



ICT
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ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group **PERIODIC REVIEW**

Monthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

March 2017

Highlights

- **Al-Qaeda** and several of its branches share eulogies for **Sheikh Abu al-Khayr al-Misri**, a senior Al-Qaeda leader and deputy to Ayman al-Zawahiri, who was killed in an air strike in Idlib in Syria at the end of February. In addition to describing him as a great jihad leader, the organizations call for the continuation of his path, a war of jihad against enemies of Islam and retaliation for his death.
- **Sheikh Qasim al-Rimi**, the leader of **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)**, gives a eulogy in memory of Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman after he died in an American prison. As a result of his death, al-Rimi threatens revenge and calls on Muslims around the world to act for the release of Muslim prisoners, otherwise they will face a similar fate as Abdel-Rahman. In addition, al-Rimi calls on Muslims to fulfill Abdel-Rahman's last will and testament calling for a continuation of jihad against the US and its allies.
- Sheikh Iyad Ag Ghaly, the leader of Ansar al-Din, announces the establishment of a new umbrella organization called Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam, which was made possible thanks to the merger of **Ansar al-Din** led by **Iyad Ag Ghaly**, **Macina Battalion** led by **Muhammad Kufa**, **Al-Murabitun** represented by the deputy of the organization **Sheikh Al-Hasan al-Ansari**, and the **Sahara Emirate** led by **Sheikh Yahya Abu Hammam** and represented by **Abu 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sinhaji**, the Qadi of the Sahara Emirate. According to Ag Ghaly, the new umbrella organization's activities will be focused against French forces in northern Mali and Malian army forces throughout Mali, Burkina Faso, the Ivory Coast and Niger. In addition, he announces that the new organization swore allegiance to Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda, Abdelmalek Droukdel, the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), and the Emir of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The new merger was welcomed by Al-Qaeda's leadership and by Abdelmalek Droukdel.
- The **Islamic State (IS)** calls on the Sunni minority in Iran, in Farsi and Arabic, to carry out attacks on Iranian soil and threatens to assassinate Iranian leaders. In the framework of preparations to carry out terrorist attacks in Iran, the organization introduced a unit called the "Salman al-Farisi Battalion" made up of fighters from Balochistan and Ahwaz who will take part in the execution of terrorist attacks.

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New Publications

Ideology

- Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a senior Salafi-jihadist ideologue in Jordan, published the following:
 - An announcement titled, “Operation Turkey Shield and not Euphrates Shield”. In the announcement, al-Maqdisi claimed that Turkey launched the operation in order to protect its interests and defend its borders, and not for the sake of the Syrian nation, and whoever thinks otherwise is mistaken. Al-Maqdisi then criticized those who supported Operation “Euphrates Shield”, and claimed that it led to the Turkish government replacing the IS in liberated areas just as the Khawarij were replaced by another tyrant. He also claimed that the Turkish regime regards the liberated areas as colonies of Turkey.¹
 - An announcement in which he wondered if Ahrar al-Sham has left jihad completely. In the announcement, al-Maqdisi criticized statements made by the official spokesman of Ahrar al-Sham, Ahmad Qara Ali, who claimed in an interview to Al-Jazeera that after the fall of the Assad regime, the new regime will be chosen by the people and Ahrar al-Sham will not object to the establishment of a democratic regime if that is what the people choose. Al-Maqdisi claimed that the establishment of a democratic regime instead of a shari’a regime constitutes a blow to jihad.²
 - An article criticizing Muslims who serve tyrannical rulers. According to al-Maqdisi, the misunderstanding of the concept of *tawhid* leads many Muslims serving tyrannical rulers to act against Muslims who are defending this principle. For example, he harshly criticized clerics who are serving tyrannical rulers by labelling Muslims who do not agree with them as Kharawij or terrorists, and by misleading Muslims by steering them astray. He also criticized Muslims serving in the armies of tyrannical rulers and claimed that if they understood the importance of the principle of *tawhid*, they would not serve the enemies of this principle.³

¹ Telegram channel

² <https://justpaste.it/14clw>

³ <https://justpaste.it/14vhf>

- Sheikh Abu Qatadah al-Filistini, a senior Salafi-jihadist ideologue living in Jordan, published the following:
 - A statement condemning General Khalifa Haftar’s forces in light of reports according to which they abused corpses and rummaged through graves in the area of Qanfuda, in western Benghazi, in the framework of battles against the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries. Al-Filistini called Haftar “a criminal supported by the West” and claimed that the incident attests to the degradation of his forces in their battle against Muslim mujahideen. He also encouraged all Muslims in Libya to work together against the “western polytheists and Arab apostates”. Al-Filistini emphasized that the removal of the corpses of warriors from their graves does not harm their status as martyrs as evidenced by the fact that the corpses are as intact as they were at the time of the burial.⁴
 - Criticism against the factions that took part in Operation “Euphrates Shield” and collaborated with the Turkish army. In the announcement, al-Filistini claimed that it is forbidden for Muslims to fight in a secular army like the Turkish army and that anyone who fights in such an army shall be deemed a heretic.⁵
- Sheikh Hani al-Sibai, a Salafi-jihadist ideologue living in London, published an announcement in which he accused the leader of Al-Jama'a al-Islamiyya of cooperating with the secular regime in Egypt, renouncing the Muslim Brotherhood and abandoning the spiritual leader of the organization, the blind sheikh, Omar Abd al-Rahman. In the announcement, al-Sibai called on the organization’s leadership to hold a discussion with him in public regarding his accusations against them and claimed that if he is not correct he will not hesitate to apologize but if he is right, then they must repent.⁶
- Sheikh Abu Basir al-Tartusi, a Syrian Salafi-jihadist ideologue, published an announcement in which he demanded that the military commander of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, Abu Mohammad al-Julani, be prosecuted for crimes against the Syrian revolution. Al-Tartusi first claimed that al-Julani prepared the ground for the Islamic State’s entrance into Syria (even if he later quarrelled with it) and then brought about the Syrian revolution’s identification with Al-Qaeda, which

⁴ <https://justpaste.it/140lm>

⁵ <https://justpaste.it/14lws>

⁶ Telegram channel

strengthened Bashar al-Assad and helped him to massacre his people, and provided the “colonialist invaders” with an excuse to invade Syria. Al-Tartusi also added that after the influence of Al-Qaeda ceased and al-Julani became an outcast from within, he removed the cloak of Al-Qaeda and took part in Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham. However, according to him, al-Julani did not change his character and continues to act as a tyrant against other factions, tries to exert control over various factions and their resources, and even arrests many opposition fighters who oppose him. Due to “these crimes and mistakes”, al-Tartusi called for al-Julani to be prosecuted in the framework of “revolutionary-shari’a” law.⁷

- The writer, Abdullah Shaker al-Dulaymi, published an article that refuted, according to him, fatwas by senior clerics who claimed that the commandment of jihad is not valid today. In the beginning of the article, the writer explained that in three published fatwas, three senior clerics – ‘Abd al-‘Aziz bin Baz, Muhammad bin ‘Uthaymeen and Salih al-Fawzan,– claimed that there is no obligation for jihad today due to a lack of ability and a lack of Islamic leadership. The writer refuted these arguments with counter-arguments of his own, including: a lack of ability and leadership cannot serve as an excuse to cancel the obligation of jihad, especially at a time when jihad in Iraq and Syria is a defensive jihad that does not require leadership. In addition, the writer accused these clerics of drawing erroneous conclusions by quoting Quranic verses that were taken out of context.⁸
- The discourse on jihadist Web forums continued on the subject of the oppression of Muslims in Burma. In the framework of articles that were published, the hardships of the Rohingya minority in the country were detailed, and Burma was accused of war crimes against the Rohingya and of collaborating and trading weapons with Israel. The arrests of Muslim children by the police were also reported. In response to some of the articles, visitors wondered if there are mujahideen in Burma and inquired how one can get there.⁹

⁷ https://justpaste.it/Tartosi_0043; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/65939>

⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/67417>; <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

- The writer, Abu Muadh al-Maqdisi, published an article against clerics who oppose the IS. Following the campaign against clerics in February, al-Maqdisi collected quotations from Islamic sources concerning “evil scholars” in order to clarify how dangerous they are to Islam.¹⁰
- The writer, Nur al-Din al-Jazairi, published an article titled, “Islam between the hammer of Orientalism and the vortex of secularism- a deep look”. In the framework of the article, the writer explained that Orientalism served as a tool in the hands of the West to undermine the Islamic nation and to distance Muslims from their religion. The writer went on to explain that the West is carrying out a policy of westernization (for instance, by exposing students to secular content and sending them to study in Europe and the US), for the purposes of continuing to control Islamic Arab countries even after the end of their actual occupation. The writer ended the article with a quote from Sa‘id in which he vowed that “the East will be in the hands of its people, sooner or later”.¹¹
- Al-Battar jihadist media institution published the following:
 - An article by an unidentified writer regarding an old article by the Moroccan Sheikh Hassan Kattani that was discovered by Al-Battar media institution at the end of February 2017. The document, which was attributed to Kattani, revealed embarrassing content such as permitting marriage with girls, receiving blessings from the graves of the righteous and protecting religious scholars who practice grave worship (customs contrary to Salafi Islam). In the article, the writer mocked al-Kattani, emphasized the authenticity of the document, and concluded with a threat to assassinate al-Qattani.¹²
 - An article by the writer, Abu Muntasir al-Iraqi, titled, “The Islamic State and the Gaza War”. In the framework of the article, the writer praised the Islamic State’s fighting strategy, which includes dragging enemy forces into complex and demanding battles as well as displaying discipline and steadfastness.¹³
- Al-Wafa jihadist media institution published the following:

¹⁰ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹² <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic); <https://arabic.cnn.com/world/2017/02/17/marriage>

¹³ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

- An article by a writer known as Al-Muslim al-Tarabulusi titled, “The Lone Lions”. In the framework of the article, the writer encouraged Muslims to act like “lions” in order to support their brothers, the mujahideen, while quoting from a speech by former IS spokesman, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, about various methods of attack (shooting, explosives, using stones as weapons, stabbing, strangulation and poisoning).¹⁴
- An article by the writer, Abu Hayaa al-Misri, titled, “Who is Bombing Occupied Palestine from Time to Time?” In the framework of the article, the writer came to the defense of the Ahfadh al-Sahaba group, which launches rockets at Israel, and emphasized that its jihad stems from true Salafi creed and is not in response to acts by Israel. In contrast, the writer criticized Hamas for its cooperating with Iran and Egypt, and sent words of encouragement to IS fighters in Sinai.¹⁵
- An article by the writer, Abu al-Walid al-Lubnani, in which he encouraged IS supporters and called on the mujahideen to continue to defend the Caliphate. In a general appeal to Muslims, al-Lubnani promised them that victory is close and called on them to exhaust the infidels “mentally and physically” in order to make them feel insecure, even by means of idle threats of attacks.¹⁶
- An article by the writer, Abdullah al-Stayfi, in which he told the story of the martyr, Abd al-Hakim Abu Muhjin, who was among the first mujahideen in Algeria who swore allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and was killed in clashes with the Algerian army last year.¹⁷
- An article by the writer, Abu Zafer al-Hanbali, regarding permission to slaughter infidels. In the framework of the article, the writer criticized complaints being made in the Muslim world about the executions carried out by the IS, specifically beheadings, and noted that Islamic law permits the slaughter of infidels while he quoted excerpts from the Quran and Muslim tradition.¹⁸

¹⁴ <http://www.almlf.com/2nnen8j0vs2e.html>

¹⁵ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁷ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

- A range of articles about religion and history by various writers, including: articles by Abu Zafer al-Hanbali regarding Mubhala, a session in which two sides invoke Allah's curse upon whomever is in the wrong, and laws regarding women's care;¹⁹ a book by Umm Taymaa al-Ghaziyya about the classification and analysis of Hadith traditions;²⁰ an article by the writer Abu Muadh al-Maqdisi, which was composed in November 2016, regarding the history of the Turkish nation;²¹ an article regarding the commandment to execute those who curse the name of Allah and his messenger;²² an article regarding the laws of the month of Ramadan;²³ and more.
- Al-Waqar jihadist media institution published the following:
 - An article by a writer known as Fajr al-Anzi regarding clerics who oppose the IS. After explaining the principles of Al-Wala' Wal Bara and quoting Sayyid Qutb, al-Anzi criticized Tahrir al-Sham for not striving to implement shari'a, and against Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi for not renouncing it.²⁴
 - Another article by al-Anzi in which he attributed the Islamic State's loss of territory to the fact that many Sunni tribes have abandoned it and stopped fighting alongside the organization. In addition, the writer criticized the Sunni civilian population in Tikrit and Mosul for not joining the IS, which could have guaranteed its victory as well as the capture of Basra, Karbalaa and Najf. The writer accused the Sunnis in Iraq who did not join jihad of cowardice, and ridiculed them for their desire to preserve their safe lives "in this world" and to move to regions without war.²⁵
 - An article by a writer known as Ahd titled, "Made in the Islamic State" in which she praised the production of attack drones by the IS and expressed her hope that the organization will produce more products so that it will not have to rely on products designed according to "Jewish and Christian" standards. At the same time, she accused Arab media bias of not

¹⁹ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

²⁰ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

²¹ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

²² <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

²³ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

²⁴ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

²⁵ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

giving the subject of these drones the coverage that it deserves, and praised the IS for rekindling the pride of Islam, and for openly opposing the religious clerics and sheiks who encourage and foster defeatism and weakness among Muslims.²⁶

- An article by the writer, Abu Abd al-Malik al-Kuwaiti, containing a collection of fatwas by Najdi Da'wa clerics regarding the obligation to declare a tyrant to be an infidel and the disavowal of man-made laws.²⁷
- An article by a writer known as Umm al-Zubayr al-Ansariyya in which she accused the “tyrant regimes” in Arab countries of discouraging young Muslims and causing them to forget the duty of battle and jihad.²⁸

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

Omar Abdel-Rahman

- Al-Malahim jihadist media institution published a eulogy by Qasim al-Rimi, the leader of AQAP, in memory of Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a radical preacher who sat in an American jail since 1993. Al-Rimi said that the US vehemently refused an exchange deal in the framework of which the sheikh would be returned to the organization in exchange for the release of an American journalist who was captured by Al-Qaeda but later killed in 2014 during a failed rescue attempt by the US. Al-Rimi threatened that the sheikh’s death in an American prison will not pass quietly and will receive a retaliatory response. Al-Rimi also made reference to Muslim prisoners, such as Abu Hajir al-‘Iraqi, who are sitting in US jails, and warned that other Muslim prisoners sitting in Christian jails – such as those in the West, Saudi Arabia and Egypt – may also die there. In light of this, he called on the Muslim Nation to assist the religious scholars by all necessary means in order to bring about their release. Al-Rimi also called on the mujahideen to obey the dictates of righteous sheikhs, assist them, consult with them and fulfil the will of Abdel-Rahman - that is, to avenge his death. Finally, al-Rimi quoted several verses in praise of Sheikh Abdel-Rahman.²⁹ Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent also published words of praise in his memory and referred to

²⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

²⁷ <https://justpaste.it/14gm9>

²⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

²⁹ <https://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

him as a leading figure in the world of jihad and in the struggle against the US. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on Muslims to defend the occupied Muslim lands and establish a caliphate through jihad against all those who oppose the application of shari'a.³⁰



The banner of al-Rimi's speech in memory of Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman

Abu al-Khayr al-Misri

- The leadership of Al-Qaeda³¹ and several of its branches, including AQAP³² and Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in Somalia,³³ published eulogies in memory of Sheikh Abu al-Khayr al-Misri, the deputy to the leader of Al-Qaeda who was killed in an air strike in Idlib, Syria, at the end of February. Al-Misri was sent to Syria in order to supervise the activities of Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria. He continued his activities in Syria even after the group's split from Al-Qaeda. Along with the eulogies, the organizations called on Muslims to follow in al-Misri's footsteps by continuing the path of jihad against enemies of Islam and to avenge his death.



Sheikh Abu al-Khayr al-Misri

³⁰ <https://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

³¹ <https://justpaste.it/145w5>

³² <https://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

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

Qari Muhammad Yasin

- The Taliban in Pakistan published a message of condolences over the death of Qari Muhammad Yasin, a senior Al-Qaeda military commander who was killed in a US drone strike in Paktika Province in Afghanistan on March 19, 2017. The spokesman for the organization, Mohammad Khurasani, noted in the announcement that Yasin had closely helped the organization and described him as one of the greatest guides on explosives and electronics in the area of jihad. He also noted that Yasin had left behind students who are continuing his path, and that he had enthusiastically participated in everything to do with jihad in Pakistan.³⁴



From left to right: A message of condolences by the Taliban in Pakistan; Qari Muhammad Yasin

Others

- The poet known as Umm al-Mundhir published a qasida (Arabic poem) titled, “*Istishhadi*”, which described the experience of a suicide bomber’s explosion and glorified his persona.³⁵

³⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

³⁵ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).



A poem in praise of suicide bombers

Strategy

- The Islamic news agency, Dawa al-Haq, published a report according to which approximately 5,000 Hindus in India attacked the Muslim population in Gujarat State, and set fire to houses and vehicles. In response to the report, one visitor remarked that “jihad is the solution” and another visitor made a general call for “quality attacks”, such as the explosion of oil and gas pipelines, mortar fire on oil wells and refineries, assassinations of police forces and murder of tourists, if only to damage “the enemy’s economic activities”.³⁶
- The IS continued its reports on the use of assault drones against army forces and the PMF in Iraq in several areas, such as the village of Al-Dabs in Saladdin Province. In Syria, drone attacks were reported against a PKK position north of Tabqa, against an army blockade in Bari village, and against a Syrian army APC in Deir Ezzor.³⁷
- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, which is associated with the IS, discussed Al-Fidaa forum, which is associated with Al-Qaeda. In the framework of the discussion, one visitor complained about the content of Al-Fidaa forum, which he said includes incitement against the IS. Other visitors suggested hacking Al-Fidaa and using it to disseminate IS propaganda.³⁸

³⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/67573>

³⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/65806>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/66131>

³⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

Guidebooks

- The Telegram channel, “Military Sciences”, which is associated with Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, published a series of guidebooks and recommendations for using various weapons. For example, the channel published a series of guidebooks on the topic of urban warfare that were initially published by Hamas.⁴²

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published issue no. 132 (44 pp.) of its Arabic magazine, *Al-Somood*; issue no. 60 (48 pp.) of its Urdu magazine, *Shari'at*;⁴³ and the March issue of the Urdu magazine, *Nawai Afghan Jihad*.⁴⁴



From left to right: The banner pages of *Nawai Afghan Jihad*, *Shari'at* and *Al-Somood*

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which is associated with Al-Qaeda, published issues no. 11-12 of its periodical, *Al-Nafir*. Both issues criticized the failed US attack against jihad fighters in Yemen and accused the US of killing the civilian population that includes women, children and the elderly. In response, the organization called for attacks against US citizens everywhere in the world.⁴⁵

⁴² Telegram channel

⁴³ <https://ia801500.us.archive.org/20/items/shariat-57>

⁴⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

⁴⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published issues no. 42-44 of its magazine, *Al-Masra*. The issues reviewed the main developments in various arenas of jihad, official Al-Qaeda publications and opinion articles by jihad fighters.⁴⁶

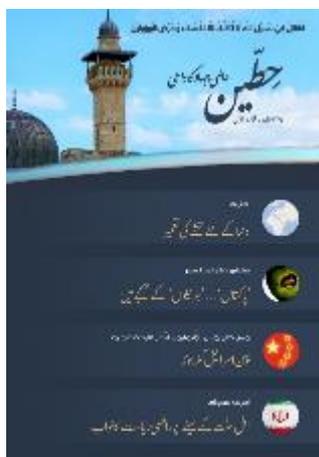


The banners of the issues of *Al-Masra*

- A new magazine titled, *Hitin*, was published by Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent. Among the articles included in the new magazine were:
 - An article titled, “The Establishment of the New World Map” by Maulana Mahmud Hasan, which discussed the three main areas of jihadi infiltration: jihadi stronghold areas (China, Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen and Syria), areas in the process of becoming stronger (Pakistan, Egypt, North Africa, Saudi Arabia), and areas where jihadists have carried out attacks (US, Israel, Europe, India and Australia). The Pakistani army is making repeated efforts to weaken the jihadist stronghold in Pakistan, and the 2007 Lal Masjid is a testimony to that.
 - An article that focused on the role of Pakistani generals in the last two years (2015-2017), particularly General Raheel Sharif, in becoming subservient to the Americans and turning its back on Islam. The article emphasized that the army is the current ruling establishment in Pakistan and has been since the creation of Pakistan in 1947. The Pakistani army is the

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

representative of the West (England and the United States), and the army generals are enemies of Islam. The article provided justifications and evidence for the aforementioned statements.⁴⁷



The banner page of *Hitin* magazine

- Issues of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published by the Islamic State. The magazine's articles covered various topics, including: reviews of attacks and operations by the organization in various arenas (with emphasis on the fighting in Mosul), the organization's health services, the execution of spies in Sinai, reviews describing the T-72 tank and the Abrams tank, articles criticizing the twelver shia, activities in the framework of training the "cubs of the Caliphate" (children and youth), and reviews of the organization's activities in East Asia.⁴⁸ It is worth noting that in issue no. 71, an ultimatum was published to Christians in Egypt to convert to Islam or pay *jizya* (per capita tax).⁴⁹

⁴⁷ <https://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

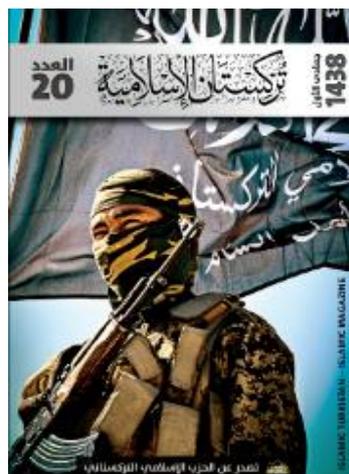
⁴⁸ https://ia601606.us.archive.org/34/items/ZCTREE_BK_70/70.pdf;
https://ia601608.us.archive.org/35/items/sytfayo_yandex_71/71.pdf;
https://ia601508.us.archive.org/0/items/a_drom_bk_72/72.pdf;
https://ia601504.us.archive.org/21/items/cubbbb_73/73.pdf;
<https://ia801504.us.archive.org/9/items/alnab74/alnab74.pdf>

⁴⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/66338>



The banner pages of the *Al-Masra* issues

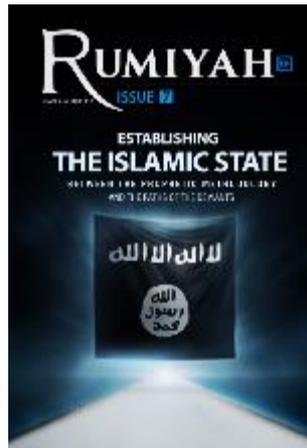
- Issue no. 20 of the magazine *Islamic Turkestan* was published by the Turkestan Islamic Party. Among the topics covered in this issue were: an article about the importance of fighting against the Shi'ites and the Communists; the personal story of a Uighur fighter who emigrated from eastern Turkey to Syria and became a jihad fighter; a ruling by Abu Qatada al-Filistini that jihad is the individual obligation of every Muslim in every arena of jihad and should not be limited to the eastern Turkestan area; the biography of a senior commander in the organization who died as a martyr; reference to the oppressive policies of the Chinese regime towards Muslims in China; reference to attacks carried out by members of the organization against Chinese targets; statements by Al-Qaeda leaders on the issue of eastern Turkestan; praise for the knife attacks against Jews.⁵⁰



The banner page of the *Islamic Turkestan* issue

⁵⁰ <https://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

- Issue no. 7 of the magazine, *Rumiyah*, which belongs to the IS, was published in ten languages. Among the topics covered in the current issue were: a call to assassinate clerics working in the service of corrupt Muslim regimes; the importance of placing the trust of the believer in Allah when waging battles against the enemy; reference to enemy attacks against the organization as part of the realization of the Prophet Muhammad’s prophecy; reference to battles in the field and the organization’s military achievements.⁵¹



The banner page of *Rumiyah*

- Issue no. 3 of the magazine, *Al-Waqar*, which is published by the IS-supporting Al-Waqar media group, was published. The issue mainly included propaganda articles against Turkey’s President Erdogan and statements against the “clerics of the rulers” who oppose the IS.⁵²

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The spokesman for the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan published a response to statements made by General Nicholson, the Commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan. In the announcement, the spokesman claimed that Nicholson’s statements that the death of the

⁵¹ Telegram

⁵² <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

governor of Kunduz, Mullah Abdul Salam Akhund, is an opportunity for change and peace, are baseless since the Islamic Emirate will not hold talks with invaders. He added that the Islamic Emirate does not view the death of Abdul Salam Akhund as a failure but rather as a victory and honor that increases the thirst for revenge by the people of Kunduz. Finally, he threatened that if the US and NATO forces do not voluntarily leave Afghanistan, the Islamic Emirate will force them to leave.⁵³

- The Islamic State in Afghanistan published an announcement regarding protection for humanitarian workers. In the announcement, the organization called on international NGO's and the UN to provide urgent assistance to the people of Afghanistan and vowed to keep them safe while they provide help to the Afghan people.⁵⁴

The Islamic State

- The IS in Khorasan Province and the Amaq news agency published the following:
 - A claim of responsibility for an attack that was carried out against a military hospital in Kabul. The announcement, which was published by Amaq news agency, stated that approximately 400 people were killed and injured in the attack – most of whom, according to the agency, belonged to Afghan police, army and intelligence forces. The attack opened with a car bomb explosion at the hospital gate, after which four gunmen stormed the building and exchanged fire for about seven hours.⁵⁵



The perpetrators of the attack against a military hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan

⁵³ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=11250> (English).

⁵⁴ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=11371> (English).

⁵⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/C6Y9bofXEAA5MUJ1.jpg>;
<https://dawaalhaq.com/post/66256>

- A filmed review regarding the execution in Nangarhar of two people accused of spying for the Afghan government, and an announcement regarding the death of seven security forces in two attacks in the city of Jalalabad.⁵⁶
- Additional filmed reviews regarding operations in Nangarhar Province, such as: the destruction of drugs by Hisba forces in the area of Ashin,⁵⁷ the downing of an American reconnaissance drone in the area of Deh Bala,⁵⁸ the destruction of an American armored vehicle using an explosive device,⁵⁹ and the documentation of an American shelling using artillery and cruise missiles in the province.⁶⁰

The Arabian Peninsula

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- Ansar al-Sharia, which is affiliated with AQAP, published the following:
 - A call by Ansar al-Sharia in Rada Province to the Sunni residents of Yemen to intensify the battlefield in Al-Qifa in order to block enemy attacks. According to the organization, the US has significantly increased its air strike quota in the area of Al-Qifa in coordination with the Houthis, which requires the transfer of forces to the area.⁶¹
 - A clarification by Ansar al-Sharia in Hadramawt Province that there is no basis to the rumors that the organization is interested in entangling the tribes in the province in the war, but rather some of them. Nevertheless, the organization emphasized that anyone who cooperates with the United Emirates and fights against shari'a is considered an enemy by the organization.⁶²
 - A claim of responsibility for an attack in Lahj Province against Yemeni security forces in revenge for actions against the mujahideen.⁶³

⁵⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/66099>

⁵⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/66319>

⁵⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/67426>

⁵⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/C60V7RaWkAI0tUZ1.jpg>

⁶⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/67039>

⁶¹ Telegram

⁶² Telegram

⁶³ Telegram

The Islamic State

- The IS in Al-Baydaa Province published photos of its fighters in the Abu Muhammad Al-Furqan training camp.⁶⁴



Photos from the Abu Muhammad Al-Furqan training camp

- The IS in Al-Baydaa Province in Yemen published reports about attacks against Houthi sites in the area of Qifa,⁶⁵ as well as a filmed review of the Abu Muhammad Al-Furqan training camp in Al-Baydaa.⁶⁶

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:
 - Al-Jazira Province: A video titled, “The Sword of Courage”, which documented ground and air attacks against PMF sites near Tal Afar. In addition to documenting suicide attacks, a considerable portion of the

⁶⁴ Telegram

⁶⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/65647>

⁶⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/67858>

video was dedicated to documenting the downing of shells from the air using a drone on an Iraqi army vehicle.⁶⁷

- *Nineveh Province*: A video titled, “You Have the Upper Hand”, which dealt with battles in Mosul and the steadfastness of the fighters. The video included documentation of several suicide attacks that were carried out around the city, with emphasis on young and old suicide bombers – for instance, an older dentist who abandoned his job to be a martyr, and the young man who decided to carry out a suicide attack after his cousin was raped by PMF militia forces and her husband was killed.⁶⁸
- *Al-Janub Province*: A video titled, “The Cupbearers of Jihad”, which reviewed the life story of Abu Farah al-Ansari, a veteran fighter in the organization who later became the military emir of Al-Janub Province and died of his wounds after being injured in a shelling in the area of Al-Ameriyya.⁶⁹
- *Al-Furat Province*: A video titled, “Pioneers of Redemption”, which documented attacks by the organization against the Ayn al-Asad Airbase, the Haditha Dam and Al-Rutba. The video reviewed the background of the base while emphasizing its use by the US as an operations base for its air strikes throughout Iraq and as a warehouse for weapons. The attacks against the base included launching mortar bombs, shooting at “soft targets”, and sending suicide terrorist and *inghimasi* into the residential facility on the base.⁷⁰
- *Dijla Province*: Part 4 in a series of videos titled, “Battle Stand Firm”, which documented battles by the organization’s fighters against PMF forces in the province.⁷¹

⁶⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/65837>

⁶⁸ <https://goo.gl/ESBxy6>

⁶⁹ <https://ia801608.us.archive.org/33/items/sokat/sokat.mp4>

⁷⁰ <https://ia801507.us.archive.org/3/items/TalaiFedai/talai%20fedai.mp4>

⁷¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/66428>

- 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 a variety of operational issues, including: documentation of battles in western Mosul, suicide attacks during battles in Mosul, sniper fire directed at PMF fighters near the Tal Afar Airport, battles against army and PMF forces in Diyala, Baqubah and Baiji, an attack against army posts east of Rutba, an announcement about the deaths of 40 PMF fighters in an attack south of Baiji, the downing of several Iraqi army reconnaissance drones in Mosul, attacks against PMF sites on the Baiji-Haditha road, and a report on 55 Shi'ites killed in an explosion in western Baghdad.⁷²

B. Propaganda and PR:

- *Diyala Province:* A video in Farsi and Arabic titled, “Persia – From Yesterday to Today”, which included propaganda against Iran, encouragement for Sunnis in the country to carry out terrorist attacks on its soil, and a veiled threat to assassinate Iranian leaders. The 40-minute video showed Iranian IS fighters, including some from Balochistan and Ahwaz, and a group of masked men presented as members of the Salman al-Farisi Battalion. The video also included threats against the Supreme leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei, and the documentation of the execution of four people presented as members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. The video ended with a vow to capture Iran and turn it into the “Sunni Muslim that it was” in the past.⁷³

⁷² <https://dawaalhaq.com>

⁷³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/67576>



Propaganda and threats against Iran from Diyala Province

- *Kirkuk Province*: A video in Kurdish and Arabic documenting the defection of several Peshmerga fighters who then joined the IS. In the framework of the video, the defectors told how they woke up and discovered the path of Islam and jihad, praised the IS for warmly accepting them, and warned their former friends that they will be killed if they continue to fight against the organization.⁷⁴
- In the civilian arena, filmed reviews were published regarding the distribution of food to the needy in Mosul by the IS “zakat” center and the distribution of wheat to residents of Tal Afar.⁷⁵

Al-Sham [The Levant]

Syria

Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham

- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (Assembly for the Liberation of the Levant) published the following:
 - An announcement regarding recent events involving Ahrar al-Sham. In the announcement, the organization accused Ahrar al-Sham of prioritizing its personal interests by choosing to remain an independent body, and of causing the idea of uniting all Syrian factions to fail. The organization added that, instead of uniting with Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, Ahrar al-Sham chose to incite against the organization and encourage its fighters

⁷⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/67265>

⁷⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

to fights against it. At the end of the announcement, the organization asked Ahrar al-Sham to end the bloodshed between them and called for the establishment of a committee to resolve the issues between the organizations and bring about unity among the ranks in the Syrian arena.⁷⁶

- An announcement in which it claimed responsibility for two attacks that it carried out against Iranian militias in central Damascus. The announcement added that the attacks were executed after surveillance by the organization's units that operate beyond enemy lines. At the end of the announcement, it stated that the attacks were aimed at sending a message to the Iranian militias helping the Alawite regime to attack the Syrian people.⁷⁷
- An announcement regarding statements made by Michael Ratney, the US Special Envoy to Syria. In the announcement, the organization accused Ratney of trying to mislead about the reason for the organization's establishment in an effort to prevent it from reaching its goals. The organization emphasized that it is independent and has no connection to any other organization, and that it is committed to the goals of the Syrian revolution. Later in the announcement, the organization accused the US of hypocrisy and claimed that it acts contrary to the human rights that it espouses by helping the Alawite regime in its actions against the Syrian people. The organization added that US involvement in Syria serves its own interests and is not for the sake of the Syrian people, as demonstrated by the fact that the US turns a blind eye to Assad's war crimes against his own people, enables the invasion by Iranian militias into Syria, supports the PKK and allows air strikes against Syrian cities and villages. The organization also accused the US of trying to create internal conflict between the factions in Syria.⁷⁸

The former spokesman of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, Mostafa Mahamed, also responded to the statement by US Special Envoy to Syria, Michael Ratney. In the announcement, Mahamed claimed that Ratney's statements were designed to create conflict in Syria by attempting to isolate members of the former Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, which merged with Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham. He explained that Ratney's statement essentially designated Hay'at

⁷⁶ Telegram

⁷⁷ Telegram

⁷⁸ Telegram

Tahrir al-Sham a terrorist organization and claimed that it gave the US legitimacy to deal with the organization any way it chooses without having to justify its actions. Mahamed also claimed that the Americans rely on the use of scare tactics in order to convince the Syrian people that everything happening to them is because they are cooperating with Al-Qaeda. He added that the US is intervening in Syria for its own interests and not because it is a “friend” to Syria. Later, Mahamed emphasized that, despite its efforts, the US is not succeeding in gaining the trust of the Muslim Nation while the mujahideen enjoy public support and this is not expected to change. Finally, Mahamed claimed that Ratney’s statements constituted a threat, and threats are made by those who are not yet really ready to fight, and he claimed that his tactic will not succeed in splitting the mujahideen or stopping the Syrian revolution.⁷⁹

- A condemnation of the US bombardments on a mosque in the city of Al-Jineh, which is located in the western suburb of Aleppo. The organization claimed that the shelling was aimed at harming the Syrian people and serves as evidence that the US does not support the goals of the Syrian revolution. The end of the announcement stated that even strong forces like Russia and the US cannot stop the continuation of jihad in Syria.⁸⁰
- A speech by the leader of Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham, Hashim al-Shaykh, in honor of the sixth anniversary of the Syrian revolution. During his speech, al-Shaykh addressed the Syrian people, fighters, independent news agencies and clerics, asked them to defend the reasons for the Syrian revolution and promised to increase efforts and pressure on the Alawite regime in the coming days. He further emphasized that Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham was established due to the nation’s demand for unity among the ranks, and he called on factions that have not yet joined the organization to do so.⁸¹
- A propaganda video following the training of the organization's elite unit.⁸²

⁷⁹ Telegram

⁸⁰ Telegram

⁸¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4HTDUrmV_Q

⁸² Telegram

- A statement regarding the establishment of a new news agency named Al-Anbaa, which will serve as a platform for the organization's publications.⁸³



The logo of Al-Anbaa news agency – a new platform for publications by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham

- A video about the support of members of the organization's shari'a council for its fighters in battles near northern Hama. The video revealed four prominent clerics who are members of the organization's shari'a council: Abu Yusuf al-Hamawi (Syrian origin, former Emir of the Hama region in Al-Nusra Front), Abdullah al-Muhaysani (Salafist preacher of Saudi origin with ties to Al-Qaeda), Abu al-Harith al-Masri (former Al-Qaeda leader of Egyptian origin), and Muthir Alwais (from Deir Ezzor, former member of Al-Nusra Front). It is also worth mentioning Muthir Alwais (a Saudi preacher and former sermonizer in one of the mosques in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and a former member of Al-Nusra Front), a member of the organization's shari'a council.⁸⁴



⁸³ Telegram

⁸⁴ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ES7fuv0r_eo



From left to right: Abdullah al-Muhaysani, Muthir Alwais, Abu al-Harith al-Masri and Abu Yusuf al-Hamawi

- An audio clip by Bishr al-Shami, the head of the organization's Shura Council, in which he criticized every party trying to find a political solution in Syria through conferences and committees. For example, he noted that "these conferences are a deception".⁸⁵
- An announcement regarding the capture of Hush Hamad, located in Daraa, by the organization and other factions after three years of battles, as a result of the Khawarij's retreat. In the announcement, the organization welcomed the victory by the factions in the area and vowed to continue responding aggressively to anyone who attacks its territory.⁸⁶
- Seven other factions published announcements that they joined Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, including the Katibat al-Iman Battalion,⁸⁷ the Rayat al-Islam Battalion,⁸⁸ and the Katibat al-Uqab Battalion.⁸⁹

Jabhat Fateh al-Sham

- The Nukhbat al-Fikr media group, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda, published an article titled, "The Birth of Hay'at [Tahrir al-Sham]" by Abu 'Imad al-Shami. In the article, the writer emphasized the importance of the establishment of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham in steering the Syrian revolution in the right direction. The writer also referred to the importance of increasing popular

⁸⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEuz5S2JeIQ>

⁸⁶ Telegram

⁸⁷ Telegram

⁸⁸ Telegram

⁸⁹ Telegram

support for the organization, and the role of clerics in backing the organization and serving as a contact between the organization and the people.⁹⁰

Ahrar al-Sham

- Ahrar al-Sham published the following:
 - A document titled, “The Foundations of Shari’a in Islamic Activities Today”. The document presented the fundamental principles of shari’a, such as the capabilities of the individual and the group in terms of fulfilling commandments, the balance between the common good and bad deeds, and more. In addition, the document addressed the jihad aspect of Islam and emphasized that even when there is a political process, jihad must still be continued.⁹¹
 - An announcement regarding the conflict with Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham. In the announcement, the organization claimed that Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham had attacked its positions and spread false propaganda according to which thousands had abandoned Ahrar al-Sham and joined Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham. The organization also added that it called on Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham to resolve the conflict between them in a shari’a court but the latter had refused and continued its aggression against the organization. At the end of the announcement, the organization again called on Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham to resolve the conflict between them through shari’a arbitration since internal conflicts only weaken the power of the Syrian revolution.⁹²
 - An announcement in which it criticized the attack in Damascus on March 15, which resulted in dozens of civilian casualties, and accused the Alawite regime of carrying out the attack.⁹³
 - An announcement in which it criticized the massacre at the ‘Umar bin al-Khattab mosque in the city of al-Jinna, located in the western suburb of Aleppo, which was blown up by

⁹⁰ Telegram

⁹¹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3awjMQV6xnQZ2dHT3YybGJqLVE/view>

⁹² <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C6P2GR9XMAI-bOU.jpg>

⁹³ https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C6_cnw1WkAA5aV6.jpg

international coalition forces. The announcement further claimed that the attack, which resulted in deaths and injuries, constituted a war crime.⁹⁴

- Several other organizations announced this month that they had joined Ahrar al-Sham.⁹⁵

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 issues:

A. Battles and Military Deployments:

- *Al-Khayr Province:* A video documenting battles in the province as well as propaganda against Al-Qaeda and its leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, and against Tahrir al-Sham and its military commander, Abu Muhammad al-Julani. In the framework of the video, a barrage of curses and insults were hurled at al-Zawahiri (who was called an “old fool”) and against various opposition factions that were accused of a lack of understanding of religious matters and of failing to implement shari’a in Syria. The increase in attacks against Al-Qaeda can be seen as evidence of the Islamic State’s concern about the desertion of its fighters to the rival organization.⁹⁶
- 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 on various operational topics, including: attacks against the Syrian army and the shelling of sites west of Palmyra, battles against the Syrian army east of the Kuweires Military Airbase, an attack against PKK forces north of Tabqa, the launch of rockets and artillery fire at Kurdish militia sites south of Shadadi, the launch of anti-aircraft fire against Russian and Syrian aircraft south of the town of Al-Khafsa, tank fire against army sites in the area of Al-Jarrah Airport in Aleppo, the destruction of a tank using a

⁹⁴ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C7JbpVLXUAAc7pj.jpg>

⁹⁵ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C6ggL9CWwAAQpEE.jpg>;

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C6BMcFmWUAMi20-.jpg>

⁹⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/67423>

guided missile south of Dir Hafer, shooting directed at Syrian army vehicles and posts on the Athariyya-Salamiyya road, battles against the Syrian army in Dar al-Fath in Aleppo, and *rutba* activities in southern Qalamun.⁹⁷

B. Propaganda and PR:

- Raqqah Province: A video titled, “The Bond of Religion”, which documented the beginning of Al-Bayan radio station’s broadcasting on the ground. Al Bayan is the organization’s local radio station that broadcasts in the Raqqah area. In the video, it was explained that the station was established in response to “the cultural invasion by the infidels” against Islam, and in continuation of the organization’s campaign to destroy satellite dishes and converters. Meanwhile, the video included reference to “the next generation” of the Caliphate and showed a French fighter surrounded by his nine children who threatened western countries that the next generations will continue the battle. The video also showed a fighter from Khorasan who praised life under the IS, especially the education system that educates his children on the blessings of Islam.⁹⁸



A French IS fighter threatening the West while surrounded by his nine children

- Several videos were published regarding fighters who defected from other organizations and joined the IS. For instance, in one video, two fighters

⁹⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

⁹⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/67110>

from Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham announced they had joined the IS,⁹⁹ and in another video a fighter from another Syrian faction who joined the IS spoke of the “deviations” by those factions, which he accused of cooperating with the regime.¹⁰⁰ Several videos were published that documented Syrian soldiers who defected from the army and turned to the IS, which treated them well, and a video in which a PKK fighter who turned himself in called on his friends to do the same.¹⁰¹ The multiplicity of videos can be seen as a response to media reports regarding fighters who had defected from the IS due to the weakening of the organization in recent weeks.

- In the civilian context, filmed reviews were published regarding the life of Muslims in Al-Yarmouk camp, the distribution of food baskets to displaced people in Raqqah, the distribution of *zakat* in southern Damascus, a *dawah* conference that was held for children and youth in the village area of Deir Ezzor, school activities in Deir Ezzor, road expansion in the Syrian Golan Heights area, and the Friday routine of Raqqah residents.¹⁰²
- The Khalid ibn al-Walid Army published a video titled, “With Patience Comes Victory”, regarding battles between the organization and other opposition factions (referred to in the video as Sahawat) in several towns in Yarmuk Basin. In a style reminiscent of IS videos, the video combined photos of the corpses of enemy fighters who were killed alongside the weapons that were plundered after the battle. The video included a double message: threats against the Sahawat who are supported by the West on the one hand, and an appeal to the Muslim population in Yarmuk Basin while presenting the Khalid ibn al-Walid Army as their savior. The video ended with the execution of two Sahawat members.¹⁰³
- A Syrian opposition faction named Failaq al-Sham published a statement in which it called on Ahrar al-Sham and Tahrir al-Sham to end the battle between them and solve their crisis in

⁹⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/65794>

¹⁰⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/66013>

¹⁰¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/67271>

¹⁰² <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

¹⁰³ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

brotherhood and friendship. In the framework of the statement, Failaq al-Sham offered to serve as a mediator to bring about a non-violent solution to the crisis, and called on all mujahideen factions in Syria to stop fighting one another and turn their weapons against the Syrian regime and its supporters.¹⁰⁴

The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula

- The Ibn Tamiyya Media Center, which is affiliated with the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist movement and supported by the IS, published the following:
 - A report on the launch of two rockets towards the city of Ashkelon. According to the announcement, “the enemy attacked a Hamas lookout point in the northern Gaza Strip” in response to the rocket fire.¹⁰⁵
 - An article by Abd al-Ilah Shakri in which he accused Palestinian Authority Chairman, Mahmoud Abbas, and his supporters of selling out Palestine to please the infidels in exchange for money. He further claimed that Abbas cut one-third of his party’s last few salaries, especially those living in Gaza who previously worked for the PA in order to restrict the living conditions of the Gazan people and force them to accept his submissive peace deal. He added that Hamas criticized the PA for cutting the salaries of its employees in Gaza, not out of concern for them but rather because it could lead to an economic crisis in Gaza and harm the economy of the Gazan government.¹⁰⁶
- The discourse of jihadist Web forums against Hamas and the oppression of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Gaza continued. Various posts accused Hamas of arresting Salafist operatives, torturing them, preventing them from reading the Quran in jail, detaining their families and even cooperating with Israel against the Salafists.¹⁰⁷ Meanwhile, the Ibn Tamiyya Media Center

¹⁰⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/65956>

¹⁰⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/C7MAIXrWwAAB6vH.jpg>

¹⁰⁶ <https://justpaste.it/LAMSAKTOM>

¹⁰⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/65729>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/65813>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/66036>; <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/66943>

reported on a hunger strike by Salafist detainees in a Hamas jail in protest of the prison administration's treatment, as well as protests by the prisoners' families.¹⁰⁸

- A member of the Shura Council of Aknaf Bait al-Maqdis, Fadl Abd al-Hakim, published an article in which he criticized Hamas for joining the effort to protect Israel's borders. First, al-Hakin discussed the Palestinian leadership, and claimed that today's government is weak and unable to conduct a continuous battle without making long ceasefires. In addition, he claimed that the Palestinian leadership's submissive policies can be explained by the people who infiltrated the ranks of the leadership in order to act to the benefit of the Jewish occupation. He also criticized the Hamas leadership, which restricted its capabilities claiming that it was preparing for battle, while in fact its policy is similar to those of Arab states that close their borders to fighters who want to fight against the Jewish occupation, and disperse their soldiers in order to kill or arrest anyone who wishes to do so. He added that there is a pact between the Jewish state and the regimes of al-Sisi and al-Sinwar that includes joint intelligence operations, the direct killing of mujahideen by the Jews and the Egyptian army, and the deployment of Al-Qassam Brigades on the eastern border of the Gaza Strip in order to do their utmost to prevent rocket fire into Israel. He added that the Palestinian Authority in the Strip is taking similar steps to those taken by Hamas to protect Israel's security. At the end of the announcement, al-Hakin called on Aknaf Bait al-Maqdis to raise awareness of the importance of the continuing the battle against the Jews until they are forcibly expelled, keeping the flame of jihad alive, ensuring the continued arrival of soldiers to the area and working to remove obstacles from the path of the mujahideen.¹⁰⁹
- Ahfad al-Sahaba ("Descendants of the Companion of the Prophet") published a claim of responsibility for the launch of a rocket at the Eshkol Regional Council in Israel "in response to the Jews' invasion of Al-Aqsa Mosque".¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁸<https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/C519rKTXQAAZZTK1.jpg>;

<https://dawaalhaq.com/post/66035>

¹⁰⁹ https://justpaste.it/ahfad_sahaba11

¹¹⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/67070>

The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula

- The IS in the Sinai Peninsula published the following:
 - A video titled, “The Light of Shari’a”, which reviewed the organization’s *hisba* activities to enforce shari’a in the province, including the destruction of obscene items (television sets and converters), the flattening of graves, the setting alight of cigarettes and drugs, and the enforcement of a shari’a dress code. Part of the video was dedicated to documenting the execution of two sheikhs who were presented as “priests of heresy” and the organization’s activities against Sufis in Sinai, including dawah on the one hand and arrests on the other hand. It should be noted that the video documented the organization’s areas of control and showed some of its fighters, most of whom were not masked and were moving about freely in order to illustrate the high confidence of the organization and its fighters. In addition, the timing of the video’s publication and its emphasis on *hisba* activities (and not on the organization’s attacks against army and police forces) can be tied to the expected visit by the Egyptian President to Washington in the beginning of April.¹¹¹
 - Filmed reviews regarding various operational issues, mainly in Al-Arish, such as: the destruction of a hummer between Al-Arish and Sheikh Zuweid, the destruction of an armored car belonging to the Egyptian army, a report on over 30 Egyptian army forces killed and injured in southern Al-Arish, an announcement about the killing of the General Security Inspector of Southern Sinai north of Al-Arish, the killing of two police officers in another attack, and the killing of four soldiers in an armored car explosion south of Al-Arish. Another area of activity was Rafah – an armored military car was destroyed south of Rafah and an attack by the Egyptian army was warded off west of Rafah.¹¹²

¹¹¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/67694>

¹¹² <https://dawaalhaq.com>

Africa

The Maghreb

Libya

Benghazi Defense Brigades

- The Benghazi Defense Brigades published the following:
 - A statement about the launch of an operation titled, “Return to Benghazi”, which aims to restore the rights of displaced persons and migrants, and to return them to their homes. In the announcement, the organization criticized “Haftar’s militias” for their expropriation of the oil region. In light of this, the organization called on Libyans to pull themselves together and return the oil region to their control.¹¹³
 - An appeal to the Director of the “National Oil Institute” and to those entrusted with preservation of the oil refineries to hand over their ports and oil fields in the area to the organization so that it can protect the Libyan economy. According to the organization, this should not be interpreted as a desire to take control of the oil regions but rather as a desire to expel “Haftar’s militias” and make sure that all Libyan residents will benefit from the oil. The organization then called on all municipal employees and service providers in the area to return to their jobs, continue their work and help the civilians. In addition, the organization called for the opening of police stations that will be loyal to the arrangement.¹¹⁴
 - A statement regarding the success of the organization’s forces in capturing the oil ports from Haftar’s forces and transferring them to the “oil facilities’ guard” in the framework of the “Return to Benghazi” campaign.

The Shura Council of Derna

- The Shura Council of Derna published the following:
 - A statement expressing support for the Benghazi Defense Brigades’ military operation to eradicate Haftar’s forces from the Benghazi area. The announcement stated that the

¹¹³ Telegram

¹¹⁴ Telegram

blessed operation is aimed at defending the Libyan revolution and the security of the Libyan people.¹¹⁵

- An announcement criticizing Haftar's forces for their attack on Al-Naba television station, which belongs to rebel forces.¹¹⁶

The Shura Council of the Benghazi Revolutionaries

- The Shura Council of the Benghazi Revolutionaries published the following:
 - A statement of condolences over the death of two of its members who served in Al-Saraya Media Center,¹¹⁷ and the death of Jalal Makhzum, a 41-year-old military commander who was killed in Benghazi in a battle against Haftar's forces.¹¹⁸

Tunisia and Algeria

- The Ifriqiyya al-Muslima jihadist media institution published the following:
 - Several articles telling the stories of Tunisian mujahideen who were killed in Djebel Semmama in Kasserine Province in clashes with Tunisian security forces.¹¹⁹ An article was published under the name, Ahmad al-Qayrawani, which reviewed the battle in Djebel Semmama between 11 Okba Ibn Nafaa Brigade fighters and Tunisian security forces in February 2017. After describing the battle, the writer used the article to send several messages, including an appeal to the Tunisian people lest they betray the mujahideen who are defending Islam, a call on those with financial means to financially contribute to jihad, and general encouragement for Muslims to pray for the victory of the mujahideen in Tunisia.¹²⁰
 - An article titled, "The Trial of General Ultash" by a writer known as Saber al-Amazighi. The article included criticism of the Algerian legal system and government against the backdrop of the start of the trial of Col. Shuayb Ultash, the head of the Algerian

¹¹⁵ Telegram

¹¹⁶ Telegram

¹¹⁷ Telegram

¹¹⁸ Telegram

¹¹⁹ <https://goo.gl/DN71E9>

¹²⁰ https://archive.org/details/jihedislam_tutanota_20170331

National Security Aerial Unit, who was accused of killing the National Security Director.¹²¹

- A writer in the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum referred to a report that was published in the Algerian media according to which security forces had successfully eliminated a group of “Caliphate soldiers” in the city of Bouira in northern Algeria. The writer claimed that the news report was false and explained that the mujahideen were actually the ones to attack first in the framework of an ambush set for the soldiers, and that security forces responded later by using bulldozers and chemical warfare agents in the mountainous area where the attack took place. One visitor to the forum responded to the post and claimed that the mujahideen in Algeria must focus on PR, dawah and intelligence in order to prevent the enemy’s media from distorting their image.¹²²

Mali

- Al-Zalaka jihadist media institution published a video declaring the establishment of a new jihadist umbrella organization called Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam, led by Sheikh Iyad Ag Ghaly. The new umbrella organization was established thanks to the merger between the following jihadist factions: Ansar al-Din led by Sheikh Iyad Ag Ghaly, Macina battalion led by Muhammad Kufa, Al-Murabitun represented by the organization’s deputy, Sheikh Al-Hasan al-Ansari, and the Emirate of the Sahara led by Yahya Abu Hammam and represented by Abu ‘Abd al-Rahman al-Sinhaji, the kadi of the Emirate. In a speech about the merger, Ag Ghaly announced that the new umbrella organization had sworn allegiance to Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda, to Abou Mossab Abdelwadoud (aka Abdelmalek Droukdel), the leader of AQIM, and to the Emir of the Taliban in Afghanistan. According to Ag Ghaly, the new organization’s activities will be focused against French forces in northern Mali and Malian army forces loyal to the Crusader occupation throughout Mali, Burkina Faso, the Ivory Coast and Niger.¹²³

¹²¹ <https://goo.gl/zoq5pc>

¹²² <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹²³ <https://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda leadership, published its blessings over the merger and emphasized the importance of unity among the ranks of the mujahideen.¹²⁴ Al-Andalus jihadist media institution, which belongs to AQIM, also published an audio clip in which Abdelmalek Droukdel, the leader of AQIM, blessed the merger. In light of this, he called on the remaining jihad factions in the Sahel and Sahara to join hands as well and to strive to unite the ranks of the mujahideen. Finally, he addressed France and emphasized that all of France’s attempts to intervene in the region and to prevent Muslims from associating with their religion achieves the opposite result – strengthening the connection to Islam, strengthening the determination to adhere to jihad, and transferring the battle to the lands of the occupiers.¹²⁵



From left to right: Muhammad Kufa, Yahya Abu Hammam, Iyad Ag Ghaly and Al-Hasan al-Ansari

- In response to the above-mentioned merger, Al-Wafa jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for the IS, published an article by the writer, Abu al-Baraa bin Malik ; titled, “The Group for Support of Crusaders and their Agents in West Africa”. In the framework of the article, the writer criticized the new organization that was established in West Africa called, “Group for Support of Islam and Muslims”, led by Iyad Ag Ghaly. In the article, the writer accused the group of not applying shari’a, a lack of leadership, and cooperation with the French in the battle against the IS (as proof, the writer claimed that French aircraft stopped attacking this group’s targets).¹²⁶

¹²⁴ <https://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹²⁵ <https://justpaste.it/14k9a>

¹²⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

Egypt

Hasm Movement

- The Hasam movement claimed responsibility for the assassination of Muhammad al-Zini, a senior member of the Egyptian security forces, on March 8, 2017 in Dimyat Province. According to the organization, al-Zini was shot six times while walking from his house to his car. According to the organization, the assassination was carried out in revenge for his crimes against the civilian population, which was manifested in shooting, harassment and the transfer of personal information to the authorities.¹²⁷ The organization also claimed responsibility for the detonation of several roadside explosions on the road used by vehicles belonging to Egyptian security forces.¹²⁸



A statement claiming responsibility for the assassination of a supporter of the Egyptian regime

Nigeria

The Islamic State in East Africa

- The IS in East Africa published a propaganda video criticizing Muslim spies who work in the service of the West and its allies. In the video, three spies who were caught by the organization were interviewed and told how they worked in the service of the Nigerian regime. The end of the video documented their execution and included threats against the Nigerian government and anyone who helps it.¹²⁹

¹²⁷ <https://hasamegypt.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/mili-20170308.jpg>

¹²⁸ <https://hasamegypt.com/?p=262>

¹²⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

Somalia

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen published a message of condolences over the death of Abu al-Khayr Ahmad Hasan al-Masri, the deputy leader of Al-Qaeda.¹³⁰
- Al-Kataib jihadist media institution published a 19-minute long video clip titled, “Fight Them; God Will Punish Them By Your Hands”, containing statements by the leader of Al-Shabab in Kenya, Ahmad Iman Ali. In the video clip, Ali discussed the attack that was carried out by the organization against the base in Kulbiyow, in southern Somalia, in January 2017 that killed over 68 Kenyan soldiers, and he threatened similar attacks against Kenyan forces. He then discussed the current situation in Kenya, and claimed that the Kenyan government and opposition are at a crossroads where the government wants to keep its forces in Somalia while the opposition wants to withdraw forces from the country. He added that the goal of the mujahideen is to win or die a martyr’s death and, therefore, there is no point to the Kenyan government’s threats to kill the mujahideen.¹³¹



The banner of the video

The Caucasus

- The IS in Caucasus Province published a claim of responsibility for an *inghimas* operation that was carried out by six of its fighters against an army base of the Russian National Guard in Chechnya, in northwest Grozny. According to the announcement, the attack included an exchange of fire

¹³⁰ <http://www.almlf.com/locowgxontjh.html>

¹³¹ <https://justpaste.it/kulbiyo>

that lasted several hours during which six Russian soldiers were killed and three others were injured.¹³²

The Indian Subcontinent

Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent

- Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent published the following:
 - An album titled, “The Determination of Glory”, containing a compilation of five tracks of songs and narration. It called on the mujahedeen youth to participate in the highest form of worship and love for Allah – namely, jihad. It stressed the importance of defensive jihad that does not require any permission. The defenders of the Muslim Nation – its youth - have risen against the kufr enemy forces to re-establish the glory of Islam and establish the Islamic caliphate. They have risen in Palestine, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Libya and Mali in response to the injustices against the Muslim Nation. The songs commemorated the martyrs of the journey of jihad who have lost their lives for the cause of Allah.¹³³
 - A video in which a martyr named Ustad Ahmed Farooq sent a message to Pakistani and US forces that the Muslim Nation will respond by sword and told them to leave Pakistani soil. He noted that past targets included Daniel Pearl, NATO forces and various hotels in Pakistan and vowed that this fight will continue.¹³⁴

The Philippines

The Islamic State

- The IS published a claim of responsibility for the killing of over 20 members of the Philippines army forces in the framework of a gun battle against IS fighters south of Marawi.¹³⁵

¹³² https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/C7r9_HbWsAAHday1.jpg

¹³³ <https://justpaste.it/14flv>

¹³⁴ <https://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹³⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/C6YzKx3WYAAPXx61.jpg>

Bangladesh

The Islamic State

- The IS in Bangladesh published a claim of responsibility for a suicide attack against local police forces in Dhaka. According to the announcement, the attack was carried out by Abu Muhammad al-Benghali, who detonated his explosive jacket near a police blockade in the airport in Dhaka, killing and wounding many people.¹³⁶
- Al-Furat jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published a video titled, “Words Soaked in Blood”, which included an interview with one of its fighters of Bangladeshi origin before he left to carry out a suicide attack in Iraq driving a truck bomb. According to the fighter, who spoke in English (with Bengali subtitles), every Muslim is obligated to defend the Islamic Caliphate and to act against its enemies.¹³⁷



The banner of the video

¹³⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/149038222085551.jpg>

¹³⁷ Telegram

ABOUT THE ICT

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