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PERIODIC REVIEW

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Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

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Highlights

- **Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi**, the leader of the **Islamic Caliphate**, makes a public appearance after a one-year absence, and calls on the organization's fighters to remain steadfast in the face of attacks by the Crusader-Shi'ite coalition and its allies, and to continue its unwavering battle on various fronts. According to him, the enemy wants to destroy the Caliphate out of a deep fear that its existence will contribute to the spread of Islam around the world and, therefore, it is cooperating with the infidel Alawite regime in Syria. Al-Baghdadi calls on Muslims in Saudi Arabia to revolt against the Saudi regime, and he emphasizes that jihad fighters are allowed to attack Turkey's security and kill its soldiers because of its activities against them and because of its cooperation with their enemies. According to him, Muslims who want to join the Caliphate's war effort in arenas of jihad in Syria and Iraq but have difficulty reaching them can help the effort by migrating to other fronts of the Caliphate.
- **The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** claims responsibility for two terrorist attacks, the first against the German Consulate and the second against a US air base in Afghanistan. In the first attack, the entire Consulate building was destroyed and all of the Germans who were inside the building were killed. According to the spokesman for the Emirate, the casualties included a German intelligence team that was entrusted with planning operations, including air strikes against Emirate fighters in northern Afghanistan, and that provided intelligence to US army forces. The second attack was carried out against a US Air Force base in Bagram by a suicide terrorist who planted explosives on the base over a long period of time until he identified an opportune time to carry out the attack. 23 Americans were killed in the attack. According to the Emirate, this attack was preceded by a four-month preparatory operation.
- **Al-Qaeda** publishes an announcement regarding "the martyr's death of the commander, Faruq al-Qahtani, and his family members in Kunar Province". According to the announcement, al-Qahtani served as the battalion's military commander in Nooristan and Kunar Provinces, and was killed in an attack by US forces. The latter had previously tried to assassinate him but this time they succeeded in killing him and his family members who were with him in the car at the time, thereby adding to the crime. The announcement also states that the US continues to carry out crimes in Muslim lands: in Afghanistan and Iraq by cooperating with the Shi'ites, in Syria by giving the green light to the Syrian regime to cooperate with the Russians, in Burma by financially

supporting the Buddhist regime that persecutes Muslims, and by continuing to carry out air strikes in Gaza, Libya, Somalia, Yemen and Mali.

- **Ibrahim al-Qusi Khabib al-Sudani**, a senior member of **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula**, marks 15 years since the 9/11 terror attacks by emphasizing that the US is in a state of weakness and that it was not successful in defeating the mujahideen. On the contrary, today the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan has managed to maintain its power and to impose shari'a in areas under its control. Al-Sudani accuses the US of carrying out crimes against Muslims, and emphasizes that Muslims must continue their battle against the US and increase the scope of terrorist attacks against the Crusaders and their collaborators. In addition, he sends a message to US citizens that they will continue to serve as targets for attacks around the world as long as the US government continues to act against the Muslim Nation and support Israel.
- The **Islamic State** encourages the execution of terrorist attacks at polling stations in the framework of US presidential elections. In addition, the organization calls on Muslims to avoid going to the stations since such participation serves as a contradiction to the principles of Islam.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula** dedicates *INSPIRE* magazine to the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. According to the organization, the US is still gripped by fear and terror due to these events and due to the phenomenon of "lone wolf" attacks. In addition, the organization publishes a guidebook analyzing the modus operandi of three attacks that were carried out by Muslims in New Jersey, Minnesota and Chelsea in the US, including advice on how to prepare such attacks.

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New Publications

Ideology

The Islamic State and its Supporters

- Al-Furqan jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published a recorded speech by Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic Caliphate. In the opening to his speech, al-Baghdadi noted that Islam today is under attack on all fronts by the infidels and their allies. He emphasized that the war being waged against his organization only strengthens the faith of its members and, in fact, predicts the organization's close victory since Allah promised victory to the Muslims, as mentioned in the holy scriptures of Islam, as soon as the religion of Islam is attacked by a multitude of enemies. For example, he referred to the story of the splitting of the Red Sea by God, which was designed to save Moses and the Israelites from the Egyptians who pursued them, as a metaphor for a situation in which the organization's operatives were to be defeated by their enemies.

  He then noted that the enemies of God, including Jews, Christians, heretics, Shi'ites, Muslims who transgressed and infidel nations, have used all of their media channels, funds and armies to sanctify war against the Muslims and the mujahideen in Nineveh Province, motivated by the fear of appearing as an Islamic base and beacon in the shadow of the Caliphate, which is perceived as a threat because it is a tool for strengthening and spreading Islam. Al-Baghdadi then called on soldiers of the Caliphate to stand firm in the face of air strikes by US forces and their allies, and to put their trust in Allah. He called on those fighters who wish to die as martyrs to continue the battle and crush the enemy. In addition, he appealed to the Sunni population of Iraq to wake up to the Shi'ite aspiration to spread to areas with a Sunni population under the guise of fighting against the IS. Al-Baghdadi addressed the countries in the region and accused them of betrayal characterized by, among other things, cooperation with the enemies of Islam. He described the Alawite regime in Syria as an infidel regime operating at the height of brutality against the residents of Aleppo, with Russian-Shi'ite backing, with the goal of establishing a Shi'ite entity. In his opinion, the Saudi regime is also transgressing through its actions to secularize the country, its military cooperation with heretical nations in the war against Islam and Sunnis in Iraq and Syria. In light of this, he called on Muslims in Saudi Arabia, be they security forces or ordinary

civilians, to rise up against the Saudi regime. Al-Baghdadi harshly criticized the Turkish regime for the battle that it is waging against IS fighters in order to strengthen its position in northern Iraq and the border with Syria and Turkey. Therefore, al-Baghdadi emphasized that Turkey is considered a legitimate target in the jihad war and he called on jihad fighters to attack Turkey's security. According to him, it is permitted to kill Turkish army soldiers. "The soldiers of the Caliphate on the land of the Levant. Here comes the infidel Turkish soldier, and the blood of one of them is the equivalent of a dog's blood […]." Al-Baghdadi mentioned other countries in the region, including Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya and Tunisia, and emphasized that their legal systems are not that of Allah, but rather their laws are inspired by Crusaders, Shi'ites and the secular. Therefore, he emphasized that jihad fighters must be aware of their status as the defender of Islam against many dangers and enemies, and they must demonstrate patience. He called on all jihad fighters who left the battle to turn back and fight for the sake of Allah with the knowledge that they are defending the Quran and the Muslim faith. By participating in this heavenly campaign, they will be rewarded in the world to come. Al-Baghdadi warned against a rift among the ranks of the mujahideen and stressed the importance of maintaining unity among the ranks as well as the obligation to obey military leaders who follow shari'a, lest they receive damnation in the world to come, according to the Quran.

Al-Baghdadi also addressed the soldiers of the Caliphate in other regions, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Caucasus, the Philippines, Yemen, the Arabian Peninsula, the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Somalia and West Africa, and stressed to them that they are serving today as the defenders of Islam and the pillars of the Caliphate, and he called on them to teach the infidels a lesson and keep fighting against them. He complimented jihad fighters in Libya for their steadfastness in the face of Crusader attacks, and praised them for their success in undermining political stability in Europe and sabotaging their plans. Al-Baghdadi also emphasized that if there are Muslims who want to migrate to Iraq and Syria in order to help in the war effort against the enemies but are finding it difficult to do so, they can move to other arenas of the Caliphate. He stressed that the Caliphate has not forgotten the prisoners and wishes for their release. In addition, he eulogized senior IS commanders, including Abu Muhammad al-'Adnani, the spokesman for the organization, who died as martyrs, and he emphasized that their deaths

do not impede the continuing activities of the Caliphate or jihad efforts. To the contrary, it greases the wheels of jihad and strengthens the determination and fighting spirit of the operatives.[1]



Posters that were produced by IS supporters, including parts of a speech by al-Baghdadi criticizing Turkey, Jews and Christians

- Visitors to several jihadist Web forums, including Shumukh al-Islam, which is associated with the IS, held discussions against the backdrop of Donald Trump's election to the US presidency. Visitors to the Da'wa al-Haqq Islamic news agency exchanged impressions of an article on the subject, with some of them expressing hope that Trump would lead the US to destruction and that he would command the Christian army in Dabiq, the apocalyptic battle in which the Muslims will ultimately defeat the Christians, according to Islamic tradition.[2] Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum discussed the reasons for Trump's election, gloated over the shock and despair that hit many Americans with the release of the election results, and even hoped for the disintegration of the United States under the new president. Other visitors mocked Trump in light of his declarations on the subject of fighting radical Islam.[3]
- Al-Battar jihadist media institution published the following:
    - An article by the writer, Gharib al-Saruriya, titled, "Has the Islamic State Deceived Us?" In the article, the writer denied accusations directed against the organization by Islamic clerics and common people, and claimed that there were scholars in the past who acted against the Caliphate for various reasons. The writer called on readers to see the application of shari'a and the establishment of the Caliphate as testimony to the fact that

[1] https://dawaalhaq.com/
[2] https://dawaalhaq.com/post/56651; https://dawaalhaq.com/post/56631
[3] https://shamukh.net/vb (Arabic).

the Islamic State is acting according to the laws of Islam and that the clerics who encourage Muslims to obey the "tyrants" are the ones who are actually leading Muslims astray.[4]

- An article written by Ahlam al-Nasr titled, "A State of Methodology, Not a State of Individuals". In the article, the author claimed that since the Islamic State is based on a sub-concept and an organized idea, the death of one of its members, no matter how senior, does not affect it at all (in contrast to Al-Qaeda, which began to crumble after the death of Osama bin Laden, according to the writer). To support her claim, the author noted that despite the deaths of senior members such as Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Abu Omar al-Baghdadi and Abu Hamza al-Mujahir, the IS has only grown stronger over the years.[5]
- A video titled, "The Light of Islam" (in partnership with Asdaa media institution) regarding the attack on the city of Mosul while presenting it as "a source of light that the enemies of Islam are trying to extinguish". It should be noted that the video combined photographs from the organization's publications alongside clips that were taken from various videos.[6]

- In an interview conducted by Sheikh Salman al-Ouda, the famous religious legal authority, Yusuf al-Qardawi, declared that suicide attacks are no longer permitted in Palestine. Al-Qardawi explained that he permitted such attacks as "a necessary weapon" in the past but now that the Palestinians have other methods of fighting, suicide attacks are no longer necessary.[7]
- Al-Waqar jihadist media institution published an article by Fajr al-Anzi titled, "The Sophisticated Thinking of Al-Qaeda". In the article, the writer claimed that Al-Qaeda and its branches are misusing the oath of allegiance (*bay'ah*) and explained that when Al-Nusra Front announced its dissolution, it actually violated its oath of allegiance to the Al-Qaeda organization, which swore allegiance to the Taliban (the Taliban is described by the writer as "Sufi and Shi'ite"). The writer concluded that Al-Qaeda is violating oaths of allegiance as needed, thereby causing the mujahideen to split rather than unify.[8]

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[4] http://up.top4top.net/downloadf-321kbkjv3-rar.html
[5] http://alsewf.blogspot.com/2016/11/blog-post_56.html
[6] https://ia601202.us.archive.org/29/items/ISLAMar/ISLAMar.mp4
[7] https://dawaalhaq.com/post/57806
[8] http://www.addpost.it/3973

- Gharib al-Saruriyya published an article titled, “Removing the Fig Leaf from the Dictator Erdogan”. The article criticized Turkey’s conduct as a secular state under the leadership of Erdogan, who – according to the writer – swore allegiance to the values of Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey. The writer protested Erdogan's identification as the "Muslim Caliph" and accused him of supporting the forces fighting against the IS.[9]



Criticism by jihadist writers against Turkey under Erdogan’s leadership

- Husayn bin Mahmud published an article titled, “What is the Significance of the Establishment of the Caliphate?” In the framework of the article, the writer reviewed the implications of the return of the Caliphate for Muslims and for their enemies, and he explained why several Arab countries and various groups are fighting against the Caliphate. Among other things, the writer noted that the return of the Caliphate means the unification of all Islamic states into one entity, the disappearance of loyalty to the state or tribe, and the application of shari'a in all territories of Islam. The writer concluded the article by emphasizing that the people who comprise the Caliphate are of no importance in their own right, but the concept and meaning represented by the Caliph and the Caliphate are important.[10]
- A writer known as “A Salafist from Iraq” published an article regarding the “demonization” propaganda being waged against the IS by its enemies. In the framework of the article, the writer combined screenshots from various sources attesting to, according to him, the disinformation being distributed in order to tarnish the image of the IS. In addition, the writer tried to sling mud at various Islamic movements, such as the Taliban, Hamas and various groups in Syria and Iraq

[9] https://justpaste.it/zxeu
[10] https://dawaalhaq.com/post/57681

that receive support from the West and Russia by including media clips regarding cooperation between these movements and the "infidels", according to him.[11]

- A report regarding the death of Bilal Ali al-Ghafari (aka Abu Abdullah al-Ghazi al-Muhajer), an Islamic activist and preacher of Palestinian origin who joined the ranks of the IS. Against the backdrop of his death, a book by al-Gharafi was published titled, "The Obligation of Hijra to the House of Light and Islam, and the Abandonment of the House of Infidels and Darkness".[12] It should be noted that al-Gharafi was the son of the Emir of the Al-Da'wah wal-Tabligh group in Gaza.[13]

Al-Qaeda and its Supporters

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda, published an announcement regarding "the martyr's death of the commander, Faruq al-Qahtani, and his comrades in Kunar Province. According to the announcement, al-Qahtani served as the military commander of a battalion in Nooristan and Kunar Provinces in Afghanistan, and was killed as a result of an attack by US forces. They had previously tried to assassinate him and failed, but this time they managed to kill him and the members of his family who were with him at the time, thus adding insult to injury. It also stated that the US continues to carry out crimes in Muslim countries, in Afghanistan and in Iraq by cooperating with the Shi'ites; in Syria by giving the green light to the Syrian regime to act in collaboration with the Russians; in Burma by economically supporting the Buddhist regime that persecutes the Muslims; and by continuing to carry out air strikes Gaza, Libya, Somalia, Yemen and Mali.[14]
- Sheikh Abdallah al-Shami, a member of the Shura Council of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, published a book titled, "In the Shadow of the Tall Tree of Jihad" (209pp.). In the book, the author discussed the significance of jihad in the eyes of various Islamist groups throughout Muslim history, including the Islamic State. According to him, jihad is an important and deep-rooted principle in Islam, and all attempts by the enemy to suppress it, whether through diplomatic or military

[11] https://shamukh.net/vb (Arabic).
[12] https://dawaalhaq.com/post/56779
[13] https://dawaalhaq.com/post/56767
[14] https://justpaste.it/10phi

means, are destined to fail. In addition, the author reviewed the history of the development of Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria.[15]

- Sheikh Hani al-Sibai, a, Egyptian Salafi cleric exiled in London, published a video clip regarding the election of Donald Trump to the US presidency. In the clip, al-Sibai claimed that all US presidents behaved like Trump, with enmity towards Muslims, and he claimed that Hillary Clinton would have also killed Muslims had she been elected president. He added that the US was founded on the skulls of nations and children, and claimed that Americans are the "destroyers of the human race". Al-Sibai also referred to the fact that Trump views Egyptian President al-Sisi as a role model since he is also battling against Islam.[16] In one of his Friday sermons, al-Sibai also accused the Saudi royal family and al-Sisi's regime of persecuting Sunni Muslims under the pretence of the war on terror. In addition, he referred to the killing of Sunnis in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Saudi Arabia, claiming that it stems from their lack of faith in Islam.[17]
- The Thubath jihadist media institution published a short essay titled, "Sources of Avraham sect" by Sheikh Sami 'Aridi, a sage and member of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham. Sheikh Abu Mohammad al-Maqdisi, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric in Jordan, praised the essay in its introduction. In the essay, al-'Aridi referred to the principle of the Oneness of God as a central component of the monotheistic faith of Abraham. According to him, the emphasis of this principle and its description are vital so that it can be used correctly in conjunction with the "Avraham sect".[18]
- Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini, a senior Salafi-jihadist ideologue in Jordan, posted a series of tweets on his Twitter account regarding the loss of several neighborhoods in Aleppo to Syrian regime forces. According to him, it is natural for jihad fighters in the area to feel despair and disappointment but it is a momentary and fleeting situation since victory is reserved for the mujahideen. According to him, cooperation between the various jihad factions in Syria will help win the battle against Assad's forces.[19]
- Al-Maqalat media group published a report calling for unity among Islamic factions in Syria. According to the report, the battle in Syria against Islam is taking place because most of those

[15] https://fotooh.net/
[16] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juQDEBtn3qk
[17] https://dawaalhaq.com
[18] https://justpaste.it/1014y
[19] https://justpaste.it/10xg4

killed in Syria are Muslim civilians who do not belong to a specific movement. The report then called for unity among the various Islamic movements since the differences between them are secondary to the battle between Islam and the infidels. The report added that anyone who does not adopt this point of view regarding the conflict in Syria is only delaying victory and liberation because he is busy dividing instead of unifying. As proof of this, it presented the mistake made by the IS, which led to the delay of the victory and ultimately to the defeat of the organization. The report also stated that the mistake made by the factions in Syria was that they did not learn from the experience of the mujahideen who fought before them, and most of the mistakes that were made in the past battle in Afghanistan against the Soviets are being repeated today in Syria. The report added that the Taliban appeared in Afghanistan and united the factions, and the same will happen in Syria – the factions will be replaced by those who are willing to unite Muslims. Later in the announcement, it compared Pakistan's role in the war in Afghanistan to Turkey's role in Syria and the position of the US vis-à-vis the Islamic parties in Afghanistan and in Syria. At the end of the report, it called on the factions to learn from the success of the Taliban, which prioritized the interests of the Afghan people and united the ranks.[20]

Strategy

- Al-Hayat jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published an article titled, "The Murtadd [Apostate] Vote", in which it encouraged terrorist attacks at the polls in the framework of the presidential elections in the US. In addition, the article included a call on Muslims to avoid going to the polls in order to avoid taking part in "the apostasy of democratic voting".[21]

[20] https://justpaste.it/Taliban_Shaam
[21] https://ia801905.us.archive.org/20/items/afdfadf_201611/TheMurtaddVote.pdf



A threat by the IS to attack voters at polling stations in the US

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published issue no. 128 (44 pp.) of its magazine, *Al-Somood*, and issue no. 57 (48 pp.) of its magazine, *Shari'at*, in Urdu, which cover the arena of jihad in Afghanistan.



From left to right: the banner pages of *Shari'at* and *Al-Somood*

- A new magazine titled, "*Taliban*" (46 pp.) was published by the Taliban in Pakistan in Urdu.[22]

[22] https://ia601503.us.archive.org/17/items/ttp-mag

- Issues no. 28-31 were published of the magazine, *Al-Masra*, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda. Among the topics covered in the current issues were: a review of the central and new developments concerning the various arenas of jihad of Al-Qaeda and its allies; an interview with Sheikh Ibrahim al-Qosi Khubayb al-Sudani, a senior member of AQAP, about his memories of the days he spent with Sheikh Osama bin Laden; an interview with Muhammad al-Dursi, a commander of the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries, about the battle in the city.[23]



The banner pages of the issues of *Al-Masra*

- The first issue of the magazine, *Al-Huda*, was published. Even though the magazine presents itself as "an independent magazine that does not belong to any body of institution", it can be identified with AQIM. According to the banner photo showing Qutayba Abu al-Nu'man al-Shanqiti, a prominent sage of Mauritanian origin belonging to the organization. The issue included articles, poetry excerpts and news clips from several jihad fronts and various Islamic countries.[24]

[23] https://fotooh.net/
[24] https://fotooh.net/



***Al-Huda*, a new magazine identified with AQIM**

- Issues no. 53-56 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published by the Islamic State. In addition to reports about the organization's attacks and operations in several arenas, the magazine's articles covered various topics, including: an oath of allegiance by Al-Murabitun in northern Mali to al-Baghdadi, electronic warfare techniques, encouragement for the widows of IS fighters to re-marry and a warning against "Crusader" tracking of cell phones.[25]



The banner pages of *Al-Naba* issues

- Issue no. 16 of the magazine, *INSPIRE*, was published in English by AQAP. According to the editor of the issue, its articles were dedicated to the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. According to him, these events and "lone wolf" attacks continue to create an atmosphere of fear and terror

[25] https://ia801508.us.archive.org/26/items/gdyrezydfsg_mail_53; https://ia801503.us.archive.org/18/items/jhthtrhy_mail_54

among US citizens. Among the topics covered in the current issue were: guidebook no. 4, which analyzed the modus operandi of the three attacks carried out by Muslims in New Jersey, Minnesota and Chelsea in the US and the insights that can be inferred from them; recommendations on how to carry out effective attacks against US citizens, such as selecting a target, choosing a time when there is a large concentration of people and camouflaging the bomb or other means of attack; encouragement for fulfilling the commandment of jihad against American targets; an effort to recruit black people to carry out revenge operations against the American establishment based on an appeal by al-Zawahiri to black people to come to their senses in the face of the oppression being waged against them by the American establishment; the decline of the US.[26]



From left to right: The *INSPIRE* guidebook analyzing the terrorist attacks that took place in New Jersey, Minnesota and Chelsea; the banner page of the *INSPIRE* issue

- Issue no. 3 was published in English of the magazine, *Rumiyah*, by the IS. Among other things, the magazine included guidelines for carrying out terrorist attacks using vehicles, including suggested vehicles and recommended targets (gatherings, crowded streets, markets, processions, etc.). In addition, the issue included the translation of the most recent speech by the leader of the organization, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, an article condemning the "wicked scholars", and articles on

[26] https://justpaste.it/10a15

religious topics (prayer as part of jihad, a recommendation to women not to leave their homes unnecessarily, and more).[27]



The banner page of *Rumiyeh*

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan published the following:
    - An announcement by the spokesman of the Islamic Emirate regarding the change in US leadership. In the announcement, the organization asked the President-elect, Donald Trump, to withdraw all US forces from Afghanistan so as not to reduce the prestige of the US and worsen its economic and military situation in a futile war. The organization also asked Trump to give the Afghan nation independence so that it may build its own autonomous system.[28]
    - A claim of responsibility for two suicide attacks: the first attack was directed against the German Consulate in the city of Mazar Sharif in Balkh Province using a truck bomb and three terrorists. The entire consulate building was destroyed in the attack and all of the

[27] https://ia801202.us.archive.org/6/items/Rumiyah3EN/Rumiyah3EN.pdf
[28] http://alemarah-english.com/?p=6973 (English).

Germans who were inside the compound were killed. According to the spokesman for the organization, among those killed were members of the German intelligence team that was entrusted with planning operations, including air strikes against Emirate fighters in northern Afghanistan, and that provided intelligence to US army forces. The second attack was carried out against a US Air Force base in Bagram by a suicide terrorist who planted explosives on the base over a long period of time until he identified an opportune time to carry out the attack. 23 Americans were killed in the attack. According to the organization, this attack was preceded by a four-month preparatory operation.[29]

- A video clip regarding the organization's victories in the area of Kot in Nangarhar Province in eastern Afghanistan.[30]
- An announcement claiming that a Russian report according to which the organization's fighters clashed with Tajikistan border forces in Kunduz Province, in northern Afghanistan, was false. The announcement also stated that the incident on the border in which smugglers were caught trying to smuggle prohibited materials into Tajikistan via Kunduz had nothing to do with the organization. The organization added that it has no intension of attacking neighboring countries and that it will do everything it can to prevent illegal trade in the region.[31]
- An announcement regarding the support of national projects in the country. In the announcement, the organization called on the mujahideen to help secure national projects, such as the building of roads, trains, dams and more that serve the interests of the nation, and contribute to the development and prosperity of the country.[32]
- An announcement regarding the genocide of the Muslim minority in Burma. In the announcement, the organization condemned the cruel treatment of Muslims in the country by the government in Burma and it called on the Muslim Nation to invest efforts in protecting Muslims in Burma. The announcement also stated that the UN and human

[29] https://fotooh.net/
[30] https://archive.org/details/ShaalikotHQ
[31] http://alemarah-english.com/?p=7738 (English).
[32] http://alemarah-english.com/?p=7766 (English).

rights organizations are silent in the face of the Muslim genocide in Burma, which shows their hypocrisy.[33]

- A video clip regarding the capture of Ghorak, in Kandahar Province in southern Afghanistan.[34] In addition, the organization published a video clip regarding its advancement in Faryab Province, which is located in northern Afghanistan.[35]
- A video clip regarding the surrender of militiamen in Dih Yak, in Ghazni Province, which is located in southeast Afghanistan.[36]

- Al-Furqan jihadist media institution published two additional videos in memory of two former members of the organization who were martyred, both of Kuwaiti origin, in the framework of a series of publications titled, "The Martyrs of Khorasan".[37]



Videos in memory of two members of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

The Taliban in Pakistan

- The Taliban in Pakistan published an announcement regarding the election of Donald Trump to the US presidency. In the announcement, the organization called on Trump to abandon anti-Islamic policies and release all Muslim prisoners, especially Afia Siddique (a Pakistani who is serving a prison term in the United States after being convicted of an attack and the attempted murder of Americans who served in Afghanistan). The organization also asked the US to stop its military assistance to Pakistan, which was provided by the previous administration in order to

[33] http://alemarah-english.com/?p=7842 (English).
[34] http://www.shahamat-video.com/archives/1315
[35] http://www.shahamat-video.com/archives/1263
[36] https://justpaste.it/10k62
[37] https://justpaste.it/10254; https://justpaste.it/10xib

"fight terror". At the end of the announcement, the organization claimed that the Pakistani regime is corrupt and that it would be willing to fight the US if it were to receive more money from another source.[38]

The Islamic State

- The Amaq news agency published an announcement regarding the downing of an American helicopter that took part in an attack against IS sites in Ghor Province in central Afghanistan.[39]

The Arabian Peninsula

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- Al-Malahim jihadist media institution published, which belongs to AQAP, published the following:
    - An audio clip titled, "15 years since the outbreak of the Crusader campaign of the era" by Sheikh Ibrahim al-Qosi Khubayb al-Sudani, a senior member of the organization. In the introduction, al-Qosi noted that since the 9/11 attacks, the US and its allies are waging a war campaign against the mujahideen in order to uproot jihad and the mujahideen, but their battle is destined to fail as proven by the fact that 15 years have passed since the 9/11 attacks and the mujahideen continue to operate on different fronts. According to him, the US was mistaken if it thought it could overthrow the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan since today, after a decade and a half, the Emirate has succeeded in implementing shari'a in the areas under its control. He accused the US of carrying out crimes against Muslims by, among other things, using its influence and support from the heads of states in the region, such as al-Sisi's regime in Egypt. Al-Qosi emphasized that Muslims must continue the war against the US as instructed Sheikh Osama bin Laden, the former leader of Al-Qaeda, and that the mujahideen have had many successes in this war. According to him, attempts by the US to use new tools in the war against Muslims and the green light that it gives to Russia, Iran, and other countries to fight for their place, as well as the attempt to lead the region to a battle between Sunnis and Shi'ites are all doomed

[38] https://umarmediaweb.wordpress.com/2016/11/11/a-message-to-us-president-elect-donald-j-trump-from-tehreek-taliban-pakistan/
[39] https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/CxOf49LWQAAoALi.jpg

to fail. Al-Qosi then addressed a message to the mujahideen on various jihad fronts, especially in Syria, to be patient and stand firm against the enemy forces since it is a difficult but short period of time that will pass. According to him, the claim that US intervention in Syria is an attempt to break the will of the Islamic State is a lie, and war should be sanctified against it. He called on the mujahideen to cause the Americans to flee from the region as they did in the past, such as in Mogadishu in the 1990's. He called on jihad fighters on the various jihad fronts to focus on their goals and increase the scope of attacks against the Crusaders and their collaborators. Al-Qosi praised the mujahideen for their adherence to the fulfilment of the commandment of jihad against the enemies of Islam. For example, he praised the Taliban in Afghanistan and the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan for their determination to continue to free Afghanistan from the occupiers. Finally, he threatened US citizens that as long as the US government acts against the Muslim Nation, attacks Muslim lands and supports the land of the Jews, they will continue to serve as a target of attack for the mujahideen around the world.[40]



The banner of al-Qosi's speech in honor of the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks

- A video titled, "Restraining Aggression 6", which reviewed the organization's military successes against Yemeni and Houthi security forces. The beginning of the video showed the organization's fighters capturing the city of Aden from the Houthis. The video combined interviews with former and current senior commanders in the organization about the support provided to the Houthis by Iran and America. In addition, it issued harsh criticism over America's use of drones against the mujahideen and the civilian population

[40] https://fotooh.net/

in Yemen. He also accused the United Emirates of fighting against the mujahideen in southern Yemen and of serving as a tool of the US. Later in the video, al-Qosi spoke out against the United Emirates and the US, and called on the mujahideen to continue the battle against the enemy. He warned them not to spill the blood of innocent Muslims when carrying out terrorist attacks. The video then focused on the training undergone by the organization's fighters in preparation for suicide bombing attacks, and it presented the last will and testament of two of the terrorists. Finally, al-Qosi emphasized that the mujahideen are continuing their activities to curb the enemy's aggression.[41]

- A video titled, "Harvesting the Spies – no. 5".[42]
- A report detailing the operations by Ansar al-Shari'a, which is affiliated with AQAP, during the month of October. For example, it described several operations that were directed against the Houthis.[43]

The Islamic State

- The IS in Yemen claimed responsibility for a series of assassinations of Houthi fighters and the shelling of their bases in Al-Baydaa Province.[44]

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:

- *Nineveh Province*: A video titled, "Allah's Promise" regarding the battles in the city of Mosul. The video mainly included photographs from the battle in the eastern neighborhoods of the province that are under the control of Iraqi forces, and documented the organization's use of explosives-ridden

[41] https://fotooh.net/
[42] https://fotooh.net/
[43] https://justpaste.it/105o1
[44] https://dawaalhaq.com/post/57162

vehicles and camera drones along with light and medium-weapon exchanges of fire. In the video, the organization claimed that since the beginning of the battles it has managed to destroy approximately 300 military vehicles and nine camera drones, and to kill over 2,200 Iraqi and Peshmerga forces. It was also claimed in the video that the financial damage to the Iraqi government as a result of the battle stands at 42 billion dollars.[45]

- *Nineveh Province*: A video titled, "Knights of the Platoons" (*Fursan al-Dawawin*), which revealed for the first time the organization's use of attack drones in the framework of the battles in the city of Mosul. The video documented how the drones are used to drop shells on Iraqi army vehicles and soldiers. In addition, the video documented how activists in the organization's civilian departments (*Dawawin*) – the *hisba*, police and health departments – were recruited to carry out suicide attacks against Iraqi forces in several neighborhoods in eastern Mosul.[46]
- *Al-Furat Province*: A video titled, "Lions of the Desert" regarding the battles being waged by the organization against Iraqi forces on the Syria-Iraq border. The video documented the capture of an Iraqi army post by the organization's fighters in the desert area, which extends between the two countries, including the execution of soldiers after penetrating the post. In addition, the video documented the execution of two men who confessed to belonging to the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) in Al-Anbar Province using a PK machine gun.[47]
- *Al-Janub Province*: A video regarding the organization's operational activities in the province. In the video, an IS field commander stated that the organization's operational activities were taking place on several axes,

[45] https://vimeo.com/193798377
[46] https://archive.org/details/fursan-daw
[47] https://vimeo.com/191829824

including "hunting the Sahawat" (raiding the homes of militiamen and executing them), planting explosives and suicide attacks.[48]

- *Various provinces and Amaq news agency*: Reviews and videos regarding various operational topics, including: dozens of reports regarding battles and suicide attacks in Mosul against the army and the PMF; battles in the area of Kukjali, east of Mosul; details about Shi'ite militia commanders who were killed in Mosul; a suicide attack against the Peshmerga west of Bashiqa; a series of suicide attacks in Samaraa and Tikrit, in which 182 people were killed and injured; and the killing of four American soldiers in Ramadi who worked for a security company in a bomb blast.[49]
- The IS published infographic posters regarding battles in the city of Mosul, including details about several suicide attacks that were carried out, the number of those killed among Iraqi army and Peshmerga ranks, and the vehicles that were destroyed.[50]

B. Enforcement of Hudud Punishments and Executions:

- *Al-Jazira Province*: A video titled, "Repent and You Will Have Safety from Us". The video reviewed the organization's activities in locating and capturing people accused of spying, and it documented the execution of four people accused of passing information to the Peshmerga, the Iraqi government and the PMF. The accused were presented as individuals whose agents deceived them and abandoned them when they were taken captive by the organization. The four were executed by young men.[51] Kirkuk Province also published a filmed review regarding the execution of a group of spies.[52]
- *Al-Jazira Province*: A filmed review regarding the enforcement of *hudud* punishments in the province, including warnings to cigarette dealers, the

[48] https://dawaalhaq.com
[49] https://dawaalhaq.com
[50] https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/CwKgBdfWAAAepdC.jpg
[51] https://dawaalhaq.com/post/56669
[52] https://dawaalhaq.com/post/57190

severing of the hands of thieves, the throwing of people accused of homosexual relations from the roof of a building, and the crucifixion and execution of those accused of highway robbery.[53]

C. Propaganda and Media:

- *Kirkuk Province:* A video criticizing the Kurdistan government and Peshmerga forces for supporting the Crusaders. In the video, IS fighters of Kurdish origin clarified to their countrymen that the Islamic State is not fighting against the Kurds as an ethnic group, but rather only against "the infidels and apostates among them". The video showed Kurdish fighters undergoing weapons training alongside a call on the Kurdish population in the province to join the mujahideen.[54]



IS propaganda directed at the Kurdish population in Kirkuk Province

- The Amaq news agency published several reviews and videos regarding civilian life in the city of Mosul (and neighboring Tall Afar) in order to refute the claims by the "hostile media" concerning the situation in the city. The videos included street interviews with residents, the presentation of market activities and traffic, and documentation of the study routine in schools.[55] The agency also published videos regarding the bombing of bridges in the city by coalition forces,[56] and a video documenting the oath of allegiance to the organization taken by a group of residents in Tall Afar in one of the city's mosques.[57]

[53] https://dawaalhaq.com/post/56677
[54] https://dawaalhaq.com/post/56884
[55] https://dawaalhaq.com/post/56181;https://dawaalhaq.com/post/57382; https://dawaalhaq.com/post/57587
[56] https://dawaalhaq.com/post/57699
[57] https://dawaalhaq.com/post/56399

Al-Sham [The Levant]

Syria

Jabhat Fateh al-Sham

- The Yaqut jihadist media institution, which belongs to Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, published the following:
    - An announcement regarding the death of a group of mujahideen in an attack by coalition forces against the mujahideen's center in the city of Ma'arat Misrin, in Idlib. The organization added that this attack by coalition forces compliments Russia's role in Syria and helps the Assad regime. At the end of the announcement, the organization claimed that it can continue the war of jihad until Syria is liberated.[58]
    - An announcement regarding Juna al-Shari'a's merger with Jabhat Fateh al-Sham in the framework of unity among the ranks of the mujahideen against the Alawite regime and its allies.[59]
    - An announcement by a member of the organization's Shari'a Council, Abu Abdullah al-Shami, regarding the establishment of Al-Nusra Front and events in Syria since the beginning of the conflict until the declaration of the Islamic State. In the beginning of the announcement, al-Shami discussed the start of the revolution to topple the Alawite regime in Syria, which has tortured the Sunnis for over 40 years, in the framework of additional revolutions that took place in Arab countries. Later, al-Shami referred to the establishment of Al-Nusra Front in Syria by Abu Mohammad al-Julani after receiving the consent of al-Baghdadi, who was the leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq at the time. Al-Shami further discussed the difference between the jihad that took place in Iraq and the jihad that needs to take place in Syria. Al-Shami claimed that since its inception, Al-Nusra Front has worked to achieve unity between jihadist groups, especially with Ahrar al-Sham, and that jihadist organizations began to achieve victories against the Alawite regime. Al-Shami further claimed that the hostility shown by the US towards Al-Nusra Front is because it is a Sunni organization and not because they belong to Al-Qaeda, since the US added Al-

[58] https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cw18fp7VIAEBjjr.jpg
[59] https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CwRfj5AWYAADUeM.jpg

Nusra Front to its list of terrorist organizations even before it declared its allegiance to Al-Qaeda.[60]

- Dr. Abdallah Muhammad al-Muhaysini, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric of Saudi origin living in Syria and close to Al-Qaeda's circle, criticized the US government's decision to include him on the list of terrorism supporters and to place economic sanctions on him. According to him, he decided to move to Syria in order to help the displaced and the civilian population, and to treat the pain of the children caused by the brutal oppression and horrors of war experienced by the Syrian people. He added that he was proud of his support for the rebels since they are acting for the welfare of the Syrian people, which he claims is not an economic asset that the US can freeze. Al-Muhaysini added that the despicable attempt to link him to terrorism is a low and unfounded move. Following his words, several Syrian civilians were interviewed giving praise to al-Muhaysini, criticizing the operations by Syrians and the Russians in Syria, and demanding that the US impose sanctions on them since they are responsible for the massacre of the civilian population in Syria.[61] Al-Muhaysini also criticized the Saudi daily, *Okaz*, as a result of an article that described him as "takfiri", labelling a Muslim as an infidel. According to him, this description is tendentious and has no basis since his activities focus solely on the welfare of the Syrian people.[62]

Jaysh al-Fatah

- Jaysh al-Fatah published an announcement in which it condemned the decision by the US Department of Treasury to include Dr. Abdallah Muhammad al-Muhaysini on the list of terrorism sanctions instead of people like Qasem Soleimani, the commander of the Revolutionary Guards force outside Iran, and Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, who are killing women and children in Syria.[63]

Ahrar al-Sham

- Ahrar al-Sham published the following:

[60] https://justpaste.it/tasis
[61] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-2OjrT5ie0
[62] Telegram
[63] Telegram

- A declaration by the leader of the organization, Abu Yahia al-Hamawi, that the US is failing in its Euphrates Shield operation in northern Syria whose purpose is to foil the plans of the IS and the PYD in northern Syria along the Turkish border. Al-Hamawi added that the factions participating in this operation do not seek US intervention in Syria and because the US is aware of this, it is trying to create conflict in the region.[64]
- An announcement of condolences over the death of the commander of Jaish al-Tahrir, Mohammed al-Ghabi, in battles to capture the northern suburb of Aleppo.[65]
- An announcement of condolences over the death of Sheikh Qusay Kassam, Chairman of the Shari'a Authority in the area of Hama. The announcement added that Sheikh Kassasm died as a result of an explosion set by infidels.[66]
- An announcement regarding the appointment of a new leader to the organization. According to the announcement, after ending his role as the former leader, Abu Yahia al-Hamawi, the organization's Shura Council decided to appoint Ali al-Omar (aka Abu Ammar al-Omar) as leader of Ahrar al-Sham.[67]
- An announcement of condolences over the death of the Commander of the Aleppo region, Abu al-Hareth, along with a group of mujahideen in battles in Aleppo.[68] In addition, the organization published an announcement of condolences over the deaths of the Qadi, Abd al-Hadi al-Salloum, and the Administrative Director, Abu al-Hamam, who were assassinated in a suburb of Hama using an explosive device.[69]
- A joint announcement by the organization and other factions in southern Syria in which they announced the start of the "Hamra al-Janub Operation" in southern Syria in order to complete the previous campaign, open the road to western Al-Ghouta and make things easier for the besieged in Aleppo.[70]

Ansar al-Din Front

[64] http://eldorar.com/node/105430?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter
[65] https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cwe8gLMWIAAcHgE.jpg
[66] https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CwWtJohWQAE5LGh.jpg
[67] https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CycBR8aWQAA8hZK.jpg
[68] https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cx4pba9WgAAWybV.jpg
[69] https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CxaD5PJXgAA6zDo.jpg
[70] https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CyMRzX8WQAAN6ei.jpg

- The Ansar al-Din Front published an announcement of condolences over the death of the military emir of the city of Aleppo, Abu Shukri, during an operation to repel the advancement of Assad's army and its supporters. Later in the announcement, the organization promised the besieged residents of Aleppo that it will do everything it can to protect them.[71]

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:

    B. Battles and Military Deployments:

        - *Various provinces and Amaq news agency*: Filmed reviews and videos on various operational topics, including: reports regarding battles in the area of Aleppo against the PKK; the re-capture by IS fighters of several villages in the province that were under the control of Vetted Syrian Opposition (VSO) militias; *ribat* activities and attacks against the Syrian army in the area of Al-Ajar al-Aswad; battles in east Qalamoun; the destruction of a Russian helicopter in the area of Huwaysis near Homs; damage to Turkish tanks using guided missiles in the area of Al-Bab; a suicide attack by a terrorist of Malaysian origin against the PKK in the area of Ayn Issa; and clashes with the Syrian army in the area of Palmyra.[72]
        - The IS reported the capture of two Turkish soldiers west of Al-Bab in Aleppo Province. It seems that the two Turkish soldiers were executed in December 2016.[73]

    B. Propaganda and Media:

        - *Al-Khayr Province*: A video titled, "The Fortress That Does Not Surrender", which included encouragement for the organization's fighters who have been battling in Mosul, Iraq, for the past three weeks. The video showed fighters from Al-Khayr Province encouraging their comrades in Mosul to

[71] https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CyIDKNDXUAAjotk.jpg
[72] https://dawaalhaq.com
[73] https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/CychmG2XgAAtTYO1.jpg; https://goo.gl/761VKy

continue to fight in order to take revenge on "Husayn's killers" (a reference to the Caliph, Al-Ḥusayn ibn Ali ibn Abi Talib, who was killed in the Battle of Karbala in the early days of Islam). In addition, the video included a threat to move the battles in Iraq southward and turn Mosul into a "graveyard", alongside a call on Muslims who do not live in the territories of the Caliphate to carry out attacks against the infidels as a sign of support for the IS.[74]

- *Al-Raqqah Province*: A video titled, "Rise Against Them, You Who Believe in One God", which included a call on IS supporters in Europe – especially in France – to carry out attacks using a range of tools against the infidels, including suicide attacks, stabbings with knives, and detonating with explosives. The video showed a French-speaking fighter who explained how to attack a person with a knife, while demonstrating the process by stabbing a crucified man in several places in his body and slaughtering him (the man was accused of spying for coalition forces). The video also included an explanation regarding the production of explosive materials and devices from accessible materials that can be purchased at pharmacies and cosmetics stores. The use of an explosive was demonstrated on a captive accused of spying for the YPG (the device was planted in the captive's backpack and detonated by remote control). The video included subtitles in English and Arabic.[75]

[74] https://dawaalhaq.com/post/56572
[75] https://vimeo.com/194189975



Instructions of producing explosives from accessible materials for carrying out attacks in the West

- The Amaq news agency published an infographic poster regarding activities in the dawah department and in mosques in Raqqah Province. According to the poster, the construction of 20 mosques was started or completed at a cost of over $500,000.[76]

The Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham

- The Sawt al-Islam jihadist media institution, which belongs to the Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham, published a video clip titled, "Advice to the Mujahideen in Pakistan" by Mufti Abu Dhar Azzam, a prominent ideologue among Turkic speakers who until recently had renounced the IS.[77]

Israel

Masadat al-Mujahidin

- Al-Riyah jihadist media institution, which belongs to Masadat al-Mujahidin, a Palestinian Salafi-jihadist group, claimed responsibility for a series of arson fires in Haifa. According to the group, this is not the first time that a "war of arson" has been waged against Israel.[78]

The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula

The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula

[76] https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Cw8breqXEAQ98P4.jpg
[77] https://justpaste.it/108ad
[78] http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/268629

- The Ibn Taymiyya Media Center, which focuses on the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist movement and supports the IS, published the following:
    - An article titled, "What Do You Want from Us, Hamas?" by a writer named Abu Bakr Awwab. In the article, the writer accused the Hamas leadership of the systematic oppression of Salafi-jihadists operatives in the Gaza Strip and of cooperating with the enemies of Sunni Islam, including the Jews and Iran.[79]
    - An announcement condemning Hamas for arresting Salafi-jihadist operatives in the Gaza Strip, including Sheikh Anu al-Muhtasib al-Maqdisi. In the announcement, the Hamas leadership was accused of exacerbating the escalation as a result of the arrest.[80]
    - An article encouraging Salafi-jihadist operatives in Hamas prisons to be patient since efforts are being made for their release.[81]
    - A recoded message by a member of the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Gaza Strip, Abu Anas al-Filastini. In the framework of the speech, Abu Anas attacked Hamas, accused it of taking part in the democratic game, not implementing shari'a, and arresting members of the movement. In addition, the recording included a message to the residents of Gaza in which it noted that the group wants the best for the people and the application of shari'a for their sake, and that it is acting against Israel in order to protect them.[82]



The banner of Abu Anas al-Filastini's speech

- Al-Buraq jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with the Salafi-jihadist movement in Gaza, published a video titled, "Facts about the Hypocritical Hamas Movement". In the framework of

[79] https://justpaste.it/10b84
[80] https://justpaste.it/byan_mohtaseb
[81] https://dawaalhaq.com/
[82] https://dawaalhaq.com/

the video, Hamas was accused of arresting members of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Gaza, torturing them and harassing their families.[83]

Africa

The Maghreb

- The Ifriqiya al-Muslima jihadist media institution published an article by a writer called Abu Marwan al-Jazairi regarding the nuclear test known as "Gerboise Bleue", which France carried out in Reggane, Algeria, in 1960. In the framework of the article, the writer condemned the test, and claimed that France carried it out in cooperation with Israel and the Jews, perhaps to exact revenge on the descendants of Abd al-Karim bin Muhammad al-Mughayli, a sheikh who lived in the area in the 15th century and was known for his rulings and for his battle against the Jews of Algeria.[84]

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

- The jihadist media institution of AQIM, Al-Andalus, published a video titled, "Traitors – Part 2". In the video, several spies who were captured by the organization confessed to working in the service of France against members of the organization in the Sahara region. According to the video, two of them were executed and the third received a pardon after he asked to repent. It should be noted that the latter was a member of the Revolutionary Council of the Azawad Movement and worked as an interpreter for the French and the UN.[85]



[83] https://shamukh.net/vb (Arabic).
[84] https://shamukh.net/vb (Arabic).
[85] https://justpaste.it/1024b

The video banner

Libya

The Islamic State

- *IS provinces in Libya and the Amaq news agency*: Filmed reviews and videos on various operational topics from the area of the city of Sirte, including: a report of 18 killed and injured among Libyan unity government forces in battles in the area;[86] a bomb explosion targeting militias fighting against the IS; clashes with Libyan unity government forces; and the operation of a checkpoint south of the city.[87]
- A sheikh known as Abu Al-Mu'tasim Billah al-Barqawi published a recorded announcement titled, "Hurry to Benghazi". In the framework of his announcement, al-Barqawi appealed to Muslims who have so far avoided joining jihad in Benghazi, and warned them that Allah would punish them for abandoning their Muslim brethren. The recording ended with a prayer to God to cast his fury on "Crusader France, the rulers of the corrupt Emirates, the rulers of the criminal Egypt, Haftar and the rest of the oppressors".[88]

The Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries

- Al-Saraya jihadist media institution, the media wing of the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries, published a series of publications that included a call on Muslims to help in the battle for Benghazi against the forces of General Hafter. The organization accused members of Haftar's Air Force of killing several prisoners, and accused the Air Forces of France and the United Arab Emirates of killing the civilian population.

  The organization, along with the Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Derna, also published eulogies in memory of Sheikh Nader al-Amrani, a prominent cleric and arbiter in the Libyan arena who was kidnapped and killed. The announcement blamed the Madkhali Salafists, a Salafist group

[86] https://dawaalhaq.com
[87] https://dawaalhaq.com
[88] https://dawaalhaq.com

established by the Saudi Sheikh Rabia bin Hadi al-Madkhali that promotes compliance with the regime, for the killing.[89]

Tunisia

- The Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a report according to which "soldiers of the Caliphate" in Tunisia broke into the home of an apostate soldier in Kasserine Governate and shot him to death.[90]

Mali

Ansar al-Din

- Al-Ramah jihadist media institution, which belongs to Ansar al-Din – an ally of Al-Qaeda – published the following:
    - A denial of a report that was published on social networks, and the BBC and RFI media outlets, regarding the signing of a ceasefire agreement with the government in Mali. According to the organization, the report was false and unfounded. The organization emphasized that it adheres to jihad against the government and called on Muslims to join this war of jihad.[91]
    - An announcement by the Macina battalion, which is affiliated with the organization, regarding successful battles against Malian army forces in the city of Banamba in southern Mali. In addition, the organization claimed responsibility for the release of all prisoners in the city as a result of the battles.
    - A propaganda video explaining the armed activity against the Malian government and French forces in Mali. The video dealt mainly with the biography and last will and testament of Muhammad 'Abd al-Shinqiti, a member of the organization who carried out a suicide attack at a large French army base in the city of Kidal. According to the video, approximately 70 Frenchmen were killed in the suicide attack.[92]

[89] https://goo.gl/3zS4Ck; https://goo.gl/vwDurj
[90] https://shamukh.net/vb (Arabic).
[91] https://fotooh.net/
[92] https://justpaste.it/10emm

Egypt

- Al-Huda jihadist media institution published a video titled, "Repelling Humiliation from the Land of Al Kenana [Egypt]". The video contained praise for Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (which swore allegiance to al-Baghdadi and became an IS province in Sinai) for its steadfastness in the face and attacks and shellings by the Egyptian regime.[93]

Hassam Movement

- The Hassam movement claimed responsibility for several assassinations of Egyptian security officials in various areas in Egypt. For example, the organization claimed responsibility for the assassination of a judge named Ahmad Abu al-Fatuh at his place of residence in the city of Nesser, in the district of Cairo, using a car bomb.[94]

Somalia

Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

- Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen published the following:
    - The seventh video clip in a series titled, "They are the Enemy, So Beware of Them". The video showed a member of Al-Shabab who came from Tanzania and spied on the organization on behalf of foreign governments, such as the Rwandan intelligence and then the CIA, and took part in a conspiracy against his fellow mujahideen. At the end of the video, the captured spy advised others not to spy on Al-Shabab.[95]
    - Three videos titled, "From Memory", which recounted the personal stories of members of the organization who died as martyrs during operational activities such as, among other things, suicide attacks.[96]

The Islamic State

[93] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHABPPGkRok
[94] https://hasamegypt.com/
[95] https://justpaste.it/10m4z
[96] https://justpaste.it/10f9a; https://justpaste.it/10of4; https://justpaste.it/10wnu

- The IS in Somalia claimed responsibility for the assassination of the deputy commander of a police station in the city of Mogadishu, in Somalia.[97]

Indonesia

- Al-Furat jihadist media institution published a video in Arabic and Indonesian. The video showed a group of fighters, the leader of which made threats against the West and called on Indonesian fighters to join the ranks of the organization. The video combined images from the battles and the fighters' training in the field.[98]



A group of Indonesian fighters affiliated with the IS encouraging other Indonesian to join their ranks

The West

- Al-Furat jihadist media institution published a video in Arabic and French titled, "In Their Footsteps". In the framework of the video, the perpetrators of attacks that were carried out in the West were praised and glorified, beginning with Amedy Coulibaly (the perpetrator of the attack in the kosher market in Paris), and ending with the perpetrators of the attack in the church in Normandy. In addition, the video made mention of "lone wolves" – those who operate almost completely independently – who carried out attacks in Germany and the US. In addition, the video included a call on Muslims living in the West and in Russia to carry out attacks where they live, inspired by the above-mentioned terrorists.[99] Another video that was published by the IS in

[97] https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Cwq_ef5WgAABodO.jpg
[98] https://ia801905.us.archive.org/28/items/wah.re.fu/Kobarkan%20Semangat%20Para%20Mukminin%20Untuk%20Berperang%202.mp4
[99] https://ia601905.us.archive.org/24/items/kotahom.fu/kotahom.mp4; https://islamnewsweb.wordpress.com/2016/11/27/al-furat-media-sur-leurs-pas/

Raqqah Province in Syria referred to a member of the organization who is active in methods of intimidation and the killing of civilians in the West.[100]



The video banner

Miscellaneous

- In an article that was published in issue no. 29 of the magazine, *Al-Masra*, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, the writer warned jihad fighters, especially those in Syria, not to use the Snapchat application for fear of exposing user information.[101]

[100] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjxcxPen0ZM
[101] https://fotooh.net/

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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