

Monthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

July 2017

Highlights

- The **leadership of Al-Qaeda** appeals to jihad fighters, including the senior fighters among them, not to shed the blood of Muslim believers. According to the leadership, the Quran and the Sunnah severely prohibit this, and anyone who violates the prohibition is sentenced to hell in the next world.
- The **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan**, various branches of Al-Qaeda, such as **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula** and **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb**, and other jihadists harshly criticize Israel for its ostensible damage to the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque, and from preventing Muslims from praying in the third holiest place to Muslims. These organizations and others encourage Palestinians' continued resistance against Israel, threaten to carry out revenge attacks, and emphasize that the liberation of Al-Aqsa from the Jews will ultimately be achieved.
- **Ahman Iman Ali**, the spokesman for **Al-Shabab al-Mujahideen (Al-Qaeda's branch in Somalia)**, in Kenya, calls on Muslims in Kenya not to vote in the country's upcoming elections. He pleads with Muslims serving in the framework of the Kenyan security forces to leave their jobs, and if they refuse to do so the organization will fight against them. In addition, the organization threatens to damage Kenya's stability due to its invasion of Somalia.
- **Hayat Tahrir al-Sham** and **Ahrar al-Sham** declare their willingness to resolve the conflict that has arisen between them in a shari'a court but they emphasize that they are prepared to continue battling one another in order to defend themselves.
- The **Abdullah Azzam Brigades**, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Syrian-Lebanese arena, accuses the Lebanese army of war crimes against Syrian refugees in the 'Arsal refugee camp, including the destruction of their homes as well as murder. According to the organization, the Lebanese army has become partner to the policy of Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah to purge the area of a Sunni presence. In light of this, the organization calls on the Sunni population in Lebanon, including clerics, to come to their senses and defend the Sunnis and jihad fighters in Lebanon, and to help in any way possible, including offensive activities against the Lebanese army and its partners.
- **Ansar Ghazwat al-Hind**, a new jihadist group in **Kashmir**, led by **Zakir Musa**, announces its intention to liberate Kashmir from the Indian "occupation" using brute force. According to the

organization, Kashmir has been experiencing a jihadist awakening over the past year as a result of the death of Burhan Wani, a jihad fighter in Kashmir who was killed in July 2016, and the group's fundamentals reflect a continuation of the offensive line against India.

- The **Islamic State** calls on its followers in “infidel countries”, especially in the West, to break into businesses, rob them and loot the property of the infidels. According to the organization, such actions have several goals, as was published in its new issue of *Rumiyah*: the economic weakening of the West, funding migration to arenas of jihad, and funding attacks against targets in infidel countries.
- The **Islamic State** in Raqqah Province in Syria criticizes tribal members in Syria who betrayed the Islamic State and became ‘apostates’, and it threatens to attack those who defect from its ranks.

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New Publications

Ideology

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda leadership, published an announcement titled, “Advice to the Ummah and the Mujahideen regarding the Prohibition against Spilling the Blood of Muslims”. In the announcement, the organization called on field commanders and jihad fighters to take heed that Islam’s holy texts, the Quran and the Sunnah, explicitly prohibit the killing of Muslim believers, and anyone who does do is sentenced to hell.¹
- Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric affiliated with Al-Qaeda, declared that jihad factions must reject outright the ‘United Arab Law’ and not adopt it since it is a law based on western philosophy and has nothing to do with Islam. The law was formulated in 1996 by the Arab League and incorporates shari’a and civil laws out of a vision to establish a moderate legal model and a desire to avoid using the principle of *takfir* – the act of accusing another Muslim of apostasy according to shari’a. Abu Qatada spoke negatively of this law against the backdrop of its implementation by Ahrar al-Sham, one of the largest jihadist factions in Syria, in its courts.²
- Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini and Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, two senior Salafi-jihadist clerics identified with Al-Qaeda, penned a eulogy in memory of Sheikh Muhammad Shaqara, a prominent Salafist sheikh in Jordan who died in 2018 at the age of 83. In the eulogy, the two sheikhs praised Shaqara’s character and discussed his biography. Shaqara learned at Al-Azhar in Egypt and was a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. Later, he moved to Saudi Arabia and taught at the Islamic University of Al-Madinah for several years, after which he moved to Jordan where he promoted the Salafist school of thought and spoke in praise of the mujahideen.³
- The Nukhbat al-Fikr media group, which is involved in media for Al-Qaeda, published an article titled, “Incorrect Terms between the Mujahideen” by Khattab Anas, a jihadist affiliated with the organization, with an introduction by Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini. In the article, the writer recommended avoiding using vague religious-legal terms for which Muslims can be labelled as infidels. According to him, one must be extra careful and wisely choose unambiguous terms when

¹ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhjIIaX6_oA; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIhJXMscyFY>

³ Telegram

using *takfir*, a label denoting Muslims as infidels.⁴

- Sheikh Dr. Sami al-Aridi, a senior Salafi-jihadist affiliated with Al-Qaeda and a former member of the Shura Council of Al-Nusra Front, published the following:
 - An article titled, “Jihad of the Ummah and Jihad of the Groups” with a forward by Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric affiliated with Al-Qaeda. In the article, al-Aridi made a distinction between the jihad war waged by groups, factions and schools of thought against their enemies, and the war of jihad that is supposed to encompass all segments of the Muslim population. According to him, jihadist factions are fighting in various arenas of jihad against the enemies of Islam, which is a blessed thing in and of itself, but jihad is not supposed to be limited to those arenas. Jihad factions must strive to integrate the civilian population or the entire Muslim Nation to take part in jihad as well. According to him, Abdullah Azzam – one of the spiritual founders of Al-Qaeda - succeeded in publishing a fatwa stating that the war of jihad is an individual commandment for every Muslim with a healthy soul, since the lands of Islam are under attack today by many enemies. He praised Al-Qaeda as the only organization that set for itself the goal of encouraging the Muslim Nation to take part in this commandment.⁵
 - An announcement regarding the claim that jihadist movements have reached a dead end. In the announcement, al-Aridi claimed that the Muslim Nation and jihadist movements will not reach a dead end unless there will be disagreements between them. He added that jihadist movements must learn from past experience and unite the nation around them, otherwise the same thing will happen that happened in Egypt and Tunisia where, according to him, the revolutions did not result in the desired outcomes as a result of the gap that developed between the people and the jihadist movements.⁶
 - A statement titled, “Sheikhs for Rent”, in which al-Aridi claimed that it is forbidden to be “sheikhs on demand”, and to act according to the will of the people, adding that sheikhs must act only according to God's will.⁷

⁴ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁵ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁶ <https://justpaste.it/18kt9>

⁷ <https://justpaste.it/199na>

- The Islamic State published a book titled, “Children in the Lap of Jihad” (178 pp.) by Umm ‘Amara al-Mujahida. The writer detailed, at-length, the type of education that boys and girls should receive from infancy to adulthood in the territories in which jihad wars are being waged. For example, the writer emphasized the mother’s central role in instilling values in her son, such as fulfilling the commandment of jihad, while the father is supposed to provide practical guidance for the son on how to use weapons, etc.⁸
- Al-Hayat jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published a video in a series of videos titled, “Inside the Khilafah”. In the video, which was narrated in English with Arabic subtitles, it was explained that despite the war against it, the IS began to bring into circulation the copper coin, emphasizing that all transactions and trade must be carried out on the basis of the new Islamic currency. In the second part of the video, a fighter at one of the *ribat* stations explained that the Islamic State is fighting in order to defend its subjects, both militarily and economically.⁹



The continuation of IS Islamic currency propaganda

- Visitors to Ana al-Muslim jihadist Web forum held several discussions regarding the expected imminent fall of the IS. In the framework of the discussions, several visitors spoke out against the organization and claimed that, instead of realizing achievements, it caused the deaths of innocent people, and they wished for the organization’s imminent fall into the 'garbage can of history'. Visitors also reacted this way to the organization’s many defeats in Syria and Iraq, and to the fact that its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, has not shown his face since his famous speech in Mosul in July 2014, which led to one visitor wondering if al-Baghdadi was killed and if the organization was hiding the fact of his death as the Taliban did by not announcing the death of Mullah Omar.¹⁰ In

⁸ Telegram

⁹ <https://goo.gl/cDx2f9>

¹⁰ <https://goo.gl/skKDZj>; <https://goo.gl/DxUWWi>

another discussion, visitors discussed the reasons for the Islamic State’s collapse and made special mention of its harsh and cruel treatment of both the civilians under its rule and as well as its enemies.¹¹

Strategy

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda leadership in Afghanistan, published the following:
 - A speech by Abu Yahya al-Libi, a former senior member of Al-Qaeda leadership who was killed in a US drone strike in 2012, regarding the importance of digging trenches as an auxiliary measure in the battle against the enemy. Al-Libi recommended that the mujahideen adopt this pattern of action since the Prophet Muhammad himself fought against his enemies using trenches. The speech combined photos and videos that were being published for the first time.¹²



A clip from the video documenting al-Libi digging a trench in preparation for battle against the enemy

- An article titled, “Put on the Armor of the Soldiers of Islam just as your Prophets Wore Armor” by Abu ‘Amir al-Naji. In his article, the writer addressed the commanders of jihad and urged them to maintain a noble fighting spirit and to cover their bodies with armor as the Prophet Muhammad did in various battles.¹³

¹¹ <https://goo.gl/2QCQ9B>

¹² <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹³ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).



The banner page of the article

- The Telegram channel, “Strategic Insights of the Jihad Movement” published several analyses and recommendations on fighting for jihadists. According to the jihadist magazine, *Al-Masra*, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, the channel was launched in the beginning of November 2016 and its founders include army and field commanders as well as jihad leaders. One of the writers listed four essential principles for the success of jihad activities against the enemy: unity among the leadership in order to prevent chaos and spillover into internal conflicts; a clear strategy; organization; control. Another writer recommended establishing a type of umbrella organization to be entrusted with the integration of technological tools in the combat system as well as innovations in the strategic and tactical fields. For example, the writer noted that a renewal of the organization’s structure “will enable us to prevail over the enemy, and allow us to reach and strike him without him threatening our existence [...]”. Another writer recommended waging battle based on small units rather than large combat units, since the former have the element of surprise and the ability to hide quickly. He added that the movement on the ground requires a high and precise ability that should be characterized by deployment in the area, as well as the ability to unite, outflank and strike the enemy, disperse quickly after the attack, find a hiding place, and so forth. According to the visitor, the success of this action pattern depends on the ability of jihad fighters to be inventive in the field rather than on the central leadership, which is

stagnant. In order to demonstrate this idea, the writer mentioned the tactical retreat of Ansar al-Sharia fighters in Al-Mukalla, Yemen, at the end of April 2016. According to him, this retreat was designed to transfer the weight of the combat array from a difficult situation to an offensive situation characterized by speed and supreme, accurate skill. In other words, thanks to the retreat and the reorganization of the organization's ranks, they were able to strike the enemy quickly, find hiding places, strike the enemy again, and so forth. Another writer agreed with this and noted that the central leadership must show flexibility and give field commanders the independence not to be bound by the instructions of the central leadership if they believe that they are not helpful during the battle in the field.

Another writer addressed the way in which a new field commander is supposed to act. According to him, the appointment of a new field commander is liable to cause tension and discomfort among members of the military unit, some of whom had hoped to be appointed to this position. In light of this, the new field commander must take two steps: A. appoint a skilled, flawless staff that identifies and supports the policy of the new commander. B. concentrate efforts on strengthening the spirit of partnership for the way of the new commander.

On another topic, the writer focused on the positioning of several jihadist groups in the same territory. According to him, despite the fact that the groups are fighting against one enemy, there is concern of a flare-up and spillover into clashes between the various factions due to power struggles. In light of this, they must strive for alliance and cooperation, and with the establishment of such an agreement, one leadership should be established to supervise and guide the activity in the area. "Scattered leadership is a recipe for disaster and is the reason for the greatest military defeat in history [...] There is no other way but to choose one military commander for the coalition leadership [...]"

Another writer analyzed the agreement that was signed between the Syrian regime and jihadists allowing the latter to leave Aarsal for Idlib. According to the writer, the expulsion of the mujahideen each time to Idlib has dangerous consequences since a concentration of jihad fighters in one place makes it possible for the enemy to outflank them and concentrate forces in that area. The writer noted that this scenario is similar to what happened in northern Waziristan on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. According to him, the Pakistani army used to attack areas near northern Waziristan, as well as southern Waziristan and the Swat region. Ultimately, these attacks

led to jihad fighters wandering together with their families to northern Waziristan in search of refuge. The growing concentration of mujahideen in northern Waziristan made it easy for the Pakistani army to encircle this area and attack jihad fighters using spy planes and Pakistani ground forces. For this reason, there is a similar concern that the Syrian army will use spy planes in order to shell jihad fighters in Idlib, where there is a large concentration of mujahideen. He added that, in contrast to northern Waziristan whose territory extends hundreds of kilometers, Idlib is in greater danger because of its small size and proximity to Jordan, Israel, Turkey and Iraq, which could result in a similar situation to that of Gaza; jihad fighters will be “locked inside” Idlib, allowing their enemies to encircle them. According to him, this dangerous situation requires consultation among senior jihad commanders in order to find a suitable solution.¹⁴



The logo of the “Strategic Insights of the Jihad Movement” Telegram channel

- The Telegram channel, “The Library of Jihad”, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published a booklet analyzing the Islamic State’s action strategy versus that of Al-Qaeda. According to the writer, the IS failed because it began to act like a state. Due to the need to manage territory, it established institutions similar to state institutions and, therefore, made itself vulnerable. In contrast, the writer emphasized, Al-Qaeda is not clearly visible in the field and, therefore, the enemy has a difficult time finding points to strike. The writer noted that the brutality that characterizes the IS, manifested in beheadings for example, achieved a negative result since every such act strengthened antagonistic feelings towards the organization and a desire by the opponent to react. As an analogy, the writer noted the shellings by Nazi German planes on London during World War II, claiming that there too the shellings did not cause fear but rather they

¹⁴ Telegram

strengthened the sense of solidarity among the British and their resolve to respond. The writer also referred to the phenomenon of recruiting foreign fighters to the ranks of the IS and compared them to the foreign mercenaries operating among the ranks of the Mamluk Sultans. While the latter underwent organized military training and religious indoctrination, this was less the case with the former.¹⁵

- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a question regarding the material acetone peroxide. The writer explained that he is in possession of liquid acetone, 50% hydrogen peroxide, 30% hydrogen peroxide, and 118g./110 ml. hydrochloric acid, one the color gold and one a greenish color. The writer wanted to find out if he can make acetone peroxide using the above-mentioned materials, if he can use this material as a catalyst for RDX, if he can store the material in a fuse or in cold water for one month without losing its attributes, and under what temperature the material explodes (the writer notes that he is in a place where the temperature stands at 54 degrees. After about a month, a visitor to the forum responded and noted additional materials needed to prepare a bomb and recommended using the material the same week.¹⁶
- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum published video guides on pipe shotguns, which he explained is easy for 'lone wolves' to assemble and use.¹⁷
- A visitor to the Ana al-Muslim jihadist Web forum started a discussion on the topic of the stabbing attacks in Israel against Jews, in which he claimed that such attacks are not effective as they do not bring about the liberation of Palestine and only cause damage to Muslims, especially to the families of the perpetrators. Some visitors disagreed with that claim and noted that even stone throwing by children had succeeded in changing Israel's policy during the Intifada, and others believed that the Palestinians should be patient and wait for a change in the balance of power in the struggle against Israel.¹⁸
- The Amaq news agency published a poster summarizing the suicide attacks that were carried out in Syria and Iraq during the month of June 2017. According to the poster, during this period a total of 55 suicide attacks were carried out against Iraqi forces and Shi'ite pilgrims, Syrian regime

¹⁵ Telegram

¹⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁷ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁸ <https://goo.gl/RVnCze>

forces and the PKK. According to the announcement, the provinces in which the largest number of suicide attacks were carried out were Nineveh Province in Iraq and Raqqah province in Syria.¹⁹



A summary of suicide attacks in Syria and Iraq for the month of June 2017

- The IS published issue no. 11 of its English-language magazine, *Rumiyah*. In an article calling on Muslims living in “infidel lands”, especially in the West, to find new ways of weakening the economic system through offensive acts of jihad until its complete destruction. For example, the organization recommended carrying out robberies, theft and looting of the infidels’ property for two main purposes: A. to finance migration to arenas of jihad B. to finance offensive acts such as purchasing weapons against targets in the living area of the infidels.²⁰

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the issue no. 136 (44 pp.) of its magazine, *Al-Somood*, which deals with the arena of jihad in Afghanistan, for the month of July 2017.²¹

¹⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/74767>

²⁰ http://ia801506.us.archive.org/1/items/pkwy84/11Rumiyah_EN.pdf

²¹ <https://up.top4top.net/f-557kzurm1-pdf.html>



The banner page of *Al-Somood*

- Al-Qaeda launched a new periodical titled, “*Hijra*” in English, and published five issues of it during the month of July. In the first issue under the title, “Be aware of scams that try to damage Al-Shabab”, Al-Qaeda claimed that Al-Shabab is not harming innocent people and called on readers not to believe things that are published about it in the media. The issue also listed Al-Shabab’s goals, including: establish an Islamic state, wage war against Christians and despotic rulers, encourage Muslims to wage jihad, free prisoners and protect Muslims’ money.²² In the second issue titled, “The West is the Main Source of Terror”, it stated that the West is attacking Muslims, killing them and invading their lands. The end of the issue included a quote by Osama bin Laden, the former leader of Al-Qaeda, according to which the US will not enjoy security until Muslims live in Palestine and until all western armies withdraw from Muslim lands.²³ In the third issue titled, “Why We Wage Jihad”, it stated that jihad is waged in order to elevate the religion of Islam and turn it into the ruling religion. The issue added that all Muslims are close, even those who are living in the US, while non-Muslim Arabs are considered the enemy. Later in the issue, the organization thanked George Bush, who turned the organization from a small organization in Southeast Asia to a global organization, and hoped that Trump will continue Bush’s work.²⁴ The fourth issue titled, “The Need for Trenches”, included a statement by Abu Yahya al-Libi in which

²² Telegram

²³ Telegram

²⁴ Telegram

he claimed that, according to the Quran, Muslims must use all tools at their disposal in their struggle against the infidels and, therefore, they must dig and prepare trenches.²⁵ In the fifth issue titled, “The Attraction of Muslims to Jerusalem”, the organization called for battle against the Jews until Palestine is captured by Muslims, and for battle against West (US and Europe) so that they stop supporting the Jews and do not allow the killing of Muslims. The organization also called on Muslims not to give in to temporary solutions that will only lead to harder battles in the future.²⁶



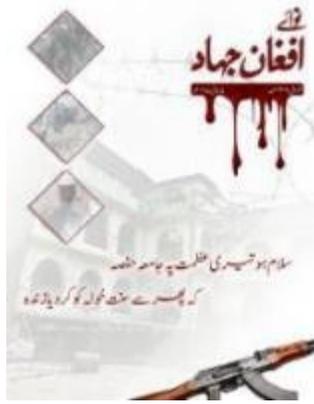
The banner page of *Hijra*

- The July 2017 issue of the magazine, *Nawai Afghan Jihad*, which belongs to Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, was published. Among the topics covered in the issue were: the importance of faith in the principle of the Oneness of God; the importance of unity among the ranks of the mujahideen in fighting against the enemies of Islam; a message to Muslims to support the mujahideen; emphasis of the martyr’s death as a lofty death.²⁷

²⁵ Telegram

²⁶ Telegram

²⁷ Telegram



The banner page of *Nawai Afghan Jihad*

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published issues no. 54-57 of its magazine, *Al-Masra*, which reviews central developments in various arenas of jihad as well as prominent international news, and provides a platform for statements by senior jihad commanders.²⁸

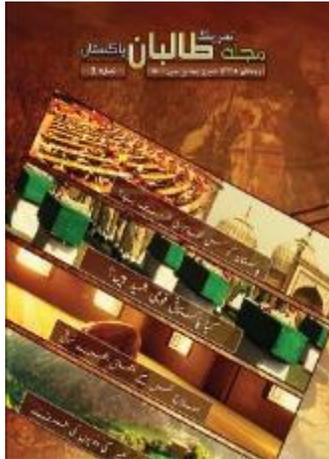


The banner page of *Al-Masra*

- The Taliban in Pakistan published issue no. 3 of the magazine, *Taliban Pakistan*.²⁹

²⁸ Telegram

²⁹ https://archive.org/details/mujalla_Taliban_shumara_03



The banner page of the *Taliban Pakistan*

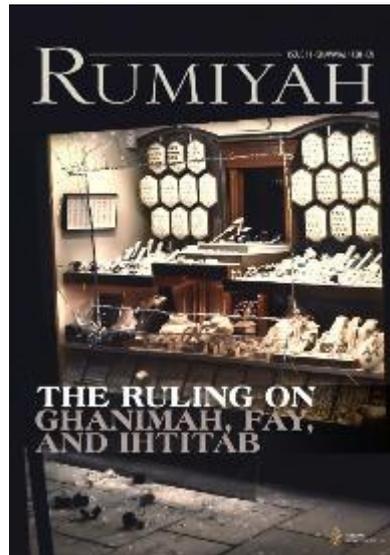
- Issues no. 88-91 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published by the Islamic State. Among the topics covered in these issues were: An infographic regarding operational activities in Iraqi provinces; reports from battles in Mosul; an interview with a foreign fighter of French origin; and religious articles regarding the laws of taking plunder and food.³⁰



The banner page of *Al-Naba*

³⁰ <https://ia801500.us.archive.org/19/items/Nabaa88>; https://archive.org/details/rusty_gmx_89; https://ia600803.us.archive.org/24/items/cqds_tvhd_90/90.pdf; https://archive.org/details/rusty_gmx_91

- Al-Hayat media center published issue no. 11 of the magazine, *Rumiyah*. Among the topics covered were: rulings regarding plunder and kidnapping; an article criticizing the Twelver Shia; and a review of attacks that were carried out in various provinces. It should be noted that some of the issue's pages were taken from *Al-Naba* magazine.³¹ In the German version of the magazine, the organization provided guidebooks for 'lone wolves' on how to build Molotov cocktails and called on its supporters to set fire to the Dresden Church.³²



The banner page of *Rumiyah*

- Issues no. 4-5 of the magazine, *Al-Malham*, which is affiliated with the IS, were published. Among the topics discussed in these issues were: the holiness of the month of Ramadan; a call on the people of Saudi Arabia to revolt against the Saudi regime; a boost for the morale of those taking part in battles; emphasis on the eternity of the Islamic Caliphate; the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad; condemnation of the clerics belonging to the establishment who support Muslim regimes; lessons from the battle in Sirte, Libya; threats to carry out attacks in the West; a call for attacks against western army bases scattered throughout the Gulf States.³³

³¹ http://ia801506.us.archive.org/1/items/pkwy84/11Rumiyah_EN.pdf (English).

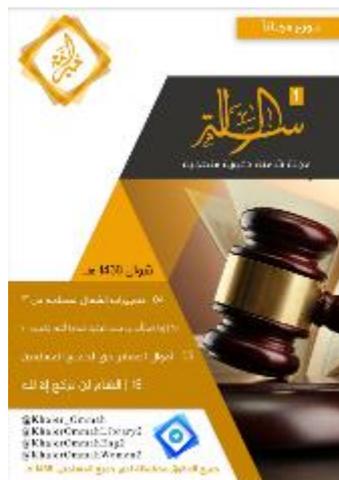
³² Telegram

³³ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic)



The banner page of issue no.5 of *Al-Malham*

- The Telegram channel, Khayr al-Umma, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, launched a new magazine titled, *Al-Risālah*, which mainly covers the arena of jihad in Syria.³⁴



The banner page of *Al-Risālah*

³⁴ Telegram

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published the following:
 - An announcement by the spokesman of the Emirate, Zabihullah Mujahid, regarding the abuse of prisoners in jails. In the announcement, Mujahid claimed that there is growing abuse and cruelty towards the organization's prisoners in the jails of the regime in Kabul and in the jails of the Americans. According to him, many restrictions are imposed on the prisoners, such as short and tight clothing, long waits for a meeting between prisoners and their families, poor sport activities and hygiene, poor level of food and quality of medical care, and jailers who are verbally abusive towards the prisoners. Later in the announcement, Mujahid condemned this abuse of prisoners, and called on human rights organizations and the media to investigate the issue and put an end to this abuse.³⁵
 - An announcement regarding Israeli aggression in Al-Aqsa Mosque. In the announcement, the organization claimed that, as a result of clashes that erupted between Israelis and Palestinians, Israel closed Al-Aqsa Mosque and prevented Muslims from carrying out Friday prayers at the mosque. Later in the announcement, the organization criticized the Israeli soldiers' actions, and called on Muslim states and international Islamic organizations to condemn Israel's actions and stand with the Palestinians.³⁶
 - An announcement by the spokesman of the Emirate, Zabihullah Mujahid, regarding the UNAMA report on civilian casualties that he claimed was partial and contrary to reality. In the announcement, the organization rejected the UNAMA report, according to which 43% of civilian casualties are attributed to the Islamic Emirate, and only 18% are attributed to the Americans and the regime in Kabul. Later in the announcement, the organization claimed that it is working to reduce civilian casualties as much as possible, in contrast to the Americans and the regime in Kabul. The organization added that the UNAMA report was not even collected from the territories under the control of the Islamic Emirate even

³⁵ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=16828> (English).

³⁶ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=17015> (English).

though these are the areas where most of the battles and killings are carried out by the American invaders. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on humanitarian organizations to collect real and precise data regarding civilian casualties.³⁷

The Islamic State in Khorasan Province

- The IS in Khorasan Province and Amaq news agency published the following:
 - A report on the killing of two American soldiers and 13 Afghan soldiers in battles against the organization's forces in De Bala, in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan.³⁸
 - A report about the killing of a police officer and four Pakistani policemen in an attack by the IS in the city of Quetta in western Pakistan.³⁹
 - A report of an ambush carried out against Afghan army forces in Tora Bora.⁴⁰

The Arabian Peninsula

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- Al-Malahim jihadist media institution, which belongs to AQAP, published the following:
 - A series of videos by Sheikh Khalid bin 'Umar Batrifi, a member of the organization's Shura Council, regarding the religion of Islam, such as deriving insights into a true moral lifestyle based on the stories of the prophets of Islam.⁴¹
 - A joint announcement together with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb regarding the events at Al-Aqsa. In the announcement, the two organizations stressed that Al-Aqsa is the third holiest place to Muslims after the mosques of Mecca and Medina. According to them, the "tiny state of the Children of Zion" is continuing its policies of persecution against the Palestinians through siege, deterrence and destruction that has gone on for decades, now through the prevention of prayer in Al-Aqsa and the closure of, and damage to, the holy site. In light of this, the two organizations sent several messages: 1) A message to clerics, sheikhs and preachers to publicly and firmly condemn the continuing damage

³⁷ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=17100> (English).

³⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/74701>

³⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/74968>

⁴⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

⁴¹ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

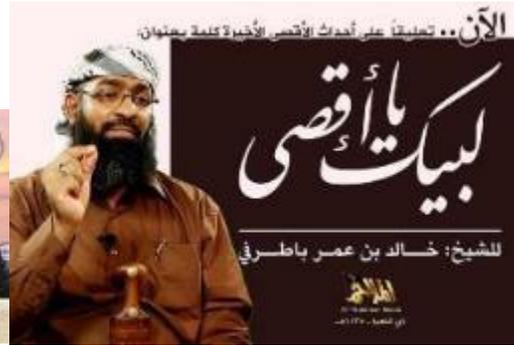
and defilement of Al-Aqsa by the “Zionist entity”. 2) A message to the people of the Muslim Nation to realize that the traitorous Muslim rulers of the region chose not to respond to the events in Al-Aqsa. With this silence, they ignored the anger of the Muslim masses who seek to defend Al-Aqsa, but this reaction is not surprising since that these regimes were responsible for suppressing the popular revolutions [referring to the Arab Spring]. This shows that the preservation of the sanctity of Islam’s holy sites rests with Muslims themselves. 3) A message to jihad fighters and their commanders to continue their activities until the liberation of Al-Aqsa. 4) Encouragement for the Palestinian population that continues to struggle against the Zionists and to preserve Islamic holy places in Palestine. 5) A threat to attack Jews and their allies while referring to the prophecy of the Prophet Muhammad that the Muslims will annihilate the Jews at the end of days.⁴²

- A video titled, “I Swear Allegiance to You, Al-Aqsa” by Khalid bin ‘Umar Batrifi, a member of the organization’s Shura Council. In the video, Batrifi criticized Israel for barring entry for Muslims to Al-Aqsa compound. According to him, the Jews allow themselves to behave as they wish in Al-Aqsa compound due to the silence of the Arab regimes bordering Israel who are backed by the establishment’s clerics, whom he referred to as “the wicked clerics”. He emphasized that jihad against corrupt regimes and the strengthening of Islam against its enemies are the solution to changing the existing order. In addition, he praised the Palestinians and encouraged them to continue to attack Jews, be it by knife stabbings, ramming attacks, etc.⁴³ Alongside the organization’s messages of condemnation, Al-Bashair jihadist media institution, which belongs to AQAP, published a collection of hymns praising Al-Aqsa and calling on Muslims to liberate it from the Jews.⁴⁴

⁴² <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁴³ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁴ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).



From left to right: a hymn in praise of Al-Aqsa; the logo of Batrifi's speech in light of Al-Aqsa events

- Ansar al-Shari'a, which is affiliated with AQAP, published the following:
 - A video documenting the guerrilla warfare being waged by the organization in Al-Bayda Province in recent months against Houthi forces. The video also included interviews with residents of the province who spoke about the Houthis' crimes against them. Sheikh Bartafi, a senior member of AQAP, accused the US of collaborating with the Houthis in carrying out crimes against the Sunni population in Yemen.⁴⁵
 - A video documenting an attack by members of the organization against Yemeni security forces in the city of Shakra in Abyan Province. In the video, the latter were accused of submission to their master in the United Emirates.⁴⁶

The Islamic State

- Amaq news agency reported on attacks against Houthis in the area of Qifa.⁴⁷

Iraq

The Islamic State

- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Amaq news agency published a range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following issues:

A. Battles and Military Deployments:

⁴⁵ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁶ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/DEi92BIXgAAAtulQ1.jpg>

- Dijlah Province: A video regarding the takeover of the village of Imam Gharbi, which is near the city of Qayyara. The video documented night-time gun battles near the village and the launch of a rocket at an Iraqi army BMP vehicle. The video also included an infographic regarding the length of the battle, the number of casualties among the Iraqi army and militia forces, and the number of military vehicles that were destroyed.⁴⁸
- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Amaq news agency published a range of videos and filmed reviews on various operational topics, including: the continued documentation of the battles in Mosul, an attack south of Sharqat, an attack by two inghimas fighters in the area of Al-Tarmia, an attack against an army post in Diyala Province, battles against the PMF in the area of Qayyara, and the execution of PMF members in the same area.⁴⁹

B. Executions:

- Al-Jazira Province: A video titled, “Cause Them to Lose Sleep”, which documented the integration of children of various ages and origins into the organization’s fighting system. In the video, children and youth were documented training in the use of various weapons and making threats against the enemies of the organization and western countries. At the video’s peak, four youth – of Persian, Turkmen, Turkish and Russian origin – executing prisoners that the organization had taken captive.⁵⁰



Children and youth carrying out executions in the ranks of the IS

⁴⁸ <https://ia600802.us.archive.org/18/items/emamkarpe/emamkarpe.mp4>

⁴⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

⁵⁰ <http://www.shoof.tk/watch.php?vid=9fb9f2ffc>

- *Al-Furat Province*: A video titled, “The End of Those Who Were Warned”, which documented the executions – in various ways – of several people accused of spying for the PMF and the West, and of establishing ‘ sleeper cells’ against the organization.⁵¹
- C. Propaganda and Media:
 - *Kirkuk Province*: A filmed review regarding a group oath of allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi that was carried out in a village called Al-Dakamant in the province.⁵²
- D. Civilian Matters: Filmed reviews were published regarding the distribution of zakat payments in the city of Riyad in Kirkuk Province.⁵³

Al-Sham [The Levant]

Syria

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham

- Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (Assembly for the Liberation of the Levant), an umbrella organization composed of Salafi-jihadist factions in Syria, published the following:
 - An audio clip by a member of the organization’s Shura Council, Sheikh Abd al-Rahim ‘Itwan (aka Abu ‘Abadullah al-Shami), in memory of Sheikh Abu Yahya al-Masri, a senior member of the organization. The latter was killed in northern Idlib as a result of a suicide attack carried out by a member of the IS who detonated inside a car. Al-Shami noted al-Masri’s good traits, his status as an outstanding jihad fighter who was admired by his friends and the civilian population in Syria.⁵⁴
 - An announcement regarding an attack on the organization in the area of Jabal al-Zawiya in Idlib. In the announcement, the organization accused Suqour al-Sham of killing two of its members in the area.⁵⁵

⁵¹ <http://www.shoof.tk/watch.php?vid=a5dd6b6b8>

⁵² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/74831>

⁵³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

⁵⁴ Telegram

⁵⁵ Telegram

- An announcement regarding an attack carried out by the organization against the Syrian regime in Al-Latakia. In the announcement, the organization claimed responsibility for the explosion of a car bomb at an Iranian militia army base in Al-Latakia and for an attack on a building near the Air Force of the Alawite regime. At the end of the announcement, the organization vowed to continue carrying out such attacks beyond enemy lines.⁵⁶
- A response to an announcement by the Syrian Islamic Council according to which members of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham must dissolve and join another faction due to the organization's aggression towards the rest of the factions. The announcement stated that the Syrian Islamic Council's announcement was biased and unreliable. The organization claimed that the Council only referred to one side and must listen to both sides. The announcement added that Ahrar al-Sham had attacked the organization and, therefore, the organization had to defend itself and respond to this aggression. Later in the announcement, the organization asked the respected members of the Council not to allow others to publish announcements of this sort, and called on it to offer solutions to the problem and not to be part of it.⁵⁷
- A response regarding the ceasefire between the organization and Ahrar al-Sham in northern Syria. In the beginning of the announcement, the organization claimed that it did not attack any side and that it had only responded to attacks by other organizations against it. Later in the announcement, the organization rejected the proposed ceasefire, claiming that it was similar to its predecessors and is not able to cope with the challenges of the situation in northern Syria. According to the organization, a real ceasefire proposal must include the establishment of a mechanism for managing the liberated areas that will make decisions regarding war and peace, and the fate of the Syrian revolution. The organization added that it would respond to any Sunni initiative that would unite the liberated areas, and create a unified political and military leadership.⁵⁸
- A call for unity among the ranks in order to implement the goals of the Syrian revolution and defend the Syrian people. In the announcement, the organization claimed that it is

⁵⁶ Telegram

⁵⁷ Telegram

⁵⁸ Telegram

part of the Syrian revolution and is working to establish Islamic rule, and to restore stability and security to Syria by toppling the Alawite regime. Later in the announcement, the organization emphasized the need for a Sunni plan that will protect the goals of the revolution and include civilian, political and military bodies that are common to all the factions. The organization added that the civilian body will be responsible for organizing the lives of residents and providing services, and security forces will provide assistance as needed. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on all of the factions to immediately converge in order to discuss this plan to protect the Syrian revolution.⁵⁹

- A message of condolences over the death of one of the organization's commanders, Abu Muhammad al-Shuhayl. The announcement referred to al-Shuhayl's actions and contributions to jihad and to the Syrian revolution.⁶⁰
- An announcement by the Chairman of the Shura Council of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, Bishr al-Shami, regarding the importance of modesty and humility among the mujahideen. In the announcement, al-Shami referred to the difference between modesty and degradation, and he called on the mujahideen not to confuse the two.⁶¹
- A reaction by the Shura Council of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham to the fatwa published by a cleric in the organization's military wing, Abu Yaqdhan al-Masri, according to which they should fight against members of Ahrar al-Sham. In the announcement, the organization expressed disagreement with al-Masri's words and claimed that spilling the blood of Muslims should not be permitted, including members of Ahrar al-Sham. The organization added that it would take steps against al-Masri as a result of his statement.⁶²
- An announcement regarding attacks by Faylaq al-Rahman in eastern Al-Ghouta. In the announcement, the organization accused Faylaq al-Rahman of carrying out several attacks against it in the area of eastern Al-Ghouta, with one of the attacks resulting in the death of a member of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on Faylaq al-Rahman to turn over the perpetrators of the attacks.⁶³

⁵⁹ Telegram

⁶⁰ Telegram

⁶¹ Telegram

⁶² Telegram

⁶³ Telegram

- An announcement regarding the activities of humanitarian organizations in the liberated areas. In the announcement, the organization emphasized the importance of humanitarian organizations' activities, and vowed to preserve the neutrality and independence of these organizations operating in the liberated areas. In addition, the organization vowed to remove all obstacles facing these organizations so that they can provide humanitarian assistance to Syrian residents in areas under their control.⁶⁴
- The organization, Nour al-Din al-Zenki, published an announcement declaring that it was leaving Hayat Tahrir al-Sham against the backdrop of the battles taking place between the latter and Ahrar al-Sham. In the announcement, the organization claimed that it broke away from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham due to the organization's lack of recourse to shari'a arbitration, its publication of announcements without consulting with most members of the organization, and its decision to battle against Ahrar al-Sham without turning to the organization's Shura Council. At the end of the announcement, the organization claimed that it would continue to implement the goals of the revolution, including the overthrow of the Alawite regime and the establishment of an Islamic State.⁶⁵

Ahrar al-Sham

- Ahrar al-Sham published the following:
 - An announcement regarding Hayat Tahrir al-Sham's preparations for an attack against the organization in the area of Idlib. In the announcement, the organization accused Hayat Tahrir al-Sham of transferring forces to strategic positions against Ahrar al-Sham and other factions in northern Syria because they are in support of Turkish intervention. The announcement also stated that the organization did not take part in any attacks against Hayat Tahrir al-Sham but should the latter threaten the organization's positions, it will be forced to respond. Later in the announcement, the organization called on Hayat Tahrir al-Sham to act in order to prevent internal conflict between the organizations.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ Telegram

⁶⁵ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DFLMJO7XcAExgcD.jpg>

⁶⁶ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DEKcszzWsAAhO7j.jpg>

- A response to an announcement published by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. In the announcement, the organization stated that it was surprised by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham's announcement regarding an escalation in the situation, in contrast to what was agreed upon by the two organizations. The organization added that it was also surprised by the fact that Hayat Tahrir al-Sham was continuing to send forces to Jabal al-Zawiya.⁶⁷
- An announcement regarding continued attacks by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham against the organization. The organization claimed that the clashes between the two organizations do not serve either side and announced that it was willing to resolve the conflict in a shari'a court. However, the organization noted that if attacks by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham continue, it will be ready to fight in order to defend itself.⁶⁸
- An announcement regarding the violation of a ceasefire by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. In the announcement, the organization claimed that Hayat Tahrir al-Sham attacked the organization's posts in the area of Idlib. The announcement also stated that Hayat Tahrir al-Sham arrested the chairman of the court in Jabal al-Zawiya and killed several members of Ahrar al-Sham. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on Hayat Tahrir al-Sham to fulfill their shari'a and moral duty towards the Syrian people.⁶⁹
- An announcement regarding the agreement with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, in the framework of which it was agreed to implement a ceasefire, release prisoners on both sides, withdraw factions from the Bab al-Hawa crossing and deliver it to civilian control.⁷⁰
- A video in which a fighter from the Lebanese Hezbollah who was taken captive by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham appeals to his family members to act for his release.⁷¹

The Shura Council of Ahl Al-Ilm Fi Al-Sham

- The Shura Council of Ahl Al-Ilm Fi Al-Sham published an announcement in which it criticized Hayat Tahrir al-Sham's battle against Ahrar al-Sham and called on fighters in the former to leave the

⁶⁷ https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DEof_4JW0AIQd5H.jpg

⁶⁸ https://twitter.com/AhrarAl_Sham/status/886036452965990400

⁶⁹ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DFDLptfXYAAJaf3.jpg>

⁷⁰ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DFR9bUVXgAIWPBz.jpg>

⁷¹ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

organization. The Council added that the attacks by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham in Idlib only serve the Alawite regime and its supporters. Later in the announcement, the Shura Council asked the clerics in Hayat Tahrir al-Sham to publish their position regarding their organization's attacks.⁷²

The Turkestan Islamic Movement

- The Turkestan Islamic Movement published a series of videos regarding the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad, the reward for martyrs in Paradise, documentation of their operations against their enemies, and more.⁷³

The Islamic State

- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Syria and the Amaq news agency published a range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following operational issues:

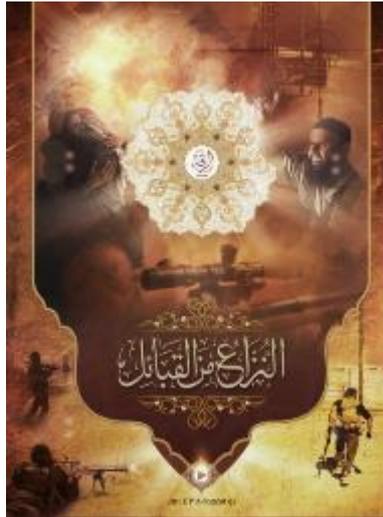
A. Battles and Military Deployments:

- i. Raqqah Province: A video titled, "The Deserters from Among the Tribes" regarding the organization's battles in the province and the 'betrayal' of the IS by tribes in Syria. The video showed various weapons in the organization's possession in Raqqah, including UAV's for photographic purposes, and car bombs – alongside fighters from a range of origins (including Somali and Kazakh) who called on their friends to come to Raqqah in order to take part in the battle. The last part of the video was dedicated to criticism and threats against tribal members who betrayed the IS and became 'apostates'. Alongside the criticism against the tribes, the video can be seen as a kind of 'show of strength' on the part of the organization against the backdrop of its defeat in its stronghold in Iraq, the city of Mosul.⁷⁴

⁷² Telegram

⁷³ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁴ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.tor2net.xyz/35114>



A show of strength by the IS in Raqqah and criticism against the tribes

- The various media departments of the IS in Syria and the Amaq news agency published a range of videos and filmed reviews on various operational topics, including: sniper fire and the killing of dozens of Kurdish fighters in Raqqah, a suicide attacks against the Syrian army east of Khanaser, the fleeing of army forces and suicide attacks east of Palmyra, and the takeover of army posts in southern Deir Ezzor.⁷⁵

B. Propaganda and Media:

- Raqqah Province: A video titled, “The Fertile Nation 2”, which documented children who were injured in shellings by coalition forces. The video showed Tareq Kamleh, presented here as Abu Yusuf al-Ustrali, a young fighter who came from Australia in order to serve as a field doctor in the Caliphate. In the video, al-Ustrali – who previously appeared in a video by the organization in 2015 – was shown in both doctor’s and fighter’s garb rebuking Muslims who have not yet joined the Caliphate, and he encouraged them to join or, alternatively, to carry out attacks in their countries of origin.⁷⁶

⁷⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

⁷⁶ <https://goo.gl/xhtM6s>



The reappearance of Abu Yusuf al-Ustrali, who last appeared in 2015

- Raqqah Province: A video titled, “The Fertile Nation 3”, which included images from a training course for snipers that was held in Raqqah. In the video, a fighter from Azerbaijan claimed that since the start of battles in Raqqah, the organization’s snipers have managed to kill ‘250 infidels’, against the backdrop of images of sniper fire against PKK forces in the city.⁷⁷
- Al-Khayr Province: A video titled, “The Glory of the Past 2”, which documented the history of the organization in the province over the last few years. The video presented the virtues of the province (its natural resources, for example), alongside documentation of the organization’s attacks in the province and the last will and testaments of its fighters from various attacks. It also included criticism directed at the factions striving to establish a liberal secular state in Syria instead of the Islamic State that is operating according to shari’a (one part of the video showed deserters from those factions who had ‘repented’, especially from Ahrar al-Sham and Al-Nusra Front). It should be noted that the videos combined clips from old attacks by the organization and attacks that were carried out under the command of Sheikh Abu Umar al-Shishani.⁷⁸ It should be noted that the reliance on historical materials – some from 2010 – is another indication of the organization’s need to rely on past glory instead of producing new materials.

C. Civilian Matters: Filmed reviews regarding market activities in the city of Al-Mayadin.⁷⁹

⁷⁷ <https://goo.gl/3xubTm>

⁷⁸ <http://ou7zytv3h2yaosqq.tor2net.xyz/35084>

⁷⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

Khalid bin al-Walid Army

- The Khalid bin al-Walid Army, which is affiliated with the IS, published photos regarding battles that it waged against Sahawat forces in the area of Daraa.⁸⁰

The Abdullah Azzam Brigades

- The Abdullah Azzam Brigades, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published the following:
 - An accusation against the Lebanese army for war crimes against Syrian refugees at the 'Arsal refugee camp. According to the statement, it is not enough that the Lebanese army destroyed Syrian refugee camps, but it also tortured to death the Syrian refugees who were in their jails. By doing so, the Lebanese army became a collaborator and ally of Hezbollah and Iran, according to the organization. The organization emphasized that it disputes the version of events published in "Iran's media channels in Lebanon" according to which the refugees were killed as a result of the explosion of suicide terrorists and maintained that their deaths were really caused by shooting by the Lebanese army. Later in the announcement, the organization called on the Sunni population in Syria and Lebanon to note that the Lebanese army today is controlled by Iran and Hezbollah, and is slaughtering Sunnis just like the rest of the Arab armies, such as Egypt. In light of this, the organization called on Sunnis in Lebanon, especially muftis from all the schools of thought and from all of the country's provinces, to unite in order to stop the Iranian killing machine against the Sunnis. In addition, the organization pleaded with various jihadist groups in Lebanon to initiate offensive operations on behalf of the Sunnis in the country.⁸¹

The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula

- The Ibn Tamiyya media center, which is affiliated with the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist movement, published the following:

⁸⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/74834>

⁸¹ Telegram

- An article titled, “Dahlan’s Movement in Hamas” in the framework of which the writer criticized Hamas’s plans to cooperate with Mohammed Dahlan, and made mention of his past deeds and ties to Israel.⁸²
- An announcement condemning the Hamas leadership for its ongoing policy of persecution against Salafi-jihadist operatives in the Gaza Strip. According to the statement, these arrests have to do with Hamas’s desire to appease the Jews.⁸³
- An announcement encouraging the continuation of jihad activities against the Jews against the backdrop of the temporary closure of Al-Aqsa Mosque for Muslim prayers. The announcement included a call on Muslims from Israel’s neighboring countries to attack it, or at least to attack its embassies in those countries.⁸⁴
- A pamphlet detailing the praises of Al-Aqsa Mosque according to Muslim tradition.⁸⁵
- A report regarding the death of Alaa' Arafa Awad, an IS fighter who was killed in a bombardment in Raqqah.⁸⁶

Ahfad al-Sahaba

- The Ahfad al-Sahaba group, which is affiliated with the IS in the Gaza Strip, published a statement against the leaders of Hamas in the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, in which it accused them of thwarting jihad attacks against Israel and of protecting the Jews. In the framework of the statement, the group emphasized the obligation to wage jihad on Palestinian soil and criticized Hamas for stopping the mujahideen, preventing them from launching rockets, and raiding their homes. Special mention was made of the killing of Abu al-Walid al-Maqqdisi in Jabalia by Israel shortly after Hamas’s internal security forces published his photo. The statement concluded with a vow by the group to continue its battle against the Jews despite the persecution by Hamas.⁸⁷

⁸² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/74551>

⁸³ Telegram

⁸⁴ Telegram

⁸⁵ Telegram

⁸⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/74491>

⁸⁷ Telegram

The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula

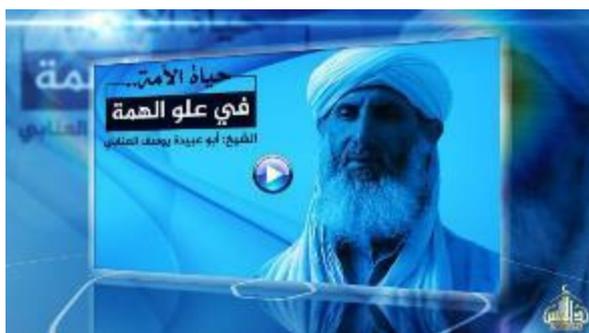
- The IS in the Sinai Peninsula and Amaq news agency published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the death and injury of over 60 members of the Egyptian army and Sahawat forces in an attack south of Rafah. According to the announcement, several IS fighters attacked a gathering point of the Egyptian army, which planned a ‘military campaign against mujahideen sites’, using inghimas fighters and suicide terrorists.⁸⁸
 - A filmed review regarding an attack against a military site in Rafah.⁸⁹
 - An announcement regarding the slaughter of a spy and damage to a military vehicle east of Al-Arish⁹⁰ alongside the denotation of an explosive device west of Al-Arish.⁹¹

Africa

The Maghreb

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

- Al-Andalus jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with AQIM, published a recorded message by the cleric and senior commander of AQIM, Sheikh Abu Ubayad Yusuf al-Annabi. In the framework of the message, al-Annabi encouraged the Muslim Nation to aspire to greatness and act against its enemies in various arenas, including: the Zionists in Palestine, the Shi’ites in Iraq and Syria, and the Buddhists in Burma and Turkestan.⁹²



⁸⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/74701>

⁸⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/74788>

⁹⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/74321>

⁹¹ https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/DEkAWuaXcAA_D0j1.jpg

⁹² <http://fotooh.co/?p=9692>

The banner of Sheikh Abu Ubayad Yusuf al-Annabi's speech

- *Al-Masra* magazine, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published a statement by Abu 'Abd al-Ila Ahmad, a senior member of the organization, titled, "Moments with Memory". In his statement, al-Ahmad criticized the Algerian regime for its adherence to secularism and accused it of renouncing Islam. At the end of the statement, he emphasized that the battle between the forces of light and the forces of darkness continues; that is, between the followers of Islam and the corrupt regime of Algerian President Bouteflika.⁹³

Libya

The Shura Council of Derna

- The Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna and its suburbs published an announcement criticizing the attack that was carried out against the delegation from the Supreme Council for National Reconciliation in the city of Al-Baydaa by what the announcement referred to as 'militias of evil and crime'.⁹⁴

Other Jihadist Organizations

- The Dawa al-Haq jihadist news agency, which serves as a platform for publications by various jihadist organizations, published an article criticizing Mahmud al-Warfali, a member of Khalifa Haftar's al-Saeqa forces, which documented him executing a man accused of membership in the IS.⁹⁵

Tunisia

The Islamic State

- The IS claimed responsibility for the killing and wounding of five Tunisian army soldiers and the destruction of an armored vehicle using an explosive device in the area of Jebel Mghila in western Tunisia.⁹⁶

⁹³ Telegram

⁹⁴ <https://alnabaa.tv/news/view/13237>

⁹⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/74475>

⁹⁶ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DF7XIfXXYAYvfDv.jpg>

Mali

Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin

- Al-'Izza jihadist media institution, which belongs to Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, published the following:
 - A video documenting the physical and emotional state of six hostages held captive by the organization. The beginning of the video combined a speech by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda, about the importance of kidnapping foreign nationals as bargaining chips to free Muslim prisoners from the jails of the infidels. The organization then discussed the disgraceful conditions of Muslim prisoners sitting in jails in the West. Later in the video, six captives appealed to their families and to their governments to act for their release.⁹⁷
- The Ifriqiyya al-Muslima jihadist media institution published an article about the Sahel Army, which was established from elite units of the North African armies under French auspices in order to fight against jihadists in the Mali region. In the framework of the article, the writer claimed that this force is also expected to fail just as the MINUSMA forces failed there in the past.⁹⁸

Egypt

The Hasm Movement

- The Hasm movement, a terrorist organization mainly composed of fighters from the Muslims Brotherhood in Egypt, published a statement summarizing its terrorist activities over the past year. For example, it published visual graphs and photos of the assassinations of Egyptian security personnel. In addition, the organization published photos of two of its members who were killed in the last year.⁹⁹

⁹⁷ <http://www.muslm.org/vb/showthread.php?567814> - مؤسسة العزة - الإصدار المرئي - المعادلة الصحيحة - جماعة نصر - الإسلام والمسلمين - مالي

⁹⁸ <http://fotooh.co/?p=8936>

⁹⁹ <https://hasamegypt.com/?p=427> ; <https://hasamegypt.com/?p=409>



From left to right: a statement in honor of the one year anniversary of the organization’s activities; photos of two members of the organization who were killed during operations in the last year



A visual graph summarizing the organization’s activities from July 2016 to July 2017. 27 members of the Egyptian security forces were killed.

Nigeria

The Islamic State in West Africa

- The IS in West Africa (formerly Boko Haram) published the following:

- An announcement regarding the killing of 12 Nigerian soldiers in an attack carried out by the organization in the area of Yobe in northeast Nigeria. It also published a filmed review in which it documented the area of the attack and the weapons that it plundered.¹⁰⁰
- A video containing an appeal by three hostages, members of the University of Maiduguri, UNIMAID, who were kidnapped by the organization during a search for oil in the Lake Chad Basin, to the government for act for their release. The three pleaded with the government to meet the organization’s demands as part of their willingness to act for their release. One of the captives emphasized that it is best that the government not use force against the organization in an effort to release them, and that if the government accedes to its demands, they would be released immediately.¹⁰¹



The three hostages being held captive by the IS in West Africa

- A video documenting the organization’s trading activity in the area.¹⁰²

Somalia

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Qaeda’s branch in Somalia, published the following:
 - A message of condolences over the death of Sheikh Sharif Abd al-Nur. The announcement discussed the work of al-Nur, who had encouraged the use of jihad to protect the Muslim issues in Palestine, Iraq and Somalia. The announcement also stated that al-Nur had issued

¹⁰⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/74690>

¹⁰¹ Telegram

¹⁰² Telegram

a fatwa against the clerics of the Saudi king who allowed Christians to come to Saudi Arabia and establish military bases to conquer the holy sites of Islam and protect Israel's security. The announcement added that when the Americans invaded Somalia, al-Nur had encouraged the youth to go out and fight against the invasion. In addition, he encouraged Muslims to rally around the mujahideen.¹⁰³



The eulogy banner in memory of Sheikh Sharif Abd al-Nur

- A series of videos titled, “And Rouse the Believers”, which called on Muslims to wage jihad. In the first video, the terrorist who carried out the suicide attack in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, in July 2010 called on Muslims to seek a martyr’s death in the battlefield and encouraged them to migrate to the lands of Islam for the purpose of jihad.¹⁰⁴ In the second video, Kenyan Al-Shabab fighters called on Muslims in East Africa to fight against countries in the region as well as the US, Britain and France.¹⁰⁵ The third video showed a Ugandan fighter who encouraged jihad in order to stop the invasion of Muslim lands by the infidels.¹⁰⁶ In the fourth video, a Tanzanian fighter called on Muslims in the countries bordering Somalia to migrate there, wage jihad and spread Islam.¹⁰⁷ In the fifth video, a Tanzanian fighter called on Muslims in East African countries to

¹⁰³ Telegram

¹⁰⁴ <http://risala.site/jb25>

¹⁰⁵ <http://risala.site/xip4>

¹⁰⁶ <http://risala.site/zmx>

¹⁰⁷ <https://archive.org/details/WahimizeWaumini04NduguHusseinTZ>

migrate to Somalia and wage jihad. In addition, he emphasized the importance of jihad in mind and money, which is only possible through migration.¹⁰⁸

- Abdurrahman bin Abdillah, a fighter who abandoned Al-Shabab, referred to a video that described the biography of Al-Shabab's former leader, Mukhtar Abu al-Zubayr (which was distributed by the organization in June 2017). In the announcement, Abdurrahman claimed that al-Zubayr's commitment to Al-Qaeda was done out of convenience. According to him, al-Zubayr had been rejected by Osama bin Laden, the leader of Al-Qaeda, in the past and that after al-Zawahiri became the leader of Al-Qaeda, al-Zubayr avoided swearing allegiance to the organization for fear that it would cause his dismissal by the leadership of Al-Shabab. Later, Abdurrahman claimed that disagreements between al-Zubayr and his shari'a council, and al-Zubayr's desire to maintain his position in the organization, led him to swear allegiance to Al-Qaeda. According to him, the oath of allegiance to Al-Qaeda did, in fact, lead al-Zubayr to remain in his position and led to the killing of his opponents.¹⁰⁹
- A video regarding Kenya's military, economic and stability deterioration following its involvement in the struggle in Somalia against the organization from 2011 to 2012, and regarding the corruption that exists in the country. The organization used to video to try to influence the elections that were set to take place in Kenya in August 2017. In the video, the organization continued to make threats against Kenya and claimed that its invasion of Somalia would continue to undermine its stability, and that Kenya would not be able to defend itself from the organization's response. In addition, the organization mocked the election of Donald Trump to the US presidency and presented him as an example of poor voting in the election. At the end of the video, the organization claimed that in light of Kenya's situation, and the situation of the US following the election, Kenyan's must vote correctly in the upcoming elections.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁸ <https://justpaste.it/192fe>

¹⁰⁹ <https://justpaste.it/192ai>

¹¹⁰ <https://justpaste.it/198so>



The video banner

- A two-part interview with Al-Shabab’s spokesman in Kenya, Ahmad Iman Alī. In the first part of the video, Alī talked about the elections in Kenya. He called on Muslims in Kenya not to vote in the upcoming elections in the country.¹¹¹ In the second part of the video, he called on Muslims serving in the framework of the Kenyan security forces to leave their jobs. In addition, he threatened that if they do not leave their jobs in the ranks of the infidels, the organization will fight against them as if they themselves were infidels. Later in the video, Alī claimed that the former Prime Minister of Kenya had cooperated with Israel and received funding from her for Kenya’s battle in Somalia.¹¹²



The banner of the interview with Ahmad Iman Alī, Al-Shabab’s representative in Kenya

- A video in which several of the organization’s fighters directed questions to Muslims in Kenya regarding their satisfaction with life under infidel rule. The video was published ahead of the August 2017 elections in Kenya. Later in the video, one of the fighters claimed that Muslims in

¹¹¹ <https://archive.org/details/MahojianoNaNduguAhmadImanAliKwaMnasabaWaUchaguziMkuuNchiniKenya01>

¹¹² <http://risala.online/p67x>

Kenya must oppose the infidel rule in their country, and called on them to migrate and join jihad.¹¹³

The Indian Subcontinent

Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for the official publications of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, published the following:
 - A video with powerful music and imagery encouraging jihad as the way to heaven. The video showed clips of mujahideen (Muhammed Qureshi, Maulana Hadifa Mehsood, Sabir Khan, Ahmed Masood) who sacrificed their lives fighting against US and Pakistani forces. In addition, it showed them preparing for their individual battles against the enemy forces. The video included data attesting to the mujahideen's clear victory in the attack against the Pakistani army: 30 Pakistani soldiers killed, 3 mujahideen martyred and 4 other returned safe. It ended with the caption "Sharyat Ya Shahadat" (The law of Allah or martyrdom).¹¹⁴
 - A video message from Sheikh 'Asim Umar, titled "Purification Lesson: Arrogance and Selfishness". In the video, Umar stated that Allah bestowed blessings on his mujahideen by leading them on the path of jihad. He emphasized that jihad is the way to break Satan's back, and that man's greatest enemy is his ego - the biggest victory is to defeat this and selflessly fight for Allah, leaving behind his arrogance and selfishness. ¹¹⁵
 - A video message from Sheikh 'Asim Umar titled: "Purification Lesson: Gossip and Slanders". In the video, Umar warned the mujahideen against the evils of the ego and the evil tongue that can destroy their path to Allah. He urged them to heed his words in order to protect themselves from Allah's wrath. He provided the example of the Prophet Muhammad who also taught to avoid gossip and slander, as true Muslims know that these two flaws can destroy the fabric of the Ummah, yet it remains part of them. In order to get rid of these flaws, Allah ordered Muslims to stop those who indulge in these sins –

¹¹³ <http://risala.online/dln8>

¹¹⁴ Telegram

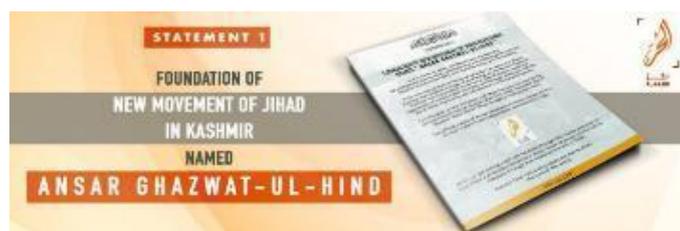
¹¹⁵ Telegram

they must enforce its discipline in order to cleanse the environment and protect the Ummah's moral fabric.¹¹⁶

- Two psalms, one about the importance of remembering the Prophet Muhammad and the second about the sad situation to which Muslims in the Indian Subcontinent are subjected.¹¹⁷

Ansar Ghazwat al-Hind

- On July 26, a statement was published regarding the establishment of a new jihadist group in Kashmir called Ansar Ghazwat al-Hind ('Supporters of the Invasion into India'). In the statement, the group declared that jihad in Kashmir had entered a stage of awakening jihad in the masses with the death of Burhan Wani, a senior jihad commander in the Kashmiri group, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, who earned a mass following and was killed in July 2016 in a clash with Indian security forces. It was stated that the new organization set for itself the goal of liberating Kashmir from the Indian occupation. At the end of the announcement, it stated that the founders of the group included friends of Burhan Wani and its founder was Zakir Musa, one of Wani's colleagues. In addition, it noted that al-Hurr media institution will serve as the official platform for the new group's publications.¹¹⁸ It should be noted that the new group probably has close ties to Al-Qaeda due to the fact that the announcement of the new group's establishment was published on the Telegram account of the Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF), Al-Qaeda's official media institution.



The banner announcing the foundation of the new jihadist group, Ansar Ghazwat al-Hind in the Kashmir region

¹¹⁶ Telegram

¹¹⁷ Telegram

¹¹⁸ Telegram

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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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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