

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The Second Half of September 2014

Highlights

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

- Adam Gadahn, a senior Al-Qaeda leader, harshly criticizes the Pakistani regime in light of its cooperation with the West, especially the United States. According to him, in order to hasten the fall of the regime, efforts must be focused on attacking American targets and other Western and Zionist targets on Pakistani soil.
- Al-Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent claims responsibility for an attempted attack against American naval forces after it seized control of a Pakistani warship. In a statement published on the matter, the organization emphasizes that its operations will focus on maritime terrorism against American targets.
- Sheikh Nasser bin Ali al-Ansi, a senior commander in Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, calls on Muslims to attack American targets and those of its allies due to their membership in the coalition force against the Islamic State. In addition, he calls on the mujahideen to attack Houthis everywhere because of their attacks on Sunnis and their Iranian-backed takeover of Sanaa, the capital of Yemen.
- In response to coalition attacks against the Islamic State, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb publish a joint announcement condemning the coalition and calling on Muslims to fight against it and attack the interests of the countries participating in the coalition.
- The Islamic State launches a new series of videos that includes a letter from captive British journalist, John Cantlie, who was kidnapped in Syria in November 2012. Cantlie states that the goal of the video series is to expose the truth about the organization in light of the false propaganda campaign being waged against it by the Western media.

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New Publications

Ideology

- During the second half of September 2014, the Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for messages from Al-Qaeda, published the following:
 - A speech, in English, delivered by the spokesman for the organization, Adam Gadahn, titled, “The Regime in Pakistan – a Tool in the Hands of the Devil”. In the framework of the speech, Gadahn presented the Pakistani regime and the regimes in other Muslim countries as the handiwork of the West, subordinate to the West and in service of the West for the last few decades. In order to replace the regime in Pakistan, Gadahn encouraged Muslims in the country to attack American and diplomatic targets in Islamabad and Rawalpindi “until the occupiers return to their lands”. In addition, Gadahn ended his speech by calling on Muslims in Pakistan and throughout the region to support the Islamic Emirate led by Mullah Omar, and to help it defeat “those who collaborate with the Crusaders and Hindus in Kabul”.¹ The transcript of the video in Arabic was published by the Al-Tahaya jihadist media institution.²



Adam Gadahn delivering a speech against the Pakistani regime

- The Al-Furqan jihadist media institution, which serves the Islamic State, published a speech by the spokesman for the organization, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani al-Shami, under the title drawn from the Quran, “Thy Lord is Ever Watchful”. In the beginning of the speech, al-Adani encouraged of the organization’s fighters, called on them not to fear the planes and rockets of

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

² <https://al3aren.com/vb> (Arabic).

the Western forces, and reminded them that the Prophet Muhammad also encountered resistance at first to the message that he promoted. Later, al-Adani directed a threatening message to the “Crusaders” and even referred directly to the President of the United States, Barack Obama, whom he called “the mule of the Jews”. In this context, al-Adani called on supporters of the organization around the world to kill American, European, Australian and Canadian infidels at every opportunity, without consulting on the matter first, regardless of whether it is a soldier or a civilian since the blood of an infidel is “the blood of a dog” and to draw its blood is not a sin. Towards the end of the speech, al-Adani sent a message regarding Muslim Kurds in Iraq and Syria and clarified that the Islamic State is only fighting against the infidel Kurds who collaborate with “the Crusaders and the Jews”.³

- The Al-Battar jihadist media institution, which helps distribute propaganda for the Islamic State, published an article titled, “Migration to Islamic Land is Mandatory”, by a writer named Abu Ubayda al-Muwahid. According to the writer, it is incumbent upon Muslims to move to places where shari’a has been implemented. Unless one is fighting against the mujahideen and preventing the United States from impacting the region, one is considered to be on infidel territory and is obligated to leave the land. According to him, countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Emirates, Yemen, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and others are considered infidel territory. In light of this, the writer emphasized that Muslims living in infidel territory where they are unable to fulfill the commandments of the religion must leave. The question arises as to where a Muslim from infidel territory should go. According to the writer, one should immigrate to places where the United States does not have influence or the ability to implement its policies on the ground. Saudi Arabia is a clear example of infidel territory since the United States managed to penetrate the country’s senior leadership, including policymakers, and “therefore, it is [considered] infidel territory and one must leave there immediately!”.⁴
- The Islamic State published a series of charts that compared the Islamic State to modern states. Using polished graphs and some text, the organization made several points, including:⁵

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

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

⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

- Every fighter receives \$1200 and an apartment upon his marriage, in addition to \$50 per child and \$100 for each additional wife.
- The territory controlled by the Islamic State is the same as that of the United Kingdom.
- The percentage of foreign fighters in the Islamic State is 20-30% (while the percentage of foreign fighters in the French army is only 2%).
- There are 20,000-31,500 soldiers in the Islamic State (which, according to CIA estimates, is more than those in the armies of Bahrain and Qatar combined).
- The Islamic State produces approximately 50 million barrels of oil per day, on average (more than Bahrain, which produces 48 million barrels per day).
- The Islamic State is mentioned on social networks at least as much as France and China.

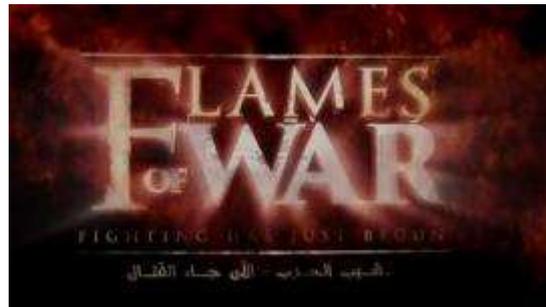


A comparison between Islamic State forces and those of modern states

- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic State, Al-Hayyat, published a propaganda video in English titled, “Flames of War” (55 min). The video praised the organization’s victories and showed how its fighters operate against their enemies. For example, captive Syrian soldiers were shown digging their graves, and then being shot and falling into the grave. The film followed an IS fighter who spoke in fluent English and explained that efforts to impose shari’a were encountering difficulty due to Western aggression, especially from Americans and other enemies. The video itself praised the heroism, bravery and technique with which IS fighters operate against their enemies in Syria and Iraq.⁶ This propaganda video can be understood as part of the psychological warfare being waged by the organization against its enemies,

⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

especially the coalition forces.



The video banner

- Sheikh Abu-Mohammed al-Maqdisi, a senior member of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan, published a statement titled, “A reaction to, and condemnation of, those who kidnaped or killed aid workers, even if they were infidels”. Al-Maqdisi first explained that his statement should serve as advice for the Islamic State; this organization, despite its crimes against Muslims especially in northern Syria, is still part of the Muslim Nation and one should remember that it is currently in severe distress – it is under attack by the Crusader alliance led by the United States. The topic of the statement was Islamic law concerning the killing of non-Muslim hostages. When non-Muslims enter Muslim countries in order to provide aid, and are not proven to be spies, one must treat them with respect and one must not harm them or take their money since their efforts to help the weak are worthy of respect, as long as they respect Islam. The Islamic State recently executed British aid worker, Alan Henning; al-Maqdisi condemned the killing and emphasized that by doing so, he was not defending Britain, which is indeed responsible for the deaths of many Muslims, but rather defending Islam – a situation in which a humanitarian aid worker volunteering for a charity is kidnapped and executed distorts the image of Islam and goes against Islamic values.⁷
- A visitor to the Al-Minbar Al-Alami Al-Jihadi jihadist Web forum, which is identified with the Islamic State, published a report according to which Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of global Al-Qaeda, was killed in a US attack. The report was eventually found to be false. When the truth of the report was still in question, visitors reacted with panic and shock, and expressed

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

hope that al-Zawahiri was not hurt, despite the debates in the forum that took a very critical tone against al-Zawahiri as a result of his treatment of the Islamic State.⁸

Fatwas

- The jihadist Web portal, Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, published a fatwa issued by Sheikh Abu-Mohammed al-Maqdisi, a senior member of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan. One visitor asked al-Maqdisi the following question: “Why does Sheikh al-Maqdisi refer to the Islamic State as “Jama'at Al-Dawla” (“the Islamic organization”) when its territory is actually larger than those of neighboring countries and requires an alliance composed of several countries in order to fight against it?”. Al-Maqdisi responded that he had previously criticized the IS for various reasons, but now a large Crusader attack is being waged against the organization and against Muslims and, therefore, any discussion on the subject should include a firm condemnation of this attack. The reason that al-Maqdisi used the term “Islamic organization” is because this organization disregarded many mujahideen and jihadist groups both within and outside Syria, and forced them to swear allegiance to him without them knowing that there are other options and other organizations that aspire to establish a global Islamic caliphate. This issue caused a rift between the organization and other mujahideen because of the erroneous notion that the Islamic State is the only option for a state ruled according to Islamic law. Nevertheless, al-Maqdisi clarified that, in light of the start of the Crusader campaign against the Islamic State, he began to refer to it by the name that it calls itself – the “Islamic State in Iraq and Al-Sham” – in order to anger the enemies of Islam.⁹

The Rift between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State

- The Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published a recorded speech by a senior member of the organization, Muhammad al-Bahtiti (aka Abu Dujana al-Basha) titled, “This is our message”. Without mentioning the Islamic State by name, al-Basha directed piercing criticism at the organization, calling the caliphate that it established illegitimate and based on “lies and broken

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

⁹ http://tawhed.ws/FAQ/display_question?qid=8318 (Arabic).

promises". In addition, al-Basha called on fighters in Syria to save the ship of jihad before it deviates off course and to end the fighting among the mujahideen in the country.¹⁰

- The Syrian sheikh and jihadist philosopher Abu Basir al-Tartusi, responded to visitors' questions on the Hanein jihadist Web forum, including the following:¹¹
 - In response to a question regarding mistakes made by the Islamic State, al-Tartusi accused the organization of sowing discord among Muslims and the mujahideen, spilling Muslim blood, and providing a sanctuary for criminals.¹² In response to another question on the topic, al-Tartusi noted that the mistakes made by the Islamic State cannot be repaired and that its members must retreat from the area and leave jihad to the mujahideen.¹³
 - In response to a question regarding the slaughter of prisoners, al-Tartusi noted that for over five years he has expressed his opposition to executions with knives or daggers, and claimed that it was a bad and defective custom.¹⁴ In addition, al-Tartusi expressed his opposition to attacks on journalists and relief workers.¹⁵
 - In response to a question regarding the Al-Nusra Front, al-Tartusi explained that the organization must stop presenting itself as an affiliate of Al-Qaeda in Syria since it draws unwanted attention and distracts from the central struggle in Syria.¹⁶
- Sheikh Abu Mahmoud al-Falastini, a prominent adjudicator in the world of jihad, published a statement criticizing the videos distributed by the Islamic State in which members of the organization are seen carrying out mass killings. In the statement, al-Falastini claimed that even Bashar al-Assad and Qadhafi had never done such a thing; even when the infidels torture and kill thousands in their prisons they do not publish the photos and take pride in it. It is absolutely forbidden to view killing as if it was the way of Islam even when applied to infidels or Muslims who deviated from the correct path. Al-Falastini even expressed disgust for the Islamic State's

¹⁰ <http://www.shabakataljihad.com/vb/showthread.php?t=40231> (Arabic).

¹¹ <http://altartosi.net/ar/?p=4571> (Arabic).

¹² <http://altartosi.net/ar/?p=4583> (Arabic).

¹³ <http://altartosi.net/ar/?p=4614> (Arabic).

¹⁴ <http://altartosi.net/ar/?p=4735> (Arabic).

¹⁵ <http://altartosi.net/ar/?p=4739> (Arabic).

¹⁶ <http://altartosi.net/ar/?p=4850> (Arabic).

custom of beheading its enemies and brought support from the fatwas of prominent sheikhs who are opposed to it (though do not explicitly prohibit it).¹⁷

- Sheikh Abdel Majid al-Heetari, a jihadist sheikh known for his support of the Islamic State, published a statement regarding the declaration of the establishment of the Islamic Caliphate. In the statement, al-Heetari stated that when the Islamic State declared the establishment of the caliphate, many eyebrows were raised and many authorities condemned the announcement but that was a mistake. Al-Heetari explained that in Syria there are many groups that oppose the Assad regime – mujahideen, Salafists, Sufis, Christians, Alawites and more. All of them are interested in overthrowing Assad but they disagree as to the final goal – many of them are interested in establishing a democratic state opposed to the laws of Islam. A situation could arise in which such infidels will enjoy the fruits of the mujahideen’s struggle and establish a secular state. Following the declaration of the establishment of the caliphate, the division is even clearer: one group supports the establishment of an Islamic regime according to shari’a and another group supports secular democracy or democracy under the guise of Islam, as is the case in Saudi Arabia. Now the battle is clear as are the sides taking part in it.¹⁸
- 22 prominent sheikhs in the world of jihad published a document titled, “Initiative calling for a ceasefire between the factions in Syria”. The document stated that, in light of the Crusaders’ attack against Muslims in Syria and Iraq, they must strive to end the internal conflicts among the Islamic groups. The sheikhs called on all factions to stop fighting against one another, direct their weapons against their common enemy and publish statements promising to do so. Such an agreement must include the mutual release of prisoners from all organizations. Among the prominent sheikhs who signed the document: Sheikh Abu Mohammed Al-Daghastani, leader of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus; Sheikh Abu Mohammed Al-Maqdisi, Sheikh Abu Qatadah Al-Falastini, Sheikh Dr. Hani Al-Siba’l and Sheikh Dr. Tarek Abdel Halim.¹⁹

Oaths of Allegiance and Expressions of Support for the Islamic Caliphate

- A source calling himself Abu Bakr al-Kabuli and identifying himself as the emir of Katibat al-

¹⁷ <http://www.shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

¹⁹ <http://www.tawhed.ws/r?i=30091401> (Arabic).

Tawheed ("Battalion of Oneness") published an oath of allegiance to the IS and its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. In the framework of the letter, which was written in poor Arabic, the writer presented his organization as a jihadist group operating in Khurasan and willing to fulfil al-Baghdadi's orders to fight against the infidels in the area where it operates. The writer explained that his group has already fought against infidels in the past without belonging to a specific party or organization, and he criticized the fact that the Islamic Emirate (the Taliban, which according to him managed to infiltrate Pakistani intelligence) is controlling areas that were already liberated by the Battalion of Oneness. The letter ended with al-Kabuli's declaration that, were it not for the "infidel regimes", he and his followers would join al-Baghdadi. The letter also included the following email address: tawhedgetal@gmail.com.²⁰

- The Al-Fath jihadist media institution published a video by Jund al-Khilafa, an organization operating in Algeria and composed of fighters who defected from AQIM in mid-September. The main part of the video included a renewed oath of allegiance by the organization to the leader of the IS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. In the video, Abu Abdullah Uthman al-Asimi, a senior member of the AQIM who left the organization last June, noted that the organization was being led by Abu Sulayman Khaled and read the text of the oath of allegiance together with dozens of other fighters who were present. In the second part of the video, a member of the organization read a song of praises to Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, spokesman for the IS, after which those present began cheering the IS and bowing down on the ground.²¹



A renewed oath of allegiance to al-Baghdadi by the Jund al-Khilafa in Algeria

- Members of the IS published on its Twitter account a pamphlet for residents of Nineveh

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

²¹ <https://archive.org/details/albaia>

Province justifying the oath of allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the IS.²²



The pamphlet that was distributed in Nineveh Province

Reactions in the jihadist discourse to the coalition being formed against the Islamic State

- Sheikh Uthman Aal Nazih, who is considered the mufti of the IS, delivered a sermon in which he criticized the coalition in Al-Raqqa Province in Syria. In the sermon, he praised the fighting spirit of IS militants especially at a time when coalition forces are sanctifying war against members of the organization.²³



The banner of the sermon

- Members of the IS published on its Twitter account an informational pamphlet that was distributed to residents of Nineveh Province, in which it stated that Muslims have an obligation to offer assistance in any way to members of the IS in light of coalition attacks against the organization.²⁴

²²https://twitter.com/press_syria8/status/516642194090778624/photo/1; <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

²³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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



The pamphlet that was distributed in Nineveh Province

- AQAP and AQIM published a joint announcement (no. 1) titled, “Aid to Muslims...against the Crusaders Alliance and [the Infidels] who are Leaving [Islam]”. According to them, the United States decided to lead the Crusaders alliance designed to fight against Islam and Muslims under the pretence of fighting the IS. In light of this, the organizations emphasized that they cannot stand idle in the face of an attack against Islam and Muslims, and they must act against the United States and her allies, including the Jews, Crusaders, Shi’ites and infidel Muslims, help their fellow mujahideen in their battle against the infidels, and protect Muslim civilians. In addition, the organizations called on the mujahideen in Iraq and the Levant to end the mutual clashes between them and preserve unity among the ranks against the coalition forces led by the United States. In addition, they asked residents of Muslim countries that are helping the coalition to act against their regimes, especially the Saudi regime. Finally, the organizations sent their condolences to members of Ahrar al-Sham, a Salafi-jihadist organization in Syria.²⁵
- The jihadist media institution of AQAP, Al-Malahim, published a video titled, “A Call to Oppose the Shi’ite Crusader Coalition”. Sheikh Nasser bin Ali al-Ansi, a senior commander in the organization, spoke in the beginning of the video about the formation of the global infidel coalition, composed of 40 countries and led by the United States, which intends to open a second global war against Islam. According to him, the war began in Palestine as seen in the Jews’ war against the Palestinians. According to him, Islam is currently also under attack by Iran, which wants to expand its influence as it did when it delivered Sana’a, the capital of Yemen, to

²⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

the Houthi Shi'ite minority that receives support from Iran. According to him, the Houthis are waging a false propaganda campaign claiming that they want to protect Muslims but their actions prove otherwise. Instead of attacking American army bases and drone control headquarters responsible for the killing of Muslims, they chose to seize control of Sana'a, and destroy its mosques and Quran learning institutions.

Al-Anasi emphasized that, due to this danger, Sunnis must unite under the banner of Islam and defend their religion and their honor, stating that "the time has come to uproot the traitorous rulers of the region who sold the problems of the Nation" through jihad.

Al-Anasi also addressed the Houthis and admonished them for their crimes against Sunnis. He then called on the mujahideen to concentrate their efforts on defeating the Houthis in every place and instilling in them a sense of insecurity. Finally, he noted that Muslims must also act against the coalition forces, especially the United States, stating: "It should be known that the United States is the head of the snake. It is the one working against the mujahideen and their Islamic plan [...] if the head falls then so will the tails, making it easier to deal with them [the allies of the United States] and take revenge on them".²⁶



Sheikh Nasser bin Ali al-Ansi

Strategy

- On September 16, 2014, Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent published a document titled, "The Mujahideen's Attack against American Naval Forces: Reasons and Goals" by the organization's

²⁶ <https://twitter.com/ABMOGA/status/516808914080653312> (Arabic).

spokesperson, Usama Mahmud. In the document, the organization emphasized that its operations would focus on maritime terrorism against American targets.²⁷

- Abdullah al-Muhaysini, a Saudi preacher living in Syria and affiliated with the Al-Nusra Front, published a recorded statement titled, “The Crusader War against Islam”. In the framework of the statement, al-Muhaysini sent several messages:²⁸
 - A call on the leaders of various jihadist factions in Syria to avoid conflicts because the West is not directing its attacks against only one group but rather against jihad in general (as well as against sources of funding for Muslims such as oil wells).
 - A declaration of the intention to establish a supreme committee in Syria to be composed of several independent preachers operating in the arena who will examine any future dispute that arises between the various factions and try to reconcile them.
 - An appeal to Muslim religious clerics around the world to spread the truth and dissuade people from cooperating with Western forces in their attacks against Muslims.
- The IS published an announcement regarding the filming of its attacks. According to the announcement, the General Committee decided to ban the filming of IS attacks using cameras and mobile phones and only authorized filming by the organization’s media sources whose job it is to document the fighting. The announcement ended with a warning that transgressors will be punished.²⁹
- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted several recommendations for avoiding and defending against aerial attacks and Tomahawk missile fire. Among other things, the visitor recommended burning tires in order to create smoke to make it difficult for them to locate targets, fortify with trenches and ditches, deploy fighters across a wide area, and activate several diversions simultaneously for one plane. Another visitor recommended storing weapons and ammunition underground and building a network of secret tunnels like Hamas did in Gaza.³⁰

²⁷ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

²⁹ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

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

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum published a letter attributed to a group of refugees from Syria living in Turkey. In the letter, which was addressed to the leader of the IS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the authors asked to release the Turkish Consulate in Mosul and the rest of the consulate employees in light of the worsening treatment of Syrian refugees by Turkey since the consulate was captured by the IS.³¹
- A prominent visitor to the Al-Minbar Al-Alami Al-Jihadi jihadist Web forum published a guidebook titled, “The Most Effective Way to Beat Any Crusader Alliance against the Islamic State”. The visitor suggested digging a long tunnel that reaches American army bases, laying it with booby-traps and detonating it remotely. He also recommended attacking aircraft carriers using suicide bombers who are adept at swimming.³²



- A visitor to the Abu al-Bara al-Shami jihadist Web forum published a correspondence on the topic of “A Major Loss – Strategic Planning” on the part of jihadist organizations. According to him, the Salafi-jihadist movement today is facing an existential threat since it does not make decisions according to an organized plan or follow a strategic plan that would enable it to achieve its goals. Instead, it deteriorates into violence between various jihadist factions and even clashes with the local population. According to him, jihadist organizations must outline a series of stages to be supervised by religious clerics.³³

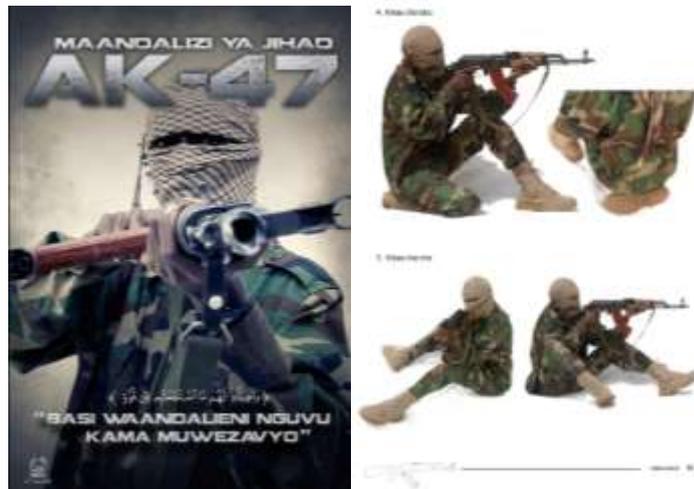
³¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

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

³³ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Qaeda’s affiliate in Somalia - the Al-Kataib Foundation for Media Production - published a guidebook on how to use a Kalashnikov rifle (49 pp.) in the framework of the “Encyclopedia of Weapons” in Swahili.³⁴



From left to right: the banner page of the guidebook; an internal page

- A prominent visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum published on its military section a correspondence titled, “For the First Time... An Explanation on how to Import Satellite Maps – Very Important for Artillery and Attacks”. The visitor recommended using three programs in order to draw maps for bombing targets in the field without needing to connect to the Internet: universal-maps-downloader, google earth and global mapper. The visitor also emphasized that the correspondence was dedicated to mujahideen around the world, and especially to members of the IS in Iraq and Syria and to members of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, which operates in the Sinai Peninsula and Egypt.³⁵ The explanation was also published on the Twitter account of a jihad operative named Abu Osid al-Madani.³⁶

³⁴ <http://alfidaa.org/vb> (Arabic).

³⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic); https://twitter.com/abu_osid/status/518865087629508610

³⁶ https://twitter.com/abu_osid/status/516344527372566529 (Arabic).



Clips from a video explaining how to use the three programs

Another explanation was published on the same Twitter account regarding how to manufacture a 107 Rocket, including measurements and a sketch.³⁷



A sketch of a 107 Rocket that was posted to the Twitter account

- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum posted a guidebook on giving first aid in the battlefield. The guidebook was based on a series of lessons, including how to remove shrapnel from a body, etc.³⁸

³⁷ https://twitter.com/abu_osid/status/516003220456341505 (Arabic).

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



The banner of the guidebook

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The Africa al-Muslima (“Africa is Muslim”) media group published Part I of the biography of Sheikh Ami As’id. The biography was published in a series of publications titled, “Biographies of Martyrs in Africa”.³⁹



The banner of the biography

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

Instability and violence in Afghanistan have increased since the election of the new president, Ashraf Ghani. Prior to the establishment of the new regime and the withdrawal of NATO troops from the country, the Taliban seems to be investing great effort in increasing the violence. The new president was sworn in on September 29, 2014 in the shadow of tremendous violence

³⁹ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

throughout the country, especially in Kabul.⁴⁰

*On September 16, 2014 the Taliban in Afghanistan detonated a car bomb on a NATO convoy next to the US Embassy in Kabul. Two American soldiers and one Polish soldier were killed in the attack, which was one of the worst attacks against international targets in Kabul.*⁴¹

*On September 26, 2014 approximately 700 Taliban fighters attacked targets in Ghazni Province in eastern Afghanistan; the gunmen killed at least 100 people and executed 15 locals who were accused of being collaborators. Some of those killed were beheaded and the police chiefs in the province said that without urgent assistance, the province – which holds a strategic location since it leads to the capital of Kabul – would collapse.*⁴²

*The violence continued in Pakistan as well. On September 28, 2014 eight people were killed in an explosion in northwest Pakistan. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack but the Taliban in Pakistan was the main suspect. Four gunmen were killed on the same day in a US air strike in Pakistan near the border with Afghanistan.*⁴³

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Al-Emara, published a video in Urdu titled, “The Shameful Elections”. The video mocked the elections that took place in Afghanistan and claimed that several security incidents and fake votes occurred on Election Day.⁴⁴

The Arabian Peninsula

Since the Houthi takeover of Sana’a, the capital of Yemen, and other areas of the country, the level of tension has risen between members of AQAP and the Houthis. AQAP and its affiliate, Ansar al-Sharia, declared several times that efforts should be focused on fighting against the Houthis in order to thwart Iran’s plan to weaken the Sunni population in the region. The second half of September 2014 was, therefore, characterized by an expanded scope of activity against the

⁴⁰ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/29/us-afghanistan-politics-idUSKCN0HN0XA20140929>

⁴¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/16/us-afghanistan-blast-idUSKBN0HB09J20140916>

⁴² <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/26/us-afghanistan-attacks-idUSKCN0HL0IR20140926>

⁴³ <http://news.yahoo.com/officials-us-drone-kills-4-militants-pakistan-105525280.html>

⁴⁴ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

Houthis by members of Al-Qaeda in Sana'a and in Al-Baydha, Ma'rib and Saada Provinces, the latter of which is considered a Houthi stronghold. For example, dozens of Houthis were killed by a car bomb explosion at the Al-Jafra Hospital in Ma'rib Province.⁴⁵ In addition, members of Al-Qaeda also continued to carry out terrorist attacks against Yemeni security forces.⁴⁶ Nevertheless, it is apparent that Al-Qaeda is currently directing most of its efforts against the Houthis, a trend that is causing further upheaval to Yemen's security and its downfall into a civil war.

Ansar al-Sharia

- Ansar al-Sharia, which is affiliated with AQAP, published on its Twitter account and on jihadist Web forums regular reports on the fighting taking place in the country between Ansar al-Sharia fighters and the Houthis. For example, on September 22, 2014 the organization claimed responsibility for a car bombing in which an explosives-laden vehicle was driven by an Ansar al-Sharia suicide bomber into a crowd of Houthis. As a result of the attack, dozens of Houthis were killed in Saada Province.⁴⁷ In addition, the organization claimed responsibility for an attempted attack against the US Embassy in Sana'a on September 27, 2014 by firing a Lao missile. According to the organization, initial reports indicated that soldiers guarding the embassy were wounded in the attempted attack. It also stated that the attack was carried out in response to US aggression against Muslim children in Al-Jawf Province in Yemen using a drone.⁴⁸

Iraq

The second half of September was marked by France and Britain joining the aerial strikes against IS targets in Iraq. According to a message from the President of France, on September 18, 2014 France attacked a warehouse in northern Iraq that was used by the organization,⁴⁹ and at the end of the month the British Defense Minister announced that Britain had attacked, for the first time, weapons and vehicles storage sites belonging to the IS.⁵⁰

⁴⁵ <http://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/1180fa74-4151-48e1-9eaf-c412f9e1d51a>

⁴⁶ <http://www.aljazeera.net/news/arabic/2014/9/28/القاعدة-تصعد-هجماتها-ضد-الحوثيين-في-اليمن> (Arabic).

⁴⁷ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁸ <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁹ <http://www.okaz.com.sa/new/Issues/20140920/Con20140920724372.htm>

⁵⁰ <http://www.euronews.com/2014/09/30/britain-launches-air-strikes-against-isil-targets-in-iraq/>

Meanwhile, the Iraqi government itself continued its struggle against the IS. The new Iraqi Prime Minister, Haider al-Abadi, declared that there was no need for international forces in Iraqi territory since Iraq possesses a large number of soldiers and popular forces capable of defeating terrorist organizations.⁵¹ It should be noted that this declaration was made against the backdrop of the Iraqi military's campaign to re-recruit soldiers who had defected from their units.⁵²

US involvement in Iraq garnered reactions not only from Sunni organizations but also from Shi'ite religious clerics. Despite their common enemy, one cleric called for attacks against any military presence in Iraq while another claimed that "the United States is neither humanely nor morally qualified to fight against terrorists".⁵³

September came to a close with additional battles between members of the IS and Kurdish Peshmerga forces on three fronts: north of Mosul, south of Kirkuk and near the Syrian border.⁵⁴ According to one source, the Kurds managed to take control of the Rabi'ah border crossing between Syria and Iraq, enabling access to Sinjar Mountain in Iraq.⁵⁵

The Islamic State

⁵¹<http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/iraq/2014/09/29/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82-%D9%84%D8%A7-%D9%8A%D8%AD%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%AC-%D9%84%D9%82%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B1%D8%B6.html> (Arabic).

⁵²<http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/iraq/2014/09/29/%D8%AD%D9%83%D9%88%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82-%D8%AA%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D8%AA%D8%B3%D8%AC%D9%8A%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B3%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%AF%D9%85%D8%A9.html> (Arabic).

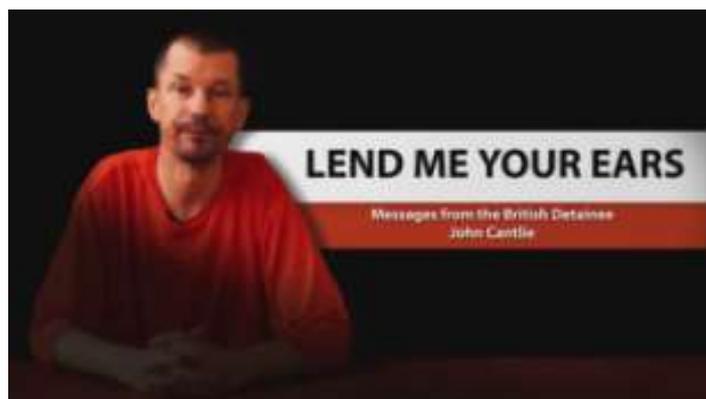
⁵³<http://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/a8b17b6b-b4f3-48d5-a95e-17486e774491>

⁵⁴<http://www.dw.de/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%B4%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%AC%D9%85-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%B4-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AB%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AB-%D8%AC%D8%A8%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%AA/a-17964768>

⁵⁵<http://www.annahar.com/article/176032-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%B4%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%B5-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D8%AF%D9%85%D8%A9-%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%B9-%D9%85%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%AA%D9%84%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A5%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A1>

- The jihadist media institution of the Islamic State, Al-Furqan, launched a series of videos in English titled, “Lend Me Your Ears - Messages from the British Detainee John Cantlie”. In the first video (the introduction chapter), John Cantlie, a British journalist held captive by the IS, said that he had been kidnapped by the organization after arriving in Syria in November 2002. He noted that the goal of the video was to present the truth about the IS due to the deceptive and false reports about the organization being spread by the Western media. According to him, the West is trying to drag its citizens into an unnecessary and unjustifiable war against the IS. According to him, the Western public can change the situation by listening to the facts regarding this issue in the upcoming chapters.⁵⁶

In the second video (the first chapter of the series), Cantlie stated that Western governments are rushing into war in Syria and Iraq without taking into account the lessons of history, and that they are using rhetoric to deceive public opinion. He quoted several senior officials from the US government and American Intelligence agencies in order to show that Obama has no formal plan for fighting against the IS. At the end, he emphasized that the war is destined to fail.⁵⁷ In the third video (the second chapter), Cantlie referred to a speech given by President Obama in honor of the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. According to Cantlie, Obama’s speech was superficial and not at all surprising. Finally, he noted that other chapters in the series will be published.⁵⁸



The video banner

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

⁵⁷ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁵⁸ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

The Islamic State - Nineveh Province

- During the second half of September 2014, the media branch of the Islamic State in Nineveh Province published the following:
 - A review of the establishment and activities of the Islamic Police. The review included a long reference to police forces in ancient Islam as grounds for the establishment of the Islamic Police, and presented it as a body absolutely different from the secular police in modern states. Among other things, it included photos of police forces, their jails and even a photo of the “bridge monitoring department” that is subordinate to it.⁵⁹



Islamic Police patrol car in Nineveh Province

- A manifesto titled, “Reach out Your Hand and Pledge Allegiance to al-Baghdadi”, which was presented as a short message meant to encourage Muslims to swear allegiance to the Caliph. The manifesto – which was divided into several parts – detailed al-Baghdadi’s genealogy and his family’s relationship to the Prophet Muhammad, and explained the background of his jihad education and activities. In addition, the document included Islamic legal explanations to justify al-Baghdadi’s worthiness to serve as Caliph. The author of the manifesto was Turki al-Ban’ali (aka Abu Sufyan al-Sulami), a Bahraini sheikh known for his support of the IS.⁶⁰

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

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

- A video documenting the distribution of bags of flour to the needy in Nineveh Province.⁶¹

The Islamic State – Baghdad

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Baghdad published five videos titled, “Creators of Life” (part 18-22). The videos documented suicide attacks carried out by several IS militants against Iraqi state institutions and security forces.⁶²



Photos of the martyrs

- The IS published a statement regarding an operation in the Kadhimiya neighborhood in northern Baghdad that was carried out on September 18, 2014. According to the statement, the targets of the attack included the police headquarters, security and intelligence agency buildings, and sites connected to the Ayatollah al-Sistani and the Shi’ite Peace Brigades. According to the statement, the attack included the explosion of two car bombs by suicide

⁶¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶² <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (Arabic).

terrorists and the launch of several rockets at the targets. The statement ended with the denial of a report that two IS fighters had been arrested by security forces and with threats directed against the Shi'ite Iraqi government.⁶³ In addition, the organization claimed responsibility for another attack that was carried out on September 23, 2014 in Sadr City, which killed and injured over 70 people.⁶⁴

- The IS in Baghdad published a statement describing its attacks against Iraqi government targets, which were carried out on September 17, 2014. On that day, the police headquarters in Al-Adalah was attacked, as well as security forces buildings, crowds of police forces, and Iraqi intelligence officials.⁶⁵

The Islamic State – Southern Province

- The IS in the Southern Province published a video in which it documented the takeover of an Iraqi military camp in the city of Jurf al-Sakhar, south of Baghdad. The video documented the collapse of concrete barriers and military towers using a bulldozer, as well as the construction of a new access road into the city.⁶⁶

The Islamic State – Diyala Province

- The IS in Diyala Province in Iraq reported that its fighters had shot down a spy plane.⁶⁷

The Islamic State – Al-Falujah Province

- The IS in Al-Falujah Province published a filmed report titled, “Purging the Martyrs’ Neighborhood in Saqlawiyah of a Shi’ite presence.”⁶⁸

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

⁶⁴ <https://justpaste.it/sadr29> (Arabic).

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

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

<https://ia802302.us.archive.org/18/items/JnoubNews4/Jnoub5.mp4>

⁶⁷ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁸ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



A scene from the filmed report

Al-Sham [The Levant]

In contrast to previous declarations by senior Syrian officials, in his latest speech to the United Nations, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem gave implied consent to attacks by allied forces in the country by stating that his country supports every international effort to fight against the Islamic State.⁶⁹ Indeed, reports have indicated that US attacks are continuing and are not only focused on weapons storage sites but also on the oil refineries under the IS's control.⁷⁰ Not surprisingly, at the same time, Syrian opposition forces called on the American government to bomb sites belonging to the regime.⁷¹

It seems that the attacks have not deterred foreign fighters who continue to flow in via Turkey in order to join the ranks of the IS. In an interview conducted with a border smuggler, it was revealed that the procedure is not very complicated and is even cheap – only \$22 for each fighter who is smuggled from Turkey into Syrian territory.⁷² This situation led the Turkish Foreign Minister to call

⁶⁹<http://www.dw.de/%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D8%A4%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D8%A3%D9%8A-%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%AF-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%B4%D8%AF%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%86/a-17964189>

⁷⁰http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2014/09/140928_is_coalition_syria_refineries (Arabic).

⁷¹<http://www.aljazeera.net/news/arabic/2014/9/28/%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%B6%D8%A9-%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D8%AF%D8%B9%D9%88-%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B4%D9%86%D8%B7%D9%86-%D9%84%D9%82%D8%B5%D9%81-%D9%85%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%82%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%B8%D8%A7%D9%85>

⁷²<http://www.skynewsarabia.com/web/article/691663/%D8%AA%D9%87%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8022-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7>

for increased cooperation between Turkey and other countries in order to prevent foreign fighters from reaching Syria via his country.⁷³

Meanwhile, all eyes in Syria and Turkey are on the city of Kobane, or Ayn al-Arab, which is located on the border between the two countries. Despite US bombings and attacks by the Kurdish Peshmerga forces,⁷⁴ IS fighters have managed to approach the city and lay siege to it.⁷⁵

Syria

The Al-Nusra Front in Syria

- The jihadist media institution of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Al-Manara al-Bayda, published a recorded speech by the leader of the organization, Abu Muhammad al-Julani. In the framework of his speech, al-Julani accused the United States of attempting to replace Iranian sponsorship of Syria with western sponsorship (an attempt that, in his opinion, failed due to efforts by the mujahideen and the popular support that they receive) and addressed several messages to various recipients:
 - A threat against the people of the United States and Europe that mentions the price – both in terms of money and human life – that fighting the mujahideen is liable to cost them.
 - Encouragement for the Syrian people facing the hardship of war and a guarantee that the Al-Nusra Front will protect them.
 - A warning to the factions fighting in Syria not to cooperate with Western forces.
 - A call on Sunnis in Lebanon to rise up against Hezbollah and refrain from joining the Lebanese army.
 - A request from the Al-Nusra Front to treat the Syrian people with compassion and

⁷³<http://gate.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/13/71/538778/%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1/%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D9%88%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85/%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8-%D8%A8%D9%85%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%AA%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%88%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A8%D8%B4%D8%A3%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%8A.aspx>

⁷⁴<http://www.shafaq.com/sh2/index.php/reports-investigations/84217-2014-09-30-09-40-38.html>

⁷⁵<http://ara.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idARAKCN0HL26O20140926>

kindness and to cooperate with the right factions.⁷⁶

- The Al-Nusra Front published a new speech by its spokesman, Abu Firas al-Suri, in the framework of which he discussed Western attacks against Al-Nusra Front sites that led to the death of several members of the organization as well as innocent people. In addition, al-Suri accused the governments of Arab countries of cooperating with the West, emphasized the ability of Al-Nusra Front members to remain strong in the face of attacks, and threatened that mujahideen “around the world” would respond to the attacks.⁷⁷
- The Al-Nusra Front published a video in which it documented an attack against Hezbollah positions in the Syrian city of Falita, which is located near the border with Lebanon. The attack included the launch of Kornet rockets at the targets, the destruction of a 57 mm cannon, and the death and injury of several Hezbollah fighters.⁷⁸ In addition, the Al-Nusra Front published a video documenting the explosion of a barricade controlled by Hezbollah in Wadi Khraibe, which is inside Lebanese territory,⁷⁹ as well as photos of the launch of Kornet rockets by members of the Al-Nusra Front towards Hezbollah posts near the town of Assal al-Ward in southern Syria, near the border with Lebanon. The photos showed a direct hit on a tank.⁸⁰



Shooting by the Al-Nusra Front towards a Hezbollah post

- The media wing of the Al-Nusra Front distributed a disc in the area of Daraa in southern Syria titled, “The Islamic State – A Caliphate of Tyranny and Corruption”. According to the cover, the disc includes 220 items that explain why the Islamic State is nothing more than a corrupt

⁷⁶ <http://www.shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

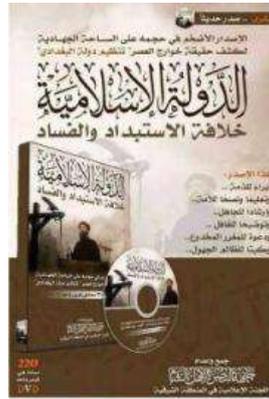
⁷⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rD00ysKE7xI>

⁷⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KF14S8BHsM>

⁷⁹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l27O0vEQPXc>

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

organization of Kharijites (a violent and radical Islamic faction) that must be renounced.⁸¹ According to one explanation, the distribution of the disc was designed to differentiate between the IS and the Al-Nusra Front in the Syrian consciousness, especially in light of the latter's recent loss of popular support.⁸²



Propaganda by the Al-Nusra Front against the Islamic State

The Islamic State – Operations in Al-Raqqah Province

- During the second half of September 2014, the media wing of the Islamic State in Al-Raqqah Province published the following:
 - A video review of IS fighters approaching the city of Ayn al-Arab (Kobane). The photos showed mortar fire against YPG (Kurdish "People's Protection Units") targets, the plunder of weapons and the corpses of those killed.⁸³
 - A video documenting the end of a training course for members of the organization. Among the training exercises that appeared in the video: physical training, self-defense, leaping over burning tires, running track obstacles, shooting practice and various weapons training.⁸⁴

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

⁸² <http://aletihadpress.com/news/syria/1670/> (Arabic).

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

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



A new training cycle at an IS training camp in Al-Raqqah Province

The Islamic State - Operations in Deir Ezzor Province

- The media wing of the Islamic State in Deir Ezzor Province (referred to as Al-Khayr Province by members of the organization), published a filmed review of the activities of the Islamic court in the city of Al-Mayadin, which is located in the center of the province. The photos documented the preparations for the building, the bureaucratic activities within the court, and the arbitration that took place to settle disputes among the mujahideen. The caption that accompanied the photos stated that the arrival of many Muslims to the court indicated their faith in the Islamic State.⁸⁵



The opening of the Islamic court in Al-Mayadin

The Islamic State – Homs

- The Islamic State in Homs published a review of Syrian army forces being pushed out of the village of Mabouga, which is under IS control. According to the announcement, on September

⁸⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

18-19, 2014 Syrian regime forces tried in vain to overtake the village, an attempt that claimed the lives of at least 22 soldiers and led to the loss of weapons and one vehicle. Among other things, the photos show that IS fighters used a 57 mm cannon to shoot at regime and international forces in order to fight off air attacks.⁸⁶

The Islamic State – Damascus

- The Islamic State in Damascus published a statement denying a connection to a military commander who appeared on Al-Jazeera. According to the statement, enemies of the IS failed in their military campaign and were, therefore, turning to a media campaign with the goal of distorting the facts. A person who presented himself as a military commander in the IS in southern Damascus was interviewed for the Al-Jazeera station – but in reality this person had no connection to the IS. The IS only publishes its statements via its official institutions.⁸⁷

The Islamic State – Aleppo

- The media wing of the IS in Aleppo published a filmed review of a shari'a training course for teachers in Manbij. The activity included lectures and tutorials as well as the distribution of a booklet titled, "The Most Important Issues for a Believer in One God and for a Fighter" by Sheikh Abu al-Bara al-Azdi, which deals with jihad and the battle against the infidels, among other things.⁸⁸

Other jihadist organizations

- Jund al-Aqsa published a video documenting its takeover of the city of Khitab as well as the Alawite village of Arzeh in Hama Province, which took place on July 25, 2014. The video showed an exchange of fire between forces, fire towards aircrafts, the bodies of soldiers who were killed and the destruction of a "polytheistic grave" in the village of Arzeh.⁸⁹

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

⁸⁷ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); https://ia902309.us.archive.org/14/items/pdf_234001/pdf_m12.pdf

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

- Ansar al-Sham published a statement regarding the “Crusader campaign in Iraq and Syria”. According to the statement, it is possible to deduce from US history that when the US intervenes militarily in an Arab country it does so with two goals: to fight against Islam and its values, and to attain political and economic achievements. It also stated that the US helped Arab dictators around the world against the popular revolutions, demonstrating that all of its talk about democracy is lies. Now the US has composed an alliance of countries fighting in Syria and Iraq; Ansar al-Sham called on [the people] to fight against the Crusader alliance, criticized those who collaborate with the alliance, and called for unity among the ranks of Muslims in Syria and Iraq.⁹⁰

Lebanon

Abdullah Azzam Brigades

- Sheikh Siraj al-Din Zureiqat, a Lebanese sheikh and one of the spokesmen for the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, published a new recorded speech in which he threatened Hezbollah in the framework of a speech that he gave to captive Lebanese soldiers. In the framework of his speech, Zureiqat addressed the soldiers and called on them to think about their religion instead of their salaries, and to stop shielding Michel Sleiman and Hassan Nasrallah. Among other things, Zureiqat threatened that if his organization wanted to, it could reach Beirut within days.⁹¹

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

Clashes continued in the Sinai Peninsula between Egyptian security forces and terrorist organizations.

On September 16, 2014 eleven Egyptian police officers were killed in an explosion next to their convoy as it passed northern Sinai. Two other officers were injured in the attack.⁹² On September 23, 2014 the Egyptian army announced that it had killed four members of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, which operates in the Sinai Peninsula. The military operation, which also included the arrest

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

⁹¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lh9lx6fyUBs>

⁹² <http://af.reuters.com/article/idAFKBN0HBOK120140916>

of 8 members of the organization, was carried out in Sheikh Zuweid in northern Sinai.⁹³

Meanwhile, the IS published an announcement calling for an escalation in the fight against Egyptian security forces in Sinai. The announcement, which was published by the spokesman for the organization, Mohammad al-Adnani, called on the IS to attack their bases, take over their homes and cut off their heads, and he called President Sisi “the new Pharaoh of Egypt”.⁹⁴

Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis

- Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, which operates in the Sinai Peninsula, published a video titled, “Fight them until there is no civil war – Part 5”. The video documented terrorist attacks against Egyptian security forces.⁹⁵

The Maghreb [North Africa]

For the first time in Libya’s history, the Libyan Parliament approved counter-terrorism legislation. According to the new law, any group composed of three or more people that operates to carry out terrorist attacks inside Libya will be declared a terrorist organization.⁹⁶ In addition to passing the new law, Libya called on the Security Council and the international community to ensure its control over the capital, Tripoli.⁹⁷ Indeed, 40 Arab and western countries, as well as three large international organizations, announced their support for Libya in an attempt to reach a non-violent solution to the country’s political crisis.⁹⁸

Morocco also announced its intention to pass stricter counter-terrorism laws. In the draft of a new law, it expanded the list of acts defined as terrorist acts to include acts of support for terrorism that do not directly impact Morocco or its citizens.⁹⁹ In addition to its struggle in the legal sphere, Morocco - in collaboration with Spain – arrested nine gunmen in the Spanish enclave of

⁹³ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409240536.html>

⁹⁴ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/22/us-egypt-security-islamicstate-idUSKCN0HH0S220140922>

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

⁹⁶ <http://www.ahram.org.eg/NewsQ/326769.aspx>

⁹⁷ <http://www.alarabiya24.com/ar/news/17297>

⁹⁸ <http://www.aawsat.com/home/article/189486>

⁹⁹ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2014/09/16/feature-01?change_locale=true (English).

Melilla suspected of having ties to the IS.¹⁰⁰

Meanwhile, Tunisia called for the consolidation of counter-terrorism efforts and condemned the execution of the French hostage in Algeria, Hervé Gourdel. The announcement, which was published by the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, emphasized the need to consolidate local and international efforts in order to fight terrorism that threatens the security and stability of North African countries.¹⁰¹ In addition, the Tunisian Interior Ministry announced at the end of September that it had arrested six suspected terrorists tied to a group operating in Jebel Chaambi, which carried out several attacks against Tunisian military and security forces.¹⁰²

- The Al-Wafa jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Jund al-Khilafa in Algeria, published a video titled, “A Message to the French Dog, Hollande”, in which it presented a 24-hour ultimatum: France must formally declare the end of its attacks against the Islamic State and the group will not execute Hervé Gourdel, the French captive being held by Jund al-Khilafa.¹⁰³ When the ultimatum expired, the organization made good on its threat and beheaded Gourdel.¹⁰⁴



A clip from the video showing the French hostage

Tunisia

¹⁰⁰ <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/spain-morocco-arrest-nine-militants-linked-islamic-state-082832842.html#mnUGXSI>

¹⁰¹ <http://arabic.people.com.cn/n/2014/0926/c31662-8788343.html>

¹⁰² <http://www.menara.ma/ar/2014/09/30/1383443-%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A8%D8%B6-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A9-%D8%B9%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%A5%D8%B1%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%88%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AE%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9.html>

¹⁰³ <https://justpaste.it/h7y5>

¹⁰⁴ <http://arabic.cnn.com/middleeast/2014/09/24/akgeria-killing-french-hostage> (Arabic).

- The Uqba ibn Nafi Brigades, a Salafi-jihadist organization in Tunisia, published a video on September 25, 2014 in which it threatened to carry out terrorist attacks against Tunisian security forces in response to, and in revenge for, the latest wave of arrests of organization members by security forces.¹⁰⁵



The video banner

- A visitor to the Al-Muslim jihadist Web forum published a photo and identifying information about a Muslim man named Abu Qatada from Ouargla who, according to the visitor, collaborated with the Algerian authorities and was responsible for the death of many mujahideen in the country. According to the visitor, the man is a spy and people should be wary of him. This post was also published on several other jihadist Web forums.¹⁰⁶



Abu Qatada from Ouargla

Egypt

¹⁰⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.muslim.org/vb>; <http://al-fidaa.com/vb> (both in Arabic).

- The “Soldiers of the Caliphate on Egyptian Soil” (according to content, it is a new organization operating in Egypt and affiliated with the IS) published its first statement, according to which the entire world has seen how Egypt, led by the infidel Sisi, cruelly treats Muslims and kills women and children, and no one reacts; not even the Muslim Brotherhood, which associates itself with Islam. The only organization that took a stand and acted was Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (a prominent jihadist organization in the Sinai Peninsula). Therefore, groups of Muslims who support Islam and Sunnah organized under one leader and established the “Soldiers of the Caliphate on Egyptian Soil”; the organization swore allegiance to the Caliph, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the IS, and intends to fight against all enemies of Islam, especially America.¹⁰⁷

Nigeria

Boko Haram continued to attack civilians and clash with Nigerian security forces, especially in northeast Nigeria. On September 20, 2014, for example, Boko Haram militants attacked a rural market in the town of Mainok in northeast Nigeria, killing dozens of civilians.¹⁰⁸ Nevertheless, a rumor that the leader of Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau, had been killed by Cameroon security forces, which was later proved to be false, apparently led to the surrender of hundreds of Boko Haram terrorists to Nigerian security forces.¹⁰⁹

Somalia

The Somali arena was quieter than usual following the killing of Ahmed Abdi Godane, the leader of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, and the revenge attacks that followed.

On September 28, 2014 the head of Somali Intelligence announced a two million dollar reward for information leading to the capture of Al-Shabab’s new leader, Ahmed Omar Abu-Ubaidah. This was the first time that Somalia offered such a reward for an Al-Shabab member; in

¹⁰⁷ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29297402> (English).

¹⁰⁹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29352927> (English).

*addition to the financial prize, protection was guaranteed for whoever supplies the information.*¹¹⁰

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Kataib, published a report detailing the organization military activities against Somali and Ethiopian security forces during the month of Ramadan.¹¹¹
- The Global Islamic Media Front published a condolence message over the death of the leader of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen (a prominent jihadist organization in Somalia), Mukhtar Abu-Zubayr. The message called on the mujahideen in Somalia to continue fighting against the Crusaders and the infidels.¹¹²
- The Al-Zayla'I jihadist media institution published a statement titled, “A letter from the persecuted mujahideen in Somalia to the rest of the supporters of Abu Zubayr (the leader of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen who was recently killed) and members of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen”. According to the statement, news of Abu Zubayr’s death came a year after the killing of Abu-Bakr al-Zayla'I by Abu Zubayr’s forces and at a time when dozens of mujahideen were being tortured in Abu Zubayr prisons, including prominent mujahideen leaders in Somalia. Members of Al-Shabab are harming the Somali Nation and feuding with everyone. At the same time, it is unclear who the “central leadership” is that is publishing statements in the name of Al-Shabab. The new leader of Al-Shabab is from the new generation, was molded by Abu Zubayr, and lacks experience in jihad. The statement called on members of Al-Shabab to cease their actions and return to the path of jihad. It should be noted that the statement expressed support for Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of global Al-Qaeda, as the global leader, and even for the new organization, Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent.¹¹³

¹¹⁰ <https://in.news.yahoo.com/somalia-announces-2-million-dollars-bounty-information-al-061015893.html> (English).

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

¹¹² <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹³ <http://shabakataljihad.com/vb> (Arabic).

The Indian Subcontinent

- The Al-Qadisiyya jihadist media institution, which is responsible for the publication of official announcements by Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, announced the establishment of a new Web forum for the organization whose goal is to raise awareness of the suffering of Muslims living under infidel regimes in the Indian Subcontinent.

The address of the forum: <http://dawahilallah.net>.¹¹⁴

The Philippines

- Abu Sayyaf, a jihadist group operating in the Philippines, published a photo of two German hostages being held by the group since April and threatened to execute them.¹¹⁵ According to media sources, the group demanded over five million dollars as ransom as well as a commitment from Germany to end its support for the war against members of the IS.¹¹⁶ The organization presented an ultimatum of 15 days to meet its demands.¹¹⁷



The two German hostages

The West

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

¹¹⁵ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹⁶ <http://www.dw.de/abu-sayyaf-seeking-global-attention-with-hostage-kill-threat/a-17954921>

¹¹⁷ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic).

- Sheikh Anjem Choudary, a radical Islamic preacher in England, continued to publish controversial correspondence on his Twitter account. During the second half of September 2014, Choudary posted several tweets (see examples below), including a denouncement of the democratic form of government, the benefits and costs of implementing sharia, an accusation against the British and American governments for killing Muslims in Iraq and Syria, and more.



Tweets posted on Anjem Choudary's Twitter account

Miscellaneous

- On September 21, 2014, the Al-Nasaim jihadist media institution, which focuses on recording and distributing songs relating to jihad in order to lift the spirits of jihadists, published on Twitter a fundraising campaign in order to purchase audio recording equipment.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁸ https://twitter.com/twasl_nsam/status/513254620110397442/photo/1 (Arabic).

حملة التبرع - إنشاء استديو تسجيلي خاص بمؤسسة نسائم للإنتاج الصوتي

لما كان الضياء جزءاً من حرب الموحدين لعدوهم، يزداد إحتياج الشبيد للمعدات بالتطور التكنولوجي المتواصل والذي لا يواكب إلا بعصب الجهاد المال كما قال شيخ المجاهدين الشهيد/أسامة بن لادن أبا عبد الله .. ثقيله الله من هذا الباب وللإستمرار في عطائنا على أبيهى خلقه، يسر مؤسسة نسائم أن تفتح بابها لإستقبال تبرعاتكم لإبداعها في مشروع (إنشاء استديو خاص بالمؤسسة) فسارع للمساهمة ولا تستحقرن معروفنا إخوانكم إدارة مؤسسة

السعر 800\$	ميكروفون	السعر 500\$	حاسوب
السعر 100\$	سماعات خارجية	السعر 50\$	سماعات رأس
السعر 50\$	حامل مايك	السعر 500\$	كرت صوت

تواصل @twasal_nasam

Left banner: an explanation regarding the need to raise funds in order to purchase appropriate technological equipment to help in the jihadist campaign.

Right banner: a fundraising campaign for the establishment of a recording studio detailing the cost of the technological devices.

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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