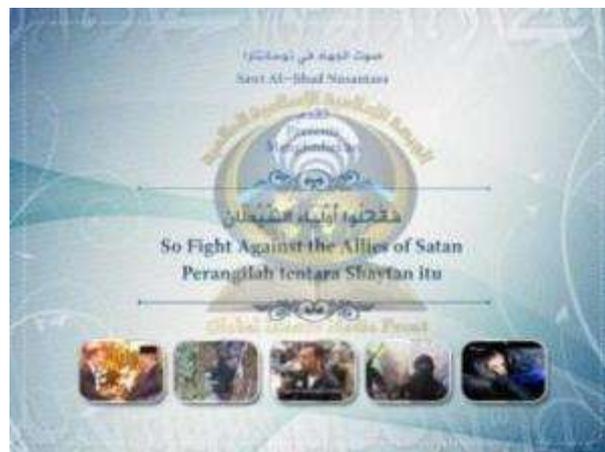
¹²⁶ <http://alhayat.com/Articles/1893995/فرار-14-تلميذة-اخرى-من-بوكو-حرام-في-نيجيريا> (Arabic).

¹²⁷ <http://www.shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

The Indian Subcontinent

Indonesia

- The Sawt Al-Jihad Nusantara jihadist media institution published a video in Indonesian with English subtitles titled, “So Fight Against the Allies of Satan”. The video described the wrongs committed by the Indonesian regime against the people, and criticized its cooperation with the West. In the video, the President of Indonesia was called a heretic who abandoned Islam and the narrator called on the Indonesian nation to go out and fight until a shari’a-based regime is established. The second part of the video was titled, “Message to the Muslim Ummah” and included threatening messages by members of the organization towards the regime in general, and towards Detachment 88 (the Indonesian police counter-terrorism unit) in particular.¹²⁸



A clip from the video

- A Muslim group from Indonesia published a video on YouTube in which it announced its support for the ISIS and swore allegiance to the organization.¹²⁹

The West

- The Al-Guraba jihadist media institution published a video documenting a meeting between Sheikh Turki al-Ban’ali and Abu-Talha al-Almani (“the German”), a former rap singer named

¹²⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹²⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

Denis Cuspert who was known as Deso Dogg before he converted to Islam. During the meeting, Cuspert relayed his life story and his experience in the world of jihad.¹³⁰

- Sheikh Anjem Choudary, a radical Islamic preacher in England, used his Twitter account to call on Muslims living in England to gather at Regents Park Mosque in London to protest the persecution of Muslims in England by the British government, led by Cameron, referring to the arrests of several British Islamists. According to Choudary, [such persecution] is a British crusade that must be fought against immediately.

In addition, Choudary tweeted that Britain is going to quickly change from a Christian country to a Muslim country governed by shari'a due to the accelerated demographic growth of Muslims living in the country. According to him, Muslims will not stop campaigning for the implementation of shari'a in the country until the black flag of Islam flies over Britain, and when it does Cameron will stand trial according to Islamic law for his crimes against Islam.

Choudary also tweeted about the Saudi Arabian regime and the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), calling them infidels who act against the interests of the Muslim Nation.¹³¹

Choudary founded the al-Muhajiroun extremist group with the militant leader Sheikh Omar Bakri Muhammad. That group was banned in 2004, but has re-emerged under different names and in various guises. He also established the radical Islamist group Islam4Uk, which was banned in 2010.

¹³⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹³¹ <https://twitter.com/anjemchoudary> (Arabic).



Anjem Choudary @anjemchoudary · Apr 18
Some brave Muslims raising the Banner of Islam against the enemies of Islam and Muslims, the UK regime, EDL etc



From left to right: A poster calling for protests against the British government's persecution campaign against Muslims in Britain; Choudary's tweet about the protest

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.

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