



JWMSG Report November 2018

Highlights

Representatives from the **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** declare their willingness to negotiate directly with the United States to achieve peace and stability in Afghanistan in the framework of the peace talks that were held in Moscow. This is conditional on the lifting of sanctions on Taliban fighters, the release of prisoners, the end to propaganda against the Taliban, and the establishment of an agreed-upon location for negotiations and peace talks.

The **Taliban Pakistan** expresses condolences over the death of the Pakistani cleric, **Maulana Sami ul Haq**, who was killed by unidentified persons. In the announcement, the organization condemns ul Haq's death, and accuses the regime in Pakistan and Christians of being responsible for the murder. In addition, the organization calls on Pakistani civilians and clerics to choose the path of jihad and support the Taliban Pakistan to help in the war against the country and to establish an Islamic regime.

Ustad Usama Mehmood, the spokesman for **Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent**, calls on the religious political parties in Pakistan to renounce democracy and understand that shari'a cannot be applied through integration and acceptance of the democratic system. He emphasizes that fighters from Al-Qaeda and its affiliates, as well as the Taliban Afghanistan, are not the enemies of Muslims, but rather they seek the application of shari'a.

Muhammad Kufa, a senior leader in **Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen**, a Salafi-jihadist umbrella organization in Mali that operates in cooperation with **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb**, calls on Muslims in the region, and especially on the Fulani people, to unite and enlist in the ranks of the mujahideen to fight against the local regimes that, according to him, are cooperating with France's oppression.

The **Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula** publishes a video containing testimonies by several former fighters who defected from the ranks of the Egyptian security forces and joined the ranks of the Islamic State in Sinai. Among other things, the fighters call on members of the Egyptian army to desert their military service, join the battle in the service of the Islamic State, and fight in the name of Allah and not in the name of al-Sisi, the President of Egypt.

Islamic State supporters call for terrorist attacks against the Christian population in Egypt because of their hostile attitude towards the Muslim population, among other reasons. According to them, Christians can no longer be considered "protected persons" and, therefore, the killing of Christian women, children and the elderly is permitted in the general war against the Christians.

Several jihadist organizations in Syria - **Ansar al-Din, Ansar al-Islam and Huras al-Din (Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria)** – announce the establishment of a joint operations room against the enemy. According to them, jihad factions in Syria are obliged to ignite all fronts and prevent any attempt by the enemy to reach a compromise or to sign arrangements intended to achieve a truce.

Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, a Salafi-jihadist organization in Kashmir affiliated with **Al-Qaeda**, publishes "Security Guidelines for the Mujahideen in Kashmir" to protect them from Indian security forces, in which it emphasizes the importance of maintaining secrecy, minimal use of mobile phones, and more.

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Publications

Ideology

Publications by Al-Qaeda

- The Khayr al-Umma jihadist media group, which is involved in media for Al-Qaeda, published the following:¹
 - A pamphlet titled, “To Live Together with the Quran” by Murad 'Abd al-Malik, a Salafi-jihadist fighter in Idlib, in northern Syria. In the pamphlet, the author described the ideal life filled with goodness and grace in the shadow of the Quran, while interweaving verses from the Quran about the importance of faith in God. Sheikh Abu Mohammad al-Maqdisi, a prominent Salafi-jihadist cleric identified with Al-Qaeda, praised the pamphlet in the preface that he wrote for it.
- Al-Hedaya jihadist media institution, which is involved in media for Al-Qaeda and especially for its branch in the Arabian Peninsula, published a statement by Abu Nur al-San’ani condemning the Islamic State (IS), led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. In the statement, al-San’ani accused the IS of causing a civil war between Muslims, harming the efforts of jihad fighters, including Al-Qaeda, to focus on the battle against the enemy, and spreading deviant thinking that contradicts the principles of Islam. For example, he noted that the jihad of IS fighters is intended to serve al-Baghdadi’s false caliphate and not to apply the word of God. In addition, he emphasized that Al-Qaeda is a player that follows shari'a, follows the rules of Islam, and has been waging war against the Crusader West, led by the United States, for over 17 years.²
- The Kawthat jihadist media institution, which is involved in media for Al-Qaeda, published the following:
 - An article titled, “Idlib and Granada” in which the author warned the rebels in Idlib not to be tempted to sign a ceasefire agreement with the Syrian regime, such as the Sochi agreement, claiming that it would lead to the fall of Idlib and the expulsion of Sunnis from the city by the enemy. He warned of a similar incident that took place in Granada in 1492, with its conquest by the enemy and the expulsion of Muslims from the city.³
 - An article titled, "Before Rebirth – Part 1”, which focused on the pain experienced by the Islamic Nation, which is similar to the pain at the end of a pregnancy prior to birth. According to the article, several conditions must be met in order to safely reach the birth

¹ Telegram

² Telegram

³ Telegram

stage of the Islamic Nation: the development of a political understanding and vision among the masses by clerics and intellectuals who will encourage the public to end oppression and fight for their rights; an intensive public interaction that will motivate society to bring about change; financial support for the change process that will require treatment of victims and their families; the acquisition of ammunition and propaganda; military support - jihad through battle and the organization of the armed forces so as not to create anarchy after the battle. The author re-emphasized that ongoing change before, during and after the public uprising should be dictated by shari'a.⁴

- An article titled, "East Turkestan: The Holocaust of the 21st Century", which stated that Uighur Muslims are experiencing ethnic cleansing and genocide by the Chinese authorities in the Turkistan region. According to the article, the Chinese admit that Uighur Muslims are sent to schools to assimilate and receive vocational training, and within the framework of these "re-education" centers they are cured of "ideological diseases" and Islam. The authors compared these centers to the Nazi camps in Germany, and claimed that the difference is that the Chinese have a preference for crematoria instead of gas chambers and that the victims are Muslims and not Jews, hence the silence on the issue. The article presented reports by human rights organizations according to which one in ten residents of East Turkestan is absent, especially males, leading to the fact that there is no one to work the land or feed the families. The article also stated that the Chinese government has 75 signs that a Muslim is "suspect" according to which one is sent to "re-education centers", such as holding a Quran or a prayer mat, refusing to smoke, drink or dance, using WhatsApp, etc.

The remainder of the article reviewed China's "re-education" program for Muslims that includes: denouncing the Islamic faith and declaring allegiance to the Communist/socialist idea, brainwashing about China (learning Mandarin and praising the Chinese regime), eliminating ethnic identity and strengthening national identity, forcefully violating of the laws of Islam, prohibiting contact with family members, and separating detainees with relatives abroad from those who do not have such relatives, preferring the latter for the extermination program, the trade of organs, the cremation of bodies, etc. According to the article, the Chinese authorities have a program of monitoring and supervising the lives of Turkestan's Muslim residents, which includes

⁴ <https://kawthar.co/before-rebirth-1/>

biometric data collection, GPS installation in cars, installation of spyware on mobile phones, prohibition on the use of software that allows the transmission of encrypted information, etc. Additional measures taken against Muslims in Turkestan include the closure of the restaurants selling halal food to Muslims, the prohibition against fasting during Ramadan, the prohibition against giving Muslim names to children, etc. The article claimed that despite these atrocities, the Muslim world still maintains trade and military ties with China, and does not demand that China stop the atrocities against the Uighur Muslims in its territory.⁵

[Publications by the Islamic State](#)

- The IS-supporting news agency, Al-Rased al-Filastini (the Palestinian Monitor), published a 20-minute video titled, "Permitting the Killing of the Prophet's enemies," which included propaganda against the Christian population in Egypt and a call for attacks against them. The video included photographs from IS publications that documented attacks against Christians in Egypt (for example, the attacks against churches in Alexandria and Tanta) and criticized clerics in Egypt, as well as the Muslim Brotherhood, for condemning the attacks against Christians in Egypt and criticizing the mujahideen. A central part of the video referred to three points concerning Christians in Egypt. In response to the claim that the blood of the Christians in Egypt is holy, the video clarified that they are not protected persons or Christians who are in a non-combat agreement with the Muslims, and therefore they may be killed. Regarding the killing of women, the elderly and children, it explained that it is permitted as long as it is unintentional and in the context of the general war against Christians. Regarding the targeting of the entire Christian community in Egypt, the video explained that the entire community should be punished collectively if it does not renounce those within it who act against Muslims.

The video also featured archival footage of Christian clerics speaking out against the Prophet Muhammad, presented testimony by Egyptian Muslims who were allegedly attacked by Christians, and reviewed newspaper articles on the possession of weapons by Christians in Egypt. At the end of the video, a slide dedicated to "The Sisters in Egyptian Prison" - Wafaa Constantine, Camilla Shehata and Mary Abdullah - was shown along with a promise that "the soldiers of the caliphate have not forgotten them".⁶

⁵ <https://kawthar.co/east-turkistan-a-21st-century-holocaust/>

⁶ <https://archive.org/details/AlrasedAlfelasity>



A propaganda video permitting the killing of Christians in Egypt

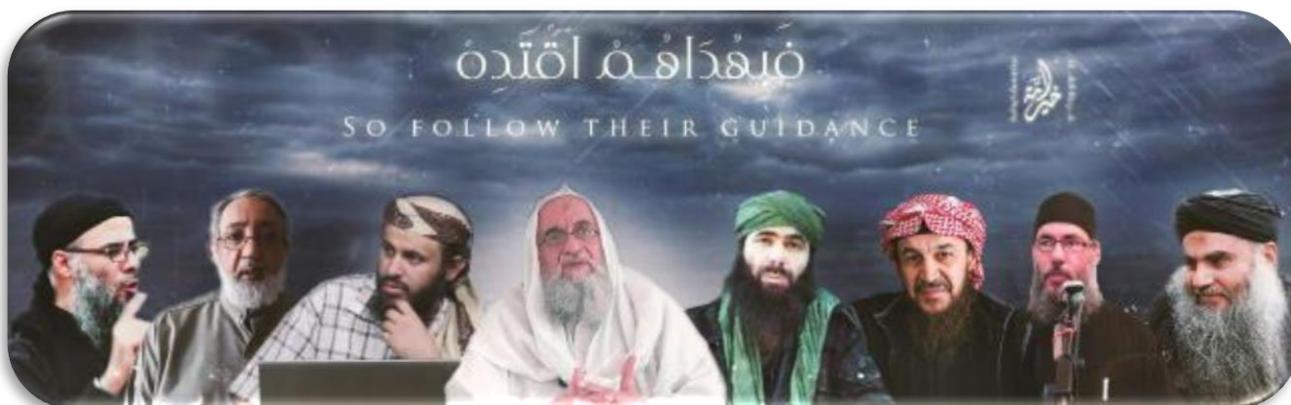
- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, which is affiliated with the IS, referred to the recommendations by the RAND corporation to support al-Madhili school since it represents “the enemies of the jihadists” (a Salafist stream that does not call for the overthrow of secular governments in contrast to the Salafi-jihadist stream). Visitors were angry at the attempt to bring to the forefront Islamists who support democracy, claiming that it is impossible to be a Muslim and to support democracy.⁷
- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum referred to a publication according to which the Taliban claimed responsibility for an attack by an IS soldier against a commando base of NATO forces in Afghanistan. The visitors condemned the Taliban for this act and claimed that it is secretly cooperating with “the Crusaders and infidels”.⁸

⁷ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

Opinion Leaders in the Jihadist Discourse

This section deals with the statements of opinion of several clerics, military commanders and publicists affiliated with Salafi-jihadist terrorist organizations seeking to shape the jihadist discourse and influence thoughts and actions in the field. The statements and their publication received a large number of views among global jihad activists, hence their importance.



The photo shows prominent ideologues affiliated with Al-Qaeda, below the words: “Follow Their Guidance”. The poster was published on social networks by the Khayr al-Umma media group, which is involved in media for Al-Qaeda

- Sheikh **Abu Muhammad al-Maqqisi**, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric affiliated with Al-Qaeda and residing in Jordan, published the following:⁹
 - An appeal to Muslims to renounce secular Muslim regimes, reject outright any appeasement plans by the enemy, adhere to jihad against the Alawites, the Russians, and the Iranians, and preserve the principle of the Oneness of God. According to al-Maqqisi, the existence of these parameters is the way out of the civil war and the clashes between the Sunnis in Syria.
 -
- Sheikh **Abu Qatada al-Filastini** published the following on Telegram:¹⁰
 - A collection of his thoughts about his period of imprisonment in a UK prison. Al-Filastini advised Muslims in prison not to despair and to view their period of incarceration as an empowering and strengthening experience.
 - An audio clip from a book by the Sheikh titled, “Jihad and Ijtihad” in



⁹ Telegram

¹⁰ Telegram

which he declared that "we must rejoice over any jihadist action in which the infidels are killed and tortured. We must openly publicize this joy, and our voice will stand out in its diversity from all of the Satanic voices."

- Sheikh **Abdul Razzaq-Mahdi**, a Salafi-jihadist cleric affiliated with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, published the following:¹¹

- An accusation against the Syrian regime of committing crimes against the Sunni population in Syria. According to al-Mahdi, Bashar's regime, Hezbollah and Iran have arrested, tortured, raped, murdered and then burned the bodies of thousands of Sunnis so as not to leave evidence of their crimes. According to him, there is considerable evidence of this process of annihilation of the Sunnis, as testified by the wife of one of the members of the Alawite militias. In addition, al-Mahdi called on the leaders of the rebel factions in Syria to invest efforts to free the prisoners from the prisons of the Syrian regime.
- The launch of an online campaign titled, "This Is God" in which it appealed to preachers, educators, journalists and social activists in Idlib, in northern Syria, to take part in a campaign to strengthen faith in Allah. In the framework of the online campaign, videos and banners were uploaded to social networks, and in the public sphere banners were hung and sermons were delivered in praise of God. In the framework of the campaign, questions about Islam were posed to visitors. Those who answered the questions correctly were promised the following prizes: a car (first place), a motorcycle (second place), a gold ring (for eight winners) and \$25 (for 40 winners).



The campaign itself was initiated by senior Salafi-jihadist clerics in Idlib, including: Sheikh Abdul Razzaq-Mahdi, Sirajuddin Zureiqqa (leader of the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, a Salafi-jihadist organization in Syria and Lebanon with ties to Al-Qaeda), Muhammad al-Maz, Mash al-'Ilyani and Abdullah al-Muhaysini. In another correspondence on the subject, al-Mahdi noted that the campaign received responses from Turkish Muslims who were also participating in the campaign in Turkey.

¹¹ Telegram



From left to right: a poster with a list of prizes for visitors who answer the quiz correctly; the banner of the online campaign, “This Is God”

- Correspondence on the subject of the Islamic education given to children in the area of western Aleppo. Al-Mahdi noted that over 6,000 students of various ages are studying Islam in this area.
- A call on the rebel factions in Syria not to be tempted by the appeasement initiatives offered by the Syrian regime. According to al-Mahdi, the leaders of the armed factions who agreed to reach a reconciliation with the Syrian regime were eventually thrown into prison by the Syrian regime. For example, he noted that one of the leaders of the armed factions in the suburbs of Damascus agreed to hand over his weapons and allow the regime's soldiers to enter the rebel neighborhoods. However, he was tricked and the move cost him dearly because he was thrown into prison.
- Sheikh **Abu al-Fatah al-Farghali**, a member of the Shari’a Council of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham in Syria, published the following:¹²

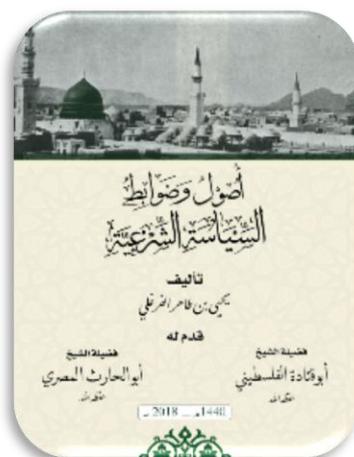
- A series of statements on various topics published on a weekly basis under the hashtag #خواطر. In one statement, al-Farghali referred to the fact that ideology always succeeds in defeating the enemy, even if the latter possesses many supplies and weapons, and he presented several examples of this. He reiterated that the ideology of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham has proven itself time and again in the battle against the enemy, who possesses a larger number of more sophisticated weapons.
- A call for unity among the factions, not only in order to wage jihad against the enemy but also to apply shari’a afterwards. He stressed that jihad is not carried out in order to



¹² Telegram

replace the enemy with another enemy or a democratic government, but rather only with a shari'a regime.

- Reference to rumors of a division within Hayat Tahrir al-Sham between the Egyptian stream and the leadership of the organization. In the announcement, al-Farghali claimed that there are no streams of different countries within Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, and that the organization is the largest cohesive jihadist organization operating in Syria. He also claimed that the organization's position on the Sochi Conference did not lead to differences of opinion within the organization and that there was sweeping agreement on the subject. He added that the people arrested by the organization did not originally belong to it.
- A book titled, "The Roots and Rules of Religious Legal Policy" (235 pp.) by al-Farghali with a foreword by two Salafi-jihadist clerics, Abu Qatada al-Filistini and Harith al-Masri. In the book, al-Farghali addressed the ways in which a region's domestic and foreign policy must be conducted in accordance with Islamic law.



The cover of the book, "The Roots and Rules of Religious Legal Policy" by Sheikh Abu al-Fatah al-Farghali

- Reference to the battle of the mujahideen in Aleppo. According to al-Farghali, IS fighters are exploiting the mujahideen's fight against the Alawite regime in order to attack them, creating an additional front for the mujahideen.
- Permission to use infidels and those who have deviated from the path of righteousness in the war to repel the enemy, provided all of the commanders are Muslims so that there will be no deviation from the goal of jihad, which is to apply shari'a.
- Reference to the fact that there is an electronic war taking place and the Telegram

accounts of those who support jihad are being closed in order to harm and silence the voice of jihad. He added that the closing of Telegram channels is not directed at a particular faction, but at sheikhs who are not affiliated with any faction as well.

- **Abu Basir al-Tartusi**, a jihad fighter in Syria, published the following:¹³

- Condolences over the death of Sheikh Khalid Kindu, a member of the Syrian Islamic Council who died of an illness.
- Reference to the suffering of children in Syria from attacks by international forces in Syria.



- **Tarik Abd al-Haleem**, who is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published the following:¹⁴

- Criticism over the fact that the world is ignoring the massacre perpetrated by Abdel Fattah al-Sisi against the inhabitants of Egypt.
- Criticism over Turkey's delay in publishing its evidence regarding the murder of journalist, Jamal Khashoggi. According to al-Haleem, Erdogan is interested in preserving the Saudi regime and refrained from accusing bin Salman due to various political considerations, including Turkey's relations with Saudi Arabia and the United States.
- A statement against the Sochi agreement in which he claimed that it cannot lead to a solution to the situation in Syria.



- Sheikh **Abu al-Yaqdhan al-Masri**, a member of the Shari'a Council and the General Supervisor of Fighters and Suicide Operatives in Hayat Tahrir al-Sham in Syria, published the following:¹⁵

- Filmed sermons and speeches, including a call on Muslims to fulfil the commandment of jihad against the Assad regime and its allies. In another video, he praised the martyr's death.¹⁶



- Sheikh **Abu Hafs al-Maqdisi**, a Salafi-jihadist thinker affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Gaza Strip,

¹³ Telegram

¹⁴ Facebook

¹⁵ Telegram

¹⁶ Telegram

published the following:¹⁷



- A description of Israel as incapable of committing itself to the agreements it signed, such as the ceasefire arrangement with Hamas. According to him, this trait characterizes the Jews and the Quran made reference to this.
- Criticism of a demonstration in support of Iran that was held by several Palestinians in Gaza. According to al-Maqqisi, the demonstration did not represent all Palestinians and was carried out per the initiative of Hisham Salam, the leader of the Al-Sabrin organization in Gaza, which operates under Iranian inspiration. According to al-Maqqisi, Iran is responsible for terrorism and the killing of many Sunnis with the help of Russia, and, therefore, the residents of Gaza stand solely alongside the nations slaughtered by Iran.
- A call on Muslim nations to learn from the experience of the Palestinians who cut ties with the Palestinian leadership (i.e., the Palestinian Authority) imposed on it by the West, and disowned leaders directly or indirectly controlled by the West so that the revolutions would succeed.
- An expression of support of Hamas as long as the war against Israel continues despite disagreements over Hamas' methods of operation.
- Advice to the Hamas leadership to sever its relationship with Dahlan and his associates, claiming that it could harm Hamas. In addition, al-Maqqisi stressed that Dahlan, a member of the Palestinian opposition who opposes PA head, Abu Mazen, was part of the assassination attempt on Salah Shehade, a senior Hamas figure who was assassinated by Israel in 2002.
- Condemnation of the Saudi regime for its sympathetic policy towards Israel and its accusation of treason against the Arabs. According to al-Maqqisi, this trend was widespread during the establishment of Saudi Arabia by Abdulaziz, who expressed willingness to hand over Palestine to Jewish hands. In addition, he noted that in condemning the Palestinian resistance, the Saudi regime is demonstrating its loyalty to the Jews out of a desire that the latter and the US will rescue the Saudi regime from the diplomatic crisis that it has been subjected to following the murder of the journalist, Jamal Khashoggi.

¹⁷ https://twitter.com/kahled_nas; Telegram



A photo posted by al-Maqdisi to his Twitter account

Strategy

- The Kawthar jihadist media institution, which is involved in media for Al-Qaeda, published the following:

- An article reviewing one of the special operations by the Taliban Afghanistan in Kandahar Province. In the review, it stated that every hour there is an attack by the Taliban against American occupiers or their local agents across Afghanistan, and that the attacks employ a wide range of military tactics - fixed and dynamic fronts, guerrilla warfare and secret operations that require intensive planning.

The article focused on an analysis of a complex undercover operation that was carried out in Kandahar Province in the beginning of November 2018 and led to the killing of members of the US and Afghan governments' military leadership. According to the article, this attack was carried out by one of the governor's bodyguards in Kandahar at the end of a meeting between Afghan and American generals inside the governor's compound. According to the media, this internal attack achieved the following goals for the Taliban Afghanistan: the assassination of Abdul Raziq, a Pashtun commander who served as a chief agent of the US in South Pakistan; the wounding of General Jeffery, head of NATO's Operations Division in southern Afghanistan; the wounding of the head of NATO in Afghanistan, General Scott Miller; and the wounding of US soldiers and intelligence personnel. In addition, in the framework of the attacks, the governor of Kandahar Province, the head of intelligence in southern Afghanistan and additional

military and intelligence personnel in the Afghan government were killed.

The author of the article emphasized that the timing of the attack, which took place between two important political events - a few days after the first meeting between the Taliban and the Americans, and a few days before the parliamentary elections - sent a message to the Americans that they must meet the Taliban's demands and withdraw their troops from Afghanistan as soon as possible. As a result, elections were canceled in some areas of Afghanistan due to security concerns and there was low voter turnout in the rest of the areas. The article added that, following the incident, the US military leadership issued an order that US soldiers should maintain contact with Afghan forces only by means of wireless or written communication, and should avoid direct contact with them.

The author concluded that the operation exposed the extent of the Taliban's penetration into the ranks of the occupation and its agents in Afghanistan. In addition, he recommended that the mujahideen in Syria send some of their officers to Afghanistan to gain practical experience in dealing with the occupation.¹⁸

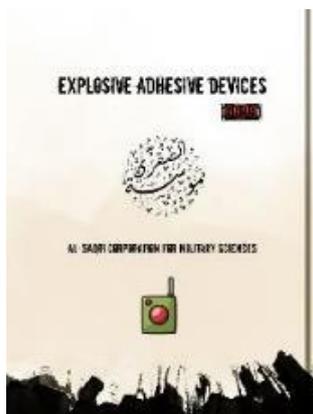
- An article reviewing the enemy's strategies in the struggle against armed Islamic movements (the "resistance forces") in order to weaken their power and popular support base. According to the article, there are two types of strategies:
 1. Military strategies, including: concentrate military activity on the fronts where resistance forces are weak; use the element of surprise and massive firepower – in the air or on land – in order to win the battle in a short period of time and lower morale on the other side; focus on attacking ideological symbols and the military leadership in the early stages of the battle; focus on one front at a time in order to concentrate forces and force civilians and fighters to withdraw to other areas, which weakens those areas by forcing them to cope with a wave of refugees; finance and train a local force that will take control of the areas vacated by the jihadist movement; and plan the decisive battle.
 2. A soft-power strategy: the collection of large amounts of information by open and secret research organizations; the documentation of all residents living in the occupied areas and the operation of dormant agents as needed; the creation of intelligence networks to gather information and implement plans in the field; the

¹⁸ <https://kawthar.co/قراءة-تحليلية-في-عملية-طالبان-الأمنية/> (Arabic).

support of allied regimes or regimes that are subordinate to the enemy for armed movements that exploit their economic and logistical weakness, thus allowing the enemy to receive a full assessment of the structure of the resistance movements; coordination with enemy states in the struggle against opposition movements and recognition of their common interest; classification of opposition movements as extremist or moderate; sowing seeds of division among the ranks of the opposition movements; the creation of basic facilities in the areas under occupation; the creation of media outlets to disseminate enemy propaganda; and the institution a ceasefire policy in areas where fighting is difficult.¹⁹

Guidebooks

- The Al-Saqri Corporation of Military Sciences media group, which is involved in media for the IS, published a guidebook on how to build explosive adhesive devices.²⁰



The banner page of the guidebook on building explosives

Magazines

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published issue no. 153 of *Al-Somood* magazine for November 2018. Among the topics covered in the magazine’s articles were: a review of the Taliban’s security activities in Kandahar Province; the failure of the US strategy in Afghanistan; reference to the

¹⁹ <https://kawthar.co/strategies-to-counter-armed-islamic-movements/>

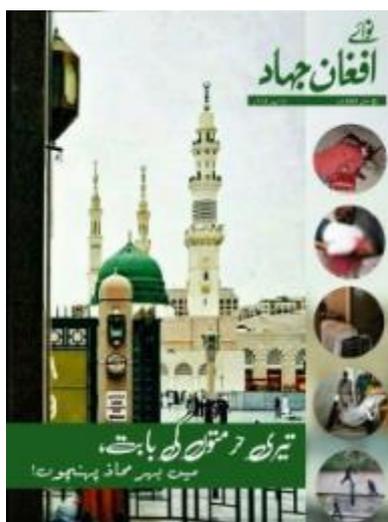
²⁰ Telegram

nuclear crisis created by the US that threatens Afghanistan and its neighbors.²¹ In addition, the Islamic Emirate published issue no. 81 of *Shari'at* magazine in Urdu.²²



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

- Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent published the November 2018 issue of its magazine, *Nawai Afghan Jihad*.²³



The banner page of the November issue of *Nawai Afghan Jihad*

- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published issue no. 58 of its periodical, *Al-Masra*. Most of the issue was dedicated to the murder of Saudi journalist, Jamal Khashoggi, in Turkey, and harsh criticism of the Saudi regime in the context of the murder as well as in other contexts, such as its failure to deal with the threat of the Houthi militias in Yemen. In addition to this issue, an article by Al-Qaeda spokesman, Sheikh Hussam Abdul Rauf, was published. According to Rauf,

²¹ <https://files.fm/u/t7hmer8b>

²² <http://alemarahurdu.com/?p=41417>

²³ Telegram

the main reason why humanity clings to idle things and remains distant from the path of truth and belief in God has to do with its imitation of its forefathers' traditions. For this reason, humanity remains ignorant of the truth. He also accused Judaism of being engaged in an ongoing effort to destroy humanity in order to control it.²⁴ It should be noted that the periodical renewed its publication after a year-long absence.



The banner page of *Al-Masra*

- Huras al-Din, Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, published the second issue of the magazine, *Al-Falah*. Among the topics of the articles published in the issue were: articles about the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad; Turkey's faltering economy; the characteristics of the fifth generation of Al-Qaeda; quotations by Abdullah Azzam and Sayyid Qutb, the fathers of modern-day jihad; and the murder of Saudi journalist, Jamal Khashoggi.²⁵



²⁴ Telegram

²⁵ Telegram

The banner page of the second issue of the magazine, magazine, *Al-Falah*

- Issue no. 11 of the magazine, *Baytuki* (“Your Home”), a women’s magazine affiliated with Al-Qaeda, was published. Among the topics covered in the magazine’s articles were: issues related to proper housekeeping, how to lead a healthy lifestyle after divorce, how to maintain unity among family members, and more.²⁶



The banner page of the magazine, *Baytuki*

- Issues no. 154-158 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published by the IS. The periodical reviews IS fighters’ arenas of battle and includes articles praising the organization and the importance of battle against the enemies of Islam. The issues included an article about the attack in Minya against the Christian population in Egypt, an article against Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in Somalia for “its betrayal of the Islamic State”, a poster about sniper rifles and an infographic poster about the attack in Tazirbu, in Libya, against Khalifa Haftar’s forces.²⁷

²⁶ Telegram

²⁷ Telegram



The banner page of *Al-Naba* – issue no. 158

- The second issue of the periodical, *Shabab al-Khalifa* (Youth of the Caliphate), which is affiliated with IS supporters, was published. In the beginning of the issue, it stated that “*Shabab al-Khalifa* [serves as] a platform for all supporters and an unofficial magazine that publishes correspondence by supporters under the supervision of the Ashad, Al-Dar’ al-Sunni, Al-Saqri and Al-‘Abd al-Faqir media institutions”. The issue included advice on the safe use of mobile phones due to fear of spying by intelligence services; reference to select publications by IS supporters, such as videos threatening to carry out terrorist attacks on Western soil; a call on IS supporters to enlist in media activities for the benefit of the organization, including the design, production and dissemination of materials on the Internet; reference to Ahwaz Province in southern Iran, where the Sunni majority is being oppressed by Iran.²⁸



The banner page of *Shabab Al-Khalifa*

²⁸ Telegram

- Hayat Tahrir al-Sham published issues no. 21-24 of the periodical, *Ibaa*. The issues included reports, posters and interviews with fighters from the organization regarding the battle in Syria as well as recent events in other arenas of jihad.²⁹



The banner page of issue no. 24 of *Ibaa*

- Salafi-jihadist fighters in Syria published issues no. 6-7 of the magazine, *Fustat*. Among the topics covered in the magazine’s articles were: characteristics of the current and future jihadist generations; ways of preserving the Muslim identity; a translated article by Noam Chomsky, an American linguist, on the subject of 10 strategies of mass manipulation; the citizen’s enslavement to the bureaucratic system and to pressure in daily life; using the wisdom of the masses to expand the *dawah* system; a guidebook on planting roadside bombs; the weakening of the Idlib agreement; a Muslim historical review of Andalus (Spain); the singer, Cat Stevens’, conversion to Islam; opinions of well-known Westerners in praise of Islam; criticism of the Saudi regime for establishing an alliance with Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Israel and the United States, designed to defeat the Salafist stream in the Gulf; ways of conducting guerrilla warfare; and US involvement in building Syria's economy.³⁰

²⁹ Telegram

³⁰ Telegram



The banner page of issue no. 7 of *Fustat*

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (the Taliban) published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the transfer of the bodies from the helicopter crash in the area of Farah. In the announcement, the organization claimed that it is prepared to return the bodies of 28 soldiers who were in helicopter in exchange for the return of the body of the martyr, Zabihullah Abu Dujana, who was killed in an attack by the organization in Kandahar. The organization added that it had conveyed its willingness to exchange the bodies with the Red Cross, but had not yet received an answer from the other side.³¹
 - Condolences over the murder of Pakistani cleric, Maulana Sami ‘ul Haq, by unknown assailants. In the announcement, the organization detailed ‘ul-Haq’s work and thanked him for his contribution to Islam on the political and academic levels, and for his support of the Taliban in Afghanistan.³² ‘Ul-Haq was one of the founders of the Taliban and was responsible for the indoctrination of many of its leaders.
 - Condolences over the death of Sayyed Abdullah Agha from an illness. The announcement detailed Agha’s contribution to jihad in Afghanistan.³³
 - A statement by the spokesman of the Islamic Emirate regarding the participation of a Taliban delegation at conference in Moscow to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. The announcement emphasized that the conference will not deal with negotiations between the parties but will hold a comprehensive discussion on finding a peaceful solution to the Afghan issue and an end to the American occupation in Afghanistan. The spokesman of the organization added that the conference will allow each side to express its views and policies regarding Afghanistan.³⁴ In another announcement, the organization listed the representatives who participated on its behalf in the conference in Moscow, and claimed that participation in the conference would only strengthen the international standing of the Taliban Afghanistan and testify to the diplomatic efforts on the political level as well as the Taliban’s active and independent policy. The organization reiterated that there

³¹ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=37057> (English).

³² <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=37045> (English).

³³ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=37094> (English).

³⁴ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=37210> (English).

were no negotiations within the framework of the conference.³⁵

- An announcement regarding an attack by the organization's fighters in Jaghori. In the announcement, the organization claimed the attacks in the area were directed against Kabul government targets and American mercenaries, and not against a certain ethnic group or race. The organization added that it will continue to carry out attacks in all areas of the country that are under the Kabul government's control, and it called on the local members of the Hazara and Ahl-e-Tashayyu tribes not to believe the Kabul government's reports claiming that these attacks are directed against them. The organization also called on local residents to remain in their homes when the mujahideen arrive in their area so that they will not be harmed, and said that the mujahideen will inform them when they can return to normal life. The organization added that if local residents should aim their weapons at the mujahideen, the mujahideen will take action against them.³⁶
- The transcript of a speech that was given by the Taliban's delegation at the conference for peace talks in Moscow. First, the speech emphasized that the reason for the ongoing suffering in Afghanistan and the terrible state of the country is the US invasion of Afghanistan, which abrogated the country's national and Islamic values and led to corruption on every level. Later in the speech, the delegation set out preconditions for peace in Afghanistan, including: removal of the sanctions on the organization's fighters, release of prisoners, official announcement of a place to hold negotiations and peace talks, and an end to the propaganda against Taliban Afghanistan.

The delegation elaborated on the obstacles to achieving peace, including: the American occupation in Afghanistan, the absence of an independent Islamic system, the lack of guarantees from other states to implement the peace agreements, the current constitution of the Kabul government, which was imposed on Muslim society in light of the occupation and does not satisfy the desires of the Afghan people, and the ongoing combat policy of the US. The delegation emphasized that the Taliban is willing to hold direct negotiations with the US to end the occupation and to discuss the relevant issues. Later in the speech, the delegation addresses several issues, including: the three-day ceasefire over Eid al-Fatr (the holiday marking the end of the Ramadan fast) proved that the jihad struggle in Afghanistan operates under one command and the struggle is not an internal Afghan one, but rather a military resistance against the invasion; opposition

³⁵ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=37276> (English).

³⁶ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=37269> (English).

to interference in the internal affairs of other countries; the legitimacy of the Afghan people to control their country and to choose an Islamic system of government; the fight against drug trafficking and coordination with neighboring countries on the issue to reduce trafficking; providing security to international organizations that provide humanitarian assistance to residents of the Taliban Afghanistan's territories; protection of women's rights according to Islam; the importance of providing medical treatment to the wounded on both sides; cooperation and security for international organizations providing medical care to residents of Taliban areas.³⁷



Taliban representatives at the conference for peace talks in Moscow

- An announcement about the establishment of ethnic militias by the Kabul government. In the announcement it stated that the head of the Afghan government had tried to convince the local residents of various provinces that the Taliban is waging war against certain sects or races and is threatening their lives and property, and that, in light of this, it approved the establishment of a local militia consisting of 500 people in Bamyan. The organization claimed that this action by the Kabul government demonstrates its recent efforts to take control of these areas and that it is misleading the Afghan people in an attempt to save the crumbling government. The organization reiterated that its attacks are being carried out only against the Kabul government's fighters and not against local residents in Afghanistan's various provinces.³⁸
- An announcement by the Taliban's prisoner affairs committee regarding the death of a prisoner in the Saripul prison due to illness. The announcement claimed that the lack of medical facilities in Kabul government prisons and the prevention of treatment for patients is the reason why prisoners die from serious prison conditions. Later in the announcement, the organization attacked the Kabul government, which continues to treat prisoners inhumanely, as well as human rights organizations that do not get

³⁷ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=37316> (English).

³⁸ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=37483> (English).

involved and the media that does not cover the abuse of prisoners. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on human rights organizations to put pressure on the Kabul government to put an end to the abuse of prisoners, honor their rights, and provide appropriate medical treatment.³⁹

- An announcement regarding a meeting between representatives of the Islamic Emirate and the US delegation in Doha, the capital of Qatar. According to the announcement, the goal of the meeting was to find a peaceful solution to the Afghan issue but in reality, they were only initial talks and no agreement was reached. The announcement added that the organization’s representatives discussed the current situation in Afghanistan and insisted on the establishment of an Islamic government. The announcement emphasized that one should not believe the propaganda published in the media about the meeting, and that the organization will preserve the interests of the mujahideen and the Afghan people in any future agreement.⁴⁰
- An announcement regarding the false information being spread by the enemy about the attack in Kabul. According to the announcement, the Taliban condemns the attack at the Uranoos Hotel in Kabul, in which more than 200 civilians were killed. In addition, the organization rejected enemy propaganda according to which the Taliban had claimed responsibility for the attack.⁴¹
- A denial of contact between the Taliban and the Kabul government’s High Peace Council. In the announcement, the organization claimed that the reports circulating about contact between the sides is propaganda aimed at legitimizing the Council’s existence.⁴²
- A video dedicated to a military attack by the Taliban Afghanistan against a military compound belonging to the Kabul government in October 2017 in Paktia Province, in which one police officer and dozens of soldiers were killed, and many more were injured. The video contained clips of Jalaluddin Haqqani, his speeches, reference to his activities by jihadists and clerics, and condolences over his death. In addition, the video included several announcements regarding the implementation of the idea of martyrdom and encouraging the mujahideen to carry out martyrdom attacks.⁴³

³⁹ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=37567> (English).

⁴⁰ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=37656> (English).

⁴¹ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=37748> (English).

⁴² <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=37917> (English).

⁴³ <https://alemarah-english.com/?p=37950> (English);

<https://ia801507.us.archive.org/23/items/BadriArmy07EnglishMedumQuality/Badri%20Army%2007%20English%20Medum%20Quality.m4v>



The video banner

- An announcement regarding statements made by the President of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, at a conference held in Geneva concerning Afghanistan. The organization noted that Ashraf Ghani called for the establishment of a negotiation team to hold talks with the Taliban Afghanistan, and made offers to start negotiations that are beyond his capabilities. The organization added that it is only willing to hold negotiations with the American invaders, as that will lead to victory for jihad, and that it will not waste its time on discussions with the Kabul government, which cannot make a decision on its own since it is subject to the decision of the US.⁴⁴

The Taliban Pakistan

- The Taliban Pakistan published the following:
 - Condolences over the death of Pakistani cleric, Maulana Sami ul Haq, who was killed by unidentified assailants. In the announcement, the organization condemned the murder of ul Haq and accused the regime in Pakistan of plotting with the infidel Christians to murder him. Later in the announcement, the organization called on the public and on Pakistani clerics to choose the path of jihad and to support the Taliban Pakistan so that they can fight the heretical democratic system that oppresses the people of Pakistan, and establish an Islamic system of government.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=38076> (English).

⁴⁵ <https://justpaste.it/2z3m1>; <http://gazwah.net/?p=15325>



An announcement in memory of Maulana Sami ul Haq, a Pakistani cleric who was killed

- Criticism over the release of Asia Bibi, a Pakistani Christian woman who was convicted in 2010 after being accused of insulting the Prophet Muhammad. In the announcement it stated that Asia's release testifies to the hostility of the Pakistani court towards Islam and its support of infidels. The announcement also called on the Pakistani people to join the jihad of the Taliban Pakistan to establish an Islamic system of government that will lead to the prevention of such cases in the future.⁴⁶

The Arabian Peninsula

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- Ansar al-Sharia, which is affiliated with AQAP, published the following:
 - Two videos presenting the testimony of two IS fighters who were arrested by their own organization and placed in detention, about the reasons for their detention and their experiences inside prison. One of the fighters said that he had asked to leave the IS but encountered resistance and was, therefore, thrown into prison and suffered severe torture by his comrades. The same fighter told of a case in which the IS forced one of its own fighters to blow himself up at an Ansar al-Shari'a checkpoint. In addition, he said that none of the four Al-Qaeda members captured by the IS had surrendered to the latter and they continued to cling to the path of Al-Qaeda.⁴⁷ Both videos were intended to discourage joining the IS in Yemen, and reflected the tension and hostility between the two organizations.
- The Hedaya jihadist media institution, which is involved in media for Ansar al-Sharia, an AQAP affiliate, published the following:

⁴⁶ <https://justpaste.it/5la1d>

⁴⁷ Telegram

- A video praising the organization’s fighters and their willingness to sacrifice their lives for Islam and Muslims. In addition, the video praised the series of terrorist attacks by Palestinians against Jews in Israel while criticizing the IS for its attacks against jihad fighters from other organizations.⁴⁸
- Al-Badr jihadist media institution, which is involved in media for AQAP, published the following:
 - An article titled, “Soldiers of the Jihadist Media! Stick to Your Places and Return to Your Border Posts”, by a writer named Abu ‘Umar al-Ansari. In the article, al-Ansari praised all those involved in media for jihad fighters on the Internet and other platforms, as reflected in their efforts to recruit fighters to the ranks of the mujahideen, strengthen the spirit of faith in God, emphasize the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad, and taunt the West. According to him, this media activity sends a strong message to the West that Muslims are determined to continue the war and jihad against the infidel West despite the latter’s attempts to thwart these efforts.⁴⁹

Al-Sham [The Levant]

Syria

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham

- Hayat Tahrir al-Sham published the following:
 - Condolences from the organization to Jaysh al-Izza fighters over the deaths of some of the group’s members in battles with the Alawite regime north of Hama. The announcement stated that this type of attack by the Alawite regime proves that it cannot be trusted despite its declarations and guarantees, and that Syrian soil will be liberated only through the weapons and blood of fighters. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on all factions fighting in northern Syria to take extra care and reinforce their fortifications, and not be fooled by the lies of the enemy.⁵⁰
 - A three-part interview with the spokesman for the security apparatus in Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, 'Ubayda al-Salih, regarding his role. In the first part of the interview, al-Salih claimed that crime in the liberated areas is not high compared to other areas of the world or areas within Syria that are under the Alawite regime. He added that the reasons for

⁴⁸ Telegram

⁴⁹ Telegram

⁵⁰ Telegram

the security anarchy in the liberated areas stem from several factors, including: the proliferation of weapons among the people, disagreements between the factions and the fact that some of the factions oppose the security decisions made by other factions even if they are for the good of the public, the protection of criminals by certain factions, the migration of many residents to Idlib, some of whom have forged documents, making it harder to catch the criminals. He added that the security measures taken in the liberated areas were: control of the arms and explosives trade with the help of the Interior Ministry of the Rescue Government, which grants licenses to businesses selling arms, the placement of surveillance cameras on the streets of Idlib, and the establishment of a special system to manage purchases, sales and rentals. Later in the interview, al-Salah noted that he cooperated with the other factions operating in the liberated areas on several issues, such as the Khawarij issue and the issue of traitors. He added that the goal was for all security apparatuses to operate under one government and to create one security establishment, but not all of the factions agreed to this. Therefore, the security apparatus currently operates in coordination with the Interior Ministry and the Justice Ministry of the Rescue Government in Syria. Al-Salah also emphasized that the powers of the security apparatus include: exposing the spies of the Alawite regime, exposing the Khawarij cells, as well as other elements that want to harm the Syrian revolution, kidnapper networks, etc. After the arrest of those suspected of these crimes, they are transferred to the criminal courts of the Rescue Government. In addition, the security apparatus is working to eradicate the phenomenon of drug networks.

Later in the interview, al-Salah confirmed that the security apparatus had succeeded in catching the leaders of Khawarij cells in the liberated areas, and claimed that IS cells are divided into two types: those who came from within a framework of security activity and those who came out of a desire to rob, steal and murder. He claimed that the latter are those who are often arrested and inform on other members of the cell. In addition, this group constitutes 90% of the cell's members, while the small part that comes from a security ideology were sent to the clerics to discuss the path of the Khawarij, leading some of them to repent and understand that al-Baghdadi took the wrong path. At the end of this part of the interview, al-Salah listed the shari'a bodies that supervise the activities of the security apparatus, including: the Ministry of Dawah and Guidance; the claims office overseen by a shari'a committee, which has the authority to appoint its

members, approve or reject an arrest warrant, retract a decision to put pressure on a detainee and to punish those who did so accordingly; and a committee whose role is to monitor members operating within the framework of the security apparatus, which has the authority to examine the files of all prisoners and report those who exceed their powers.

In the second part of the interview, al-Salah claimed that the security apparatus only operates against those factions that harm the Syrian revolution and jihad. However, with the other factions, the security apparatus works in cooperation in the liberated areas. In addition, al-Salah denied that there is a special prison in which prisoners are punished with torture, and that rumors of torture taking place in the prison located in a cave are incorrect and that the prison is located in a cave in order to protect the prisoners' safety. In addition, he denied that Hayat Tahrir al-Sham had released al-Baghdadi's Khawarij from its prisons to fight against other factions. He added that the organization has an internal security apparatus designed to locate spies within the ranks of the organization. In the third part of the interview, al-Salah noted that the organization has guard posts on the border with Turkey and in the areas that Turkey invaded as part of Operation "Olive Branch" in order to prevent the infiltration of the factions fighting among the enemy ranks into the liberated areas. He added that by using checkpoints in the area bordering these areas, the apparatus has succeeded in capturing many Khawarij. Al-Salah also claimed that the organization had a border patrol apparatus. At the end of the interview, al-Salah called on the public to pass along information about crimes and offenses that they witness so they can catch the criminals and prevent future crimes.⁵¹

- A video titled, "The Track" ("Al-Sikka"), which reviewed the battles in the areas east of the railway tracks in the southeast suburbs of Idlib, and the southern suburbs of Aleppo in the last quarter of 2017 until the beginning of 2018. The video opened with an interview with Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Julani, leader of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, in which he promised that the enemy would get a taste of the mujahideen's assault in any battle that would break out between them.

The battles in the southern part of Al-Hejaz railway took place between Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and other rebel factions against the regime's militia forces and the IS for approximately 130 days. The battles ended with the militias taking control of wider areas,

⁵¹ Telegram; <https://ebaa.news/press-interview/2018/11/20642/>

including over 250 villages, towns and agricultural areas containing several airports. The rebel factions accused Hayat Tahrir al-Sham of handing over the area to Syrian regime militias and of indirectly accepting the Asatana agreement (a ceasefire agreement initiated by the Russian and Syrian regimes) while Hayat Tahrir al-Sham accused rebel factions, such as Nour al-Din al-Zenki, of betrayal, abandoning the battle, and relinquishing the areas east of the track. The video combined interviews with the organization’s field commanders as well as commanders of other factions that cooperated with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, such as Jaysh al-‘Izza, the Free Idlib Army, Jaysh al-Nasr and the Turkestan Islamic Party, regarding the course of the battles in the area. For example, one of the organization’s field commanders noted that the desert topography and the open plain of the area, the Russian air strikes, the offensive by IS forces at the same time, the intensive artillery and rocket fire by the regime's militias, and the rebel factions’ abandonment of the fighting made it easier for the militias to occupy the territory. The end of the video presented a long list of names of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham fighters and the factions that fought alongside it in battles. Among those killed were many fighters of Chechen origin.⁵²

In response to the video, Ali al-'Arjani, a jihad fighter in Syria affiliated with Nour al-Din al-Zenki, accused Hayat Tahrir al-Sham of producing a biased and misleading video intended to cover up its betrayal on the battlefield. According to him, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham sold the blood of its soldiers for the interests of maintaining control.



A clip from a video in which Abu Hassan al-Shami, a Hayat Tahrir al-Sham field commander, discussed how the battles unfolded

- The Balagh jihadist media institution, which operates on behalf of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, published a video in memory of Abu Mujahid al-Misri, a judge and jihad fighter in the

⁵² Telegram

organization, who was killed in November 2017.⁵³

Huras al-Din

- The "Encourage the Believers" operations room, which is shared by three organizations, Ansar al-Din, Ansar al-Islam, and Huras al-Din, Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, published the following:⁵⁴
 - An announcement regarding the establishment of a joint operations room to be shared by Ansar al-Din, Ansar al-Islam, and Huras al-Din. According to the announcement, the decision to establish the joint operations room was made against the backdrop of the enemies' plans to put an end to jihad in Syria through ceasefire and peace agreements and arrangements. Later in the announcement, the three organizations called on the rest of the rebel factions in Syria to reject outright any arrangement from the enemy, and emphasized that need to revive the desire to fight and ignite the fronts n. In addition, the organizations called on Muslims in general, and the Syrian people in particular, to support jihad fighters.



From left to right: the logo of the “Encourage the Believers” joint operations room; the three organizations that share the joint operations room

- An expression of solidarity with Jaysh al-‘Izza and condolences over the death of several of its soldiers. Alongside this, the operations room condemned the Sochi agreement and warned that it seeks to disarm all armed factions and legitimize the Russian presence in Syria. In light of this, the operations room called on all armed factions in Syria to reject the agreement and avenge the blood of the fighters who were killed.
- Announcements and videos focusing on the activities of the three organizations against enemy forces, such as a claim of responsibility for an attack on a Syrian post on November 16, and a video documenting mortar fire at Syrian army positions.
- An announcement expressing support for the campaign initiated by several Salafi-jihadist

⁵³ Telegram

⁵⁴ Telegram

sheikhs in Syria titled, “This is God”, in the beginning of November in the Idlib area, which was designed to emphasize faith in God. According to the announcement, the joint operations room will continue to support such campaigns aimed at fighting against the forces of heresy.

- The OGN news channel, which is involved in English-language media for jihadist organizations in Syria, published a filmed interview with the military leader of the “Encourage the Believers” joint operations room. According to the commander of the operations room, the goals of the operations room are: obedience to Allah and His messenger Muhammad, meaning fighting for God; increasing armed operations against the enemy; encouraging Muslim believers to fight against the enemy and restore the Islamic nation to this path. According to him, several jihad factions in Syria established a joint operations room in the past called Jaysh al-Fatah, which helped liberate lands and gave honor and glory to the liberators of Muslim lands. He stressed that the new operations room is designed to restore glory and is open to other factions to join. Later in the interview, the commander of the operations room referred to an attack carried out by members of the organizations against Syrian security forces, which resulted in the deaths of 24 Syrian soldiers. According to him, the Syrian regime's attack on rebel areas in Idlib after the operation was not a result of it, but rather a continuation of a deliberate and ongoing trend. He noted that the regime is threatening to bombard Idlib with chemical weapons as it did in Ghoutta, hence the rebel factions and Muslim masses in Syria must understand that all of the agreements and peace solutions are nothing but deception. He stressed that if the rebels demonstrate steadfastness in their opinions and decisions alongside their physical battle, the enemy will be forced to ask them to come to the negotiating table. However, now foreign forces are the ones who are meddling in Syrian affairs, and making decisions and ceasefires that are not applied. In addition, he warned that any temptation for a ceasefire would cost Sunni Muslims dearly, namely, they will be expelled from their territories and become refugees in camps in exile. In conclusion, the commander of the operations room emphasized that jihad fighters will continue to wage jihad against their enemies and will never surrender.⁵⁵

⁵⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/ognofficial/videos/602890213460755/>



A banner announcing the publication of the upcoming interview with the commander of the operations room "Encourage the Believers"

The al-'Itisam Committee

- During the month of November, the al-'Itisam Committee published several booklets on the kidnapping of a girl named Yasmine in Syria. The committee is a judicial body that was established to bridge the differences of opinion between Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and Huras al-Din regarding the abduction of Yasmine, the daughter of a Belgian mother and French father who immigrated to Syria to take part in the fighting alongside the rebel organizations. The father joined the Firqatul Ghuraba foreign fighters group, whose members were foreign fighters of French and African decent, under the leadership of Omar Omsen. The group was a member of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham but left it and joined Huras al-Din. When the father died a year and a half ago in one of the battles, Omsen claimed guardianship of the girl on the grounds that the father had left a will asking him to take guardianship of the girl and not give her to his ex-wife. Omsen refused to release the girl and the Shura Council of Huras al-Din ruled that the mother had become Shi'ite and was, therefore, considered a heretic so it was forbidden to give the girl to her. In fact, Omsen took advantage of the situation to blackmail the mother and demand a ransom of \$4,950 for her release. In response, the mother decided to turn to the Belgian authorities to help her rescue her daughter.

Against the backdrop of this affair, the Committee noted that it was established in order to resolve the bloody conflict between the two organizations due to the affair. Among its members are its head, Sheikh Abu 'Abdallah al-Masri, Abu Malik al-Shami, the representative from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, and Abu Muhammad al-Sudani, the representative from Huras al-Din. The committee noted that after examining the case of the girl, it found it necessary to clarify several points:

- A. The girl, Yasime, was not kidnapped at all.

- B. It was proven that Yasmine's mother had asked her ex-husband, Mahdi Jundallah al-Faransi, who is also the girl's father, to exercise her right to breastfeed the child since they immigrated to Syria. But he refrained from handing over the child on the grounds that his ex-wife was an infidel.
- C. Yasmine's father ordered Umar Amisan al-Faransi, a member of the organization, to look after his daughter and not give her to her mother if he was killed, on the grounds that his ex-wife is an infidel and in order to preserve the child's religion.
- D. It turned out that Umar Amisan al-Faransi was ignorant of the issue and accepted Jundallah's claim that his ex-wife was an infidel.

In light of this, the committee demanded that Yasmine be transferred to her mother's care, stressing that the mother is a Muslim and not an infidel, and is fit to raise the child. It also ruled that the child should be removed from Omsen's custody and handed over to one person until her mother takes her.⁵⁶ Finally, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham gave the child to the mother thanks to cooperation with the Turkish authorities, among other things.

- Al-Bayyan jihadist media institution, which is identified with Salafi-jihadist fighters in Syria who are affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published a statement titled, "Torch of the Quran – Part 5" by Sheikh Abu Khadija al-Urduni. In the statement, al-Urduni referred to the murder of Saudi journalist, Jamal Khashoggi, at the Saudi Embassy in Turkey. According to him, the received wide coverage from every possible stage and many expressed empathy for him. However, according to al-Urduni, this affair should be examined on the basis of the al-Wala wal-Bara, namely, showing loyalty to Muslims and disavowing non-Muslims. According to him, Khashoggi did not act to implement shari'a and did not express his willingness to uproot things that contradicted Islam. Hence, why should any positive attitude be displayed towards him?⁵⁷

The Islamic State

- IS provinces in Syria and the Amaq news agency published the following:
 - *Damascus Province*: A video titled, "The Mountains that Stand Firm". The video opened with an explanation of the background to the upheaval that the Alawite Syrian regime went through in recent years, after years of 'tyranny directed at Muslims in the country'. The narrator explained that, with the outbreak of the battle and armed resistance to the regime, various groups began to form, and it later became clear who among those groups

⁵⁶ Telegram

⁵⁷ Telegram; <https://risala.ga/3zsf/>

was fighting in the name of Allah and who was only exploiting and deceiving Muslims in the name of his struggle. Those groups made false claims about their aims and their relationship to the regime, and in the end, they surrendered to it one by one. When the soldiers of the caliphate who remained in the Yarmouk camp were attacked from the air by Russia, they found refuge in a small area from which they launched attacks that caused heavy casualties to the regime. The narrator emphasized that the fighters stood firm in southern Damascus despite the depletion of their weapons, and the fact that even though they are living in the desert, they live in abundance and do not lack anything.

Another fighter mentioned the Alawites' allies, namely the Druze, the Shi'ites and the Sahawat, and threatened that "they will weep like women". He added that the fighters will win and reach Damascus, and that whoever avoids jihad thinking that he will not die will also meet his death. In the last message, it claimed that if the Sunnis in Syria want to live with dignity, the only choice they have is to return to religion and jihad, not only by carrying weapons but also by believing in one God and refusing to accept anything other than shari'a.⁵⁸

- *Al-Baraka Province*: A video titled, "The Monotheistic Attack 2", which documented attacks by the organization's fighters against Syrian forces in the area of Bukamal. The video included inflammatory speeches followed by an attack against "the enemies of Allah" (who were dubbed "the donkeys of the Jews"). Against the backdrop of the battles themselves, excerpts were played from speeches by IS leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and the former spokesman of the organization, Abu Hassan al-Muhajir.⁵⁹

A video titled, "Message to the Families of PKK Prisoners", which documented the slaughter of a Syrian Democratic Forces officer in front of three other prisoners. Before being executed, the prisoner called on the tribes located in the areas under Syrian Democratic Forces control (mostly Kurdish forces) not to fight alongside the militia so that their sons will not meet the same fate and be killed by the IS. The video also showed an IS fighter who claimed that the PKK had lost battles in the province and noted that the Syrian Democratic Forces deceived its fighters with "promises of security, tranquillity and rehabilitation." The video ended with a clip from a speech by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi from August 2018.⁶⁰

⁵⁸ <https://archive.org/download/alraseat/alraseat.mp4>

⁵⁹ <https://archive.org/download/sawlla/sawlla.mp4>

⁶⁰ https://ia801508.us.archive.org/5/items/resala_201811

Turkestan Islamic Party

- The Turkestan Islamic Party published the following:
 - A video praising the contribution of the organization's Uyghur fighters to the jihad battle against the enemy of Islam in Syria and Afghanistan.⁶¹

The Gaza Strip-Sinai Peninsula

The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula

- The IS in Sinai Peninsula published the following:
 - A video titled, "The Path of the Righteous, From Darkness to Light". The video presented IS fighters in Sinai and their attacks against the Egyptian army, as well as documentation of the execution of several area residents who were accused of spying and collaboration. The video emphasized the testimonies of several former Egyptian security forces (army and police) who defected and joined the ranks of the IS in Sinai, some of whom were even tied to the attempted assassination of Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi. At the end of the video, it was noted that all these fighters were killed in attacks by the Egyptian army. During their testimonies, the fighters encouraged Egyptian army soldiers to defect, join the battle in the service of the IS, and fight in the name of Allah rather than in the name of the "infidel dictator al-Sisi" who was described as "an ally of the Christians and Jews." In addition, the video addressed the death of the former head of the organization in Sinai, Sheikh Abu-Osama al-Masri.⁶²
It should be noted that the video echoed loudly in Egypt and even drew a response from the alumni organization of Al-Azhar University. In a press release issued by the organization, it claimed that the video was evidence of the Islamic State's "bankruptcy" and that it had lost the "false sheen that had influenced the youth".⁶³

⁶¹ Telegram

⁶² <https://archive.org/download/sabelalrashd/sabelalrashd.mp4>

⁶³ <https://www.vetogate.com/3359675>



The video banner

Africa

The Maghreb

Mali

[Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen](#)

- Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen published the following:
 - A video titled, “Enlist either at a slow or intense pace” in which Sheikh Muhammad Kufa, the leader of the Macina area, appealed to Muslims to help jihad against the enemies of Islam. In particular, he called on the Fulani people (an African ethnic group) in Senegal, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and everywhere to help jihad against the infidels, who commit murder against them, in order to defend Islam and Muslims. According to him, these infidels receive assistance from France, the United Nations and even some Arab regimes. He stressed that France is fighting against the Fulani people and inciting others to kill them and attack their wives and children only because they intended to raise the flag of Allah. In general, France wants to incite against Arabs and non-Arabs in the East and West of the world, against all Muslims who wish to raise the flag of faith. Kufa encouraged the Fulani people and quoted several verses from the Quran regarding the importance of remaining patient until victory is achieved. In light of this, Kufa called on the Fulani people to unite and persevere with the fight for the sake of elevating Allah’s words.
 - He then called on jihad fighters in Nampala, Macina, Duentza, Haribanda, Galkooj, as well as Fulani jihad fighters in Duri, and in areas between Burkina Faso and Niger, Nin, Burkina Faso, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Banamba, and elsewhere to help with jihad against the enemies.⁶⁴

⁶⁴ Telegram



Iyad Ghaly, Muhammad Kufa and Abu Yahya al-Hammam

- An announcement on an audio clip regarding "the deterioration of Sophie Petronin’s health situation”. In the beginning of the announcement, it stated that in the midst of the organization's preparations for a video about all of its captives, the health of Sophia Petronin, a French nun who was abducted in 2012 by AQIM, has begun to rapidly deteriorate. According to the organization, the President of France and his administration are solely responsible for Sophie’s state of health since the organization is providing her with adequate living conditions while the French government is not doing enough to work for her release. The organization apologized to Sophie's son for not allowing him to visit his mother because of security reasons related to the French government, which is sabotaging the visit. Finally, the organization called on Christians to convert to Islam.⁶⁵



The banner of the announcement regarding the deteriorating health of the French nun in the organization’s captivity

⁶⁵ Telegram

- A video titled, “An announcement regarding the act of martyrdom against a base of British, Germans and Canadian forces in Gao”. In the opening of the video, it stated that, in the framework of the organization’s special activities, Abu Osama al-Ansari, one’s of the organization’s fighters, had successfully penetrated one of the most important strongholds of the Crusaders’ international forces in the city of Gao and detonated explosives. It also stated that the attack proved that the operation had been planned several months earlier and that the organization will continue to operate in this vein until it achieves its goals, including the liberation of Islamic lands from the Crusaders and the application of shari’a. According to the organization, it has two options: achieve victory over the opponent or be martyred for God. In addition, the organization expressed solidarity with the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip against the backdrop of the escalation with Israel, and emphasized that it stands by them and hopes to reach Al-Aqsa Mosque.⁶⁶

Tunisia

- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, which is affiliated with the IS, discussed the appointment of Rene Trabelsi, a Jew with Tunisian citizenship (and according to the visitors – also Israeli citizenship), to the role of Tunisia’s Tourism Minister. The visitors condemned the move, which testifies to the ongoing "normalization" between the Arab states and Israel, and claimed that Trabelsi is one of the Jews working behind the scenes in Tunisia to influence the country’s gold, tourism and vacation markets.⁶⁷
- A visitor to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum, which is affiliated with the IS, directed the attention of others to a suicide attack that was carried out by a Tunisian woman named Muna Qibla against a group of police officers in the Tunisian capital (policemen were injured at various levels of severity, but none were killed). The visitor claimed that the attack did not receive sufficient media attention and asked to continue spreading the report.⁶⁸

Somalia

Al-Shabab-Al-Mujahideen

- Al-Kataib jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Qaeda’s branch in Somalia, published the following:

⁶⁶ Telegram

⁶⁷ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

- Part 2 of a video titled, “They Are Not Welcome, They Shall Burn in The Fire”, aimed at encouraging jihad in Somalia. This part of the video presented the organization’s attack on soldiers from Burundi who belong to the African Union Force that was established in the city of Bal’ad in March 2018.⁶⁹
- A report detailing the organization's activities during the month of November, including several attempts to assassinate senior Somali government officials, attacks against Kenyan soldiers, and more.⁷⁰
- The Shahada news agency, which is affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Qaeda’s branch in Somalia, published the following:
 - A report of a terrorist attack by Al-Shabab at a hotel in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, which killed over 30 Somali government office workers.⁷¹
 - A series of photos documenting the distribution of sheep by Al-Shabab’s zakat office to families in areas under the organization’s control. The announcement noted that this is done every year in accordance with Islamic shari'a.⁷²

Nigeria

Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad

- The Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad (Boko Haram, led by Abubakar Shekau) published the following:⁷³
 - A video titled, “A new message from Abubakar bin Mohammad Shekau, Imam of the Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad”. In the near eight-minute video, Shekau appeared surrounded by several armed men and boasted of the organization's successes in the recent battles in Kumshe, Gulumba and other areas in northeast Nigeria. Shekau referred to an interview that his mother gave to the Voice of America in June 2018, in which she renounced his actions, and he claimed that “only Allah knows the truth”.⁷⁴

⁶⁹ <http://kataibdrive.org/index.php/s/CeZ4LzjK84cXz4w#pdfviewer>

⁷⁰ Telegram

⁷¹ <http://shahadanews.com/?p=1779>

⁷² <http://shahadanews.com/?p=1816>

⁷³ Telegram

⁷⁴ <http://saharareporters.com/2018/11/09/exclusive-first-video-july-shekau-taunts-%E2%80%98those-who-said-i-have-died%E2%80%99>
<https://www.voanews.com/a/voa-interview-mother-of-boko-haram-leader/4438375.html>



Abubakar Shekau in his first appearance since July 2018

- A propaganda video condemning democracy titled, “Will they ask and consult according to the Pagan era?”, which was composed mainly of clips from speeches by Abu Mus'ab Zarqawi, Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajer and Abu Yusuf al-Barnawi, the founding father of Boko Haram. The clips that were included in the video condemned democracy, which sanctifies human rule instead of God's rule, and criticized regimes in Arab countries that govern by "the rule of the people" and not by shari'a. Another clip was taken from a speech by the leader of the organization, Abubakar Shekau, in which he mocked the oath of allegiance to the Nigerian state and its recognition as a nation-state. The film also featured a masked fighter named Abu Abd al-Majid al-Barnawi who explained why democracy is the "rule of the infidels" and why Muslims should not send their children to institutions that promote democratic values.
- A video titled, “Victory Comes Only from the Nation of Allah”, which documented the organization's attacks against Nigerian army forces at an unidentified site. In addition to the documentation of these attacks, the video included photos of the corpses of those killed as well as the weapons and equipment that were plundered. The video concluded with the burning of booklets, photos, and medals of soldiers and commanders in the Nigerian army
- A video titled, “Victory Comes Only from the Nation of Allah – 2”, which documented an attack against a Nigerian army post in the village of Agha Mandari. The video presented the briefing prior to the attack, photos from the exchanges of fire themselves, and documentation of the plundered weapons.

The Indian Subcontinent

Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent

- Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent published the following:

- A four-part video and a leaflet with their transcripts, in which Ustad Usama Mehmood, the organization's spokesman, called on the religious political parties in Pakistan to renounce democracy and understand that shari'a cannot be applied through integration and acceptance of the democratic system. According to him, democracy poses a danger to Islam because it involves the laws of human actions and not acts of God. He stressed that Muslim clerics who view democracy as a tool to achieve political power that will enable the application of shari'a are making a bitter mistake. According to him, jihad fighters from Al-Qaeda and its affiliates, as well as from the Taliban Afghanistan, are not the enemies of Muslims but they do want to apply shari'a and, therefore, are not prepared to accept democracy. In addition, Mehmood accused the IS of committing crimes against innocent Muslims, thereby distorting jihad.⁷⁵



The poster of a speech by Ustad Usama Mehmood, spokesman for Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent

Kashmir

Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind

- Al-Hurr jihadist media institution, which belongs to Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, published the following:
 - A leaflet titled, "Security Guidelines for the Mujahideen in Kashmir". According to the leaflet, India's security forces, including the police, secret intelligence agencies and spies, strive to eliminate jihad and the mujahideen in Kashmir. In light of this, the organization suggested that jihad fighters maintain certain safety rules:
 - A. Maintain secrecy

⁷⁵ Telegram; <https://risala.ga/vjyg>; <https://risala.ga/xuxc>; <https://risala.ga/0bq9>; <https://risala.ga/nk2j>; <http://www.alizaa.net/showthread.php?958>; <http://www.alizaa.net/showthread.php?962>; <https://archive.org/details/ddyhsnv63siv>

- B. Find shelter without any assistance from civilians or workers. Only the mujahideen in the area associated with it should know the whereabouts of the hideout.
- C. Move away from populated areas, and send two or three jihadists when there is any work to do there.
- D. Keep to minimal use of mobile phones and use the necessary precautions. Make sure to use VPN, TOR, etc. Do not use BBM - use other encrypted applications instead. The Internet should only be used for communication purposes and not for communication about sensitive subjects.
- E. Limit movement as much as possible. Build designated hiding places and spend most of the time there. "The less you move, the fewer clues the enemy will gather about you".
- F. While moving "inspect everything around you and even above you." The Indian army now uses quiet drones during the night – their light is the only thing visible and they serve as the best spies. "Protect yourself from them".
- G. Change the time that you move and do it at inconvenient times." After the evening, the enemy increases its activity, so deceive him by changing the time that you move and to choose times when it is less dangerous.
- H. Do not give the location of the hiding place and other points to anyone or under any circumstances. Only give this information to fighters who need it.
- I. Divide the armed activity and the fighter into cells while maintaining secrecy, so that if one fighter is discovered, the remaining fighters remain safe.
- J. Anyone who helps the mujahideen must obey the security rules. Do not share any information about the work with any friend or relative. Do not share anything that may arouse suspicion on the part of the enemy.
- K. If the mujahideen want to meet, they must mutually decide on a meeting place away from their areas of activity and from populated areas.⁷⁶



⁷⁶ Telegram

The West

- The Amaq news agency, which belongs to the IS, published an announcement regarding the stabbing attack in Melbourne that was carried out by Hassan Khalif Shire Ali. According to the announcement, a “security source” told the agency that the perpetrator of the attack was an “Islamic State fighter who carried out the attack in response to a call for attacks on citizens of the coalition countries.”⁷⁷

⁷⁷ <https://s1.picho.st/2018/11/09/3sNxr.jpg>

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.

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ABOUT THE JIHADI MONITORING GROUP

The Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group (JWMG) is a specialized research and analysis team at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT). Composed of researchers fluent in Arabic, the JWMG monitors websites that support and serve the Global Jihad organizations. The

unique characteristic of JWMG publications is the team's integration of diverse materials from a wide variety of Arabic sources. JWMG connects each source to larger trends, providing a complete understanding of events on both a local and a global scale.