



JWMSG Report

2018 October

Highlights

- The **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** calls on the Afghan people to boycott the elections in the country, claiming that it is a US initiative that seeks to extend the occupation in Afghanistan. According to the organization, its fighters intend to close all of the roads on election day and sabotage the election process, so it is better for the Afghan people to stay inside their homes that day so as not to be harmed. It noted that on the day of the election, it carried out 407 attacks, which led to the destruction and closure of polling stations as well as casualties among the Afghan security forces.
- **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, the leader of **Al-Qaeda**, blames Muslim regimes for the maladies and calamities befalling Muslim society because of their reliance on a secular system of laws. In his opinion, the cure for these diseases lies in the application of shari'a. According to him, members of the Muslim Nation must renounce the secular regimes, and combine *dawah* and jihad as a tool to strengthen their power and Islam.
- **Awab bin Hasan al-Husni**, a senior **Al-Qaeda** leader, calls on Muslims to wage an armed rebellion against the Saudi regime, claiming that the US can no longer defend it due to its exhaustion and weariness caused by a years-long battle against jihad fighters.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula** refers extensively to the exposure of a spy network operating on Yemeni soil on behalf of the Saudi regime. The organization notes that the West is using spies as a key tool in its fight against jihadists, and referred to its recruitment methods, the psychological components that characterize the spies, and more. The leaders of the organization, including **Qasim al-Raymi**, warns Muslims to beware of these spies and stresses that action should be taken to eliminate them, for they will try to sow division and separation.
- **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb** harshly criticizes the Prime Minister of Algeria for imposing a ban on wearing a veil in public places of work, such as in schools. According to the organization, the Algerian leadership is suppressing the symbols of Islam instead of looking for solutions to the country's various problems, such as corruption. In its view, France and the Crusader West are responsible for the ban on wearing a veil in Algeria.
- **Abu Yahya al-Hammam**, the deputy leader of **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb**, threatens the joint military force of five Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger), led by France, not to take action against jihad fighters or else they will pay a heavy price. He describes them as acting in the service of the enemy and asks them to defect from the joint military force.

- **Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen**, an umbrella organization composed of several Salafi-jihadist factions in Mali, claims responsibility for a terrorist attack against the UN headquarters in Timbuktu in central Mali. According to him, the attack was intended to send a clear message to all area governments, especially the government of Burkina Faso, that they would be harmed if they participate in the military operation against jihad fighters.
- **Adnan Rashid**, a senior military commander in the **Taliban Pakistan**, refers to the arenas of battle in Pakistan and Syria, in an interview with *Al-Haqiqa* magazine. He notes that jihadists are in a weak position in Pakistan for several reasons, such as close surveillance by the Pakistani intelligence services. According to him, the Pakistani regime plays a dual role - on the one hand, it supports the United States and NATO, and wants to remain in Afghanistan in order to maintain stability, but on the other hand it provides shelter and funding to members of the Taliban Afghanistan and the Haqqani network. In the interview, Rashid offers some advice to Syrian fighters, such as the importance of showing concern for the needs of local residents in order to gain their sympathy.
- The **Islamic State** emphasizes the importance of aid to the organization, which can be expressed by joining the ranks of its fighters or by managing publicity for the organization on social networks. Thus, he asks supporters of the organization to widely disseminate the propaganda of the Islamic Caliphate while avoiding revealing the identity of the mujahideen.
- **Sheikh Abdullah Mansour**, the deputy leader of the **Turkestan Islamic Party**, calls on Muslim clerics and Muslims around the world to help Muslims in Turkestan in any way possible, including taking part in the propaganda war against the persecution of Muslims in China by the Chinese authorities, providing financial assistance, and joining jihad against China and Chinese interests around the world. According to him, the organization's fighters are currently engaged in a campaign against the enemies of Islam in Afghanistan and Syria, but at the same time they are investing efforts in establishing an infrastructure within Turkistan. In addition, Mansour praises the propaganda activities of the Arabic-language magazine of the Turkestan Islamic Party, which he claims succeeded in reviving the issue of East Turkestan throughout the world.

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Publications

Ideology

Publications by Al-Qaeda

- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which belongs to Al-Qaeda leadership, published the following:

- A speech by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda, titled, “The Battle for Consciousness and Will: Shari’a Law Regarding a Ruling that is Not Based on Shari’a.” In his speech, al-Zawahiri blamed Muslim regimes from Morocco to



Indonesia and Malaysia for the maladies and calamities befalling Muslim society because of their reliance on a secular system of laws. In his opinion, Hassan al-Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, was wrong when he expressed willingness to participate in the secular political system in Egypt rather than rely on Islamic law. In the end, however, he was disillusioned by his failure to advance his agenda through the channels of the establishment, and began calling on the Muslim people to participate in the battle for the Quran, meaning, for the application of God’s laws. Al-Zawahiri again stressed that the tragedies and the rift in countries, such as Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Kuwait and others, are the result of a failure to apply shari’a laws. Later in his speech, al-Zawahiri called on members of the Muslim Nation to renounce the secular regimes, act together to promote faith in the Oneness of God and apply shari’a, combine *dawah* and jihad as a tool to achieve these goals, and express a willingness to sacrifice their lives for their sake. Al-Zawahiri noted that the willingness to experience torture and to sacrifice one’s life for the sake of God and the application of his laws is the highest and most noble thing, and he called for this agenda to be advanced to the forefront of their minds.¹

- An article titled, “A Love Story Between Salman al-Saud and Pirate Trump”, by Awab bin Hasan al-Husni, a senior Al-Qaeda leader. In the article, al-Husni described the US as an exhausted, battered power that is no longer able to defend its allies, especially Saudi Arabia. According to him, US President Donald Trump has succeeded in entangling the US in many crises and sabotaging relations with many countries due to its inflammatory

¹ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb/>

style and blatant violation of the rules of international relations. He noted that Trump bragged that the Saudi regime would not survive for two days without US support. According to al-Husni, Muslims must be aware of a reality in which the US is no longer a superpower, but rather an exhausted state whose weakness is evident in all areas. And, therefore, Muslims must rebel against the Saudi regime to cause its downfall without fear that the US will come to its aid.²



- The Khayr al-Umma jihadist media group, which is involved in media for Al-Qaeda on social networks, published a series of pamphlets titled, “How to Pray to God”. In the series, emphasis was placed on the importance of the believer's daily focus and devotion to God, the avoidance of ideas foreign to Islam, the ways to pray to God, and more.³

Publications by the Islamic State

- The Ashhad jihadist media institution published an article by Abu Minhaj al-Yamani, titled, “The history of the wicked Shi’ites and their betrayal of Muslims.’ In the beginning, al-Yamani presented the article as "know the enemy", and noted that Sunnis need this information to protect themselves against the evil of Shi’ites. In the article, al-Yamani claimed that Shi’a is a “Jewish and polytheistic sect that has no connection to Islam”. Al-Yamani explained that Shi’a is a sect that grew from the foundation of Abdullah ibn Saba, a Yemenite Jew who converted to Islam and – according to the writer - drew doctrines from the Jewish religion in order to establish Shi'a and "corrupt Islam". Later, al-Yamani criticized the Shi’ite leaders, historical events in which they were involved, and the fact that they speak badly of the Prophet’s family members, especially his wife, Aisha. A large portion of the article was dedicated to a review of the various sects affiliated with Shi’a, and the establishment of Safavid state and the Iranian Republic and how they acted against Sunni Islam.⁴
- Al-Hayat jihadist media institution, which belongs to the IS, published the following:
 - The eighth video (in both an English and Arabic version) in a series titled, “Inside the Caliphate”, which dealt with the dissemination of the organization’s propaganda by its

² <https://risala.ga/rs1u/>

³

⁴ Telegram

supporters. The video opened by showing various people throughout the Caliphate (a fighter, a civilian, a doctor, a preacher, a PR person, a butcher, a photographer, etc.) who spoke about how they defend the land of the Caliphate and Islam, each on his own front. However, the main emphasis of the video was on the organization's media and PR people who, at the touch of a button, transmit the publications to thousands of supporters (*Munasirun*), who in turn forward the message to millions of people.

The video conveyed the usual message that terrorism should be carried out on infidel lands if it is impossible to carry out *hijra* (migration) to one of the arenas of jihad (this section included scenes from attacks that were carried out by lone terrorists in Europe and the US, with a clip from a speech by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in the background calling for attacks in the West, including stabbings, rammings, shooting or planting explosives). If local jihad is not possible, the Caliphate should be supported in the virtual world. Alluding to the American film industry, the narrator explained that for many years the 'Crusaders' charmed people using the same virtual world, but that now the tables were turned, and the virtual propaganda field was conquered by the IS and its supporters.

In addition, the video referred to the billions of dollars invested by the West in an effort to erase the Islamic State's Internet presence, both through government agencies (such as NSA, GCHQ and BND) and non-governmental bodies (such as the Ghost Security Group and LulzSec). He also mentioned the establishment of Web sites that claimed to belong to the organization, but in practice were trying to destroy its institutions and gather information about it.

The last part of the video clarified and explained the role of the organization's supporters, which mainly includes publishing propaganda for the Caliphate and distributing it as widely as possible using its official media institutions. The video noted that supporters should refrain from publishing conflicting messages based on leaks and from disseminating materials that harm the name of the Caliphate or the belief that it promotes. In addition, supporters should keep the secrets of the IS, refrain from revealing the identity of the mujahideen and commanders, and not divulge their institutions and plans. Supporters were also urged to avoid disagreements between believers that could weaken the Caliphate.

The video concluded with encouragement for the organization's media people to continue their activity on the Internet in order to embitter the lives of the infidels and not to give up, but rather to open more and more accounts to take the place of those

that were closed. The narrator stressed that this electronic activity would be considered part of the good deeds that a Muslim can carry out.

It should be noted that, unlike previous videos in the series, the current video included very little original content and was based mostly on photographs that already appeared in other publications by the organization.



‘Inside the Caliphate 8’ – a call for a media campaign by IS supporters to continuing publishing information

- Videos no. 10-13 in a series titled, “Harvest the Soldiers”. In the framework of the video, statistical information was provided about the number of those killed and injured among the enemies of the IS, including “apostates, Shi’ites, Alawites, commanders, soldiers and Crusaders”. In addition, the videos listed the number of people killed and injured, vehicles destroyed, and houses set on fire, divided into areas inside Iraq and Syria, alongside a review of the types of attacks that were carried out.⁵
- Al-Battar jihadist media institution, which is involved in media for the IS, published the following:⁶
 - An article titled, “The Red Turbans and White Headdresses” which dealt with the political struggles in Lebanon. In the framework of the article, the writer attacked the elements in Lebanon who are trying to promote the values of 'nationalism and heretical democracy', and ridiculed attempts to appoint 'Christians' or 'secular apostates' to government positions.
 - Additional sections in a series of religious lectures on the topic “al-Wala' wal-Bara” (loyalty to Muslims and renunciation of infidels), which was produced and originally

⁵ https://ia601509.us.archive.org/27/items/hasad_201810

⁶ Telegram

broadcast by the organization's Al-Bayan radio station.

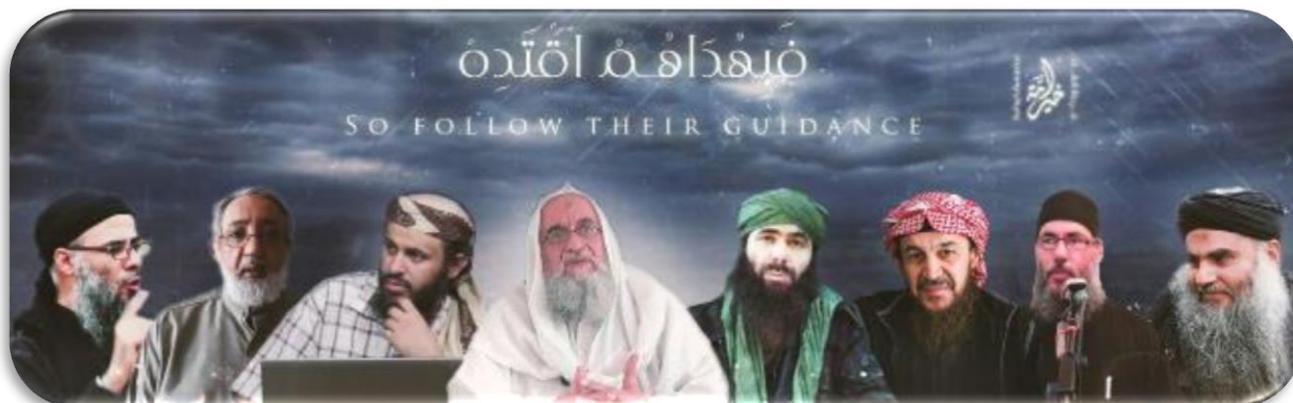
- Ashhad jihadist media institution, which is involved in media for the IS, published the following:⁷
 - An article by Abu Mua'wiya al-Husayni in which he called on Sunnis in Baghdad to come to the aid of the mujahideen and act against the Shi'ites in the capital. In the article, al-Husayni emphasized the Shi'ites' betrayal of the Sunnis, and he criticized those Sunnis in Baghdad who maintain ties to the Shi'ites, including marriage. Al-Husayni called on Sunnis in Baghdad to wage jihad against the Shi'ites in the capital or at least provide the mujahideen with logistical assistance and support. The article concluded with threats against the Shi'ites in Baghdad and a reminder that IS members have not forgotten the massacres committed against Sunnis in Iraq. Al-Husayni explained that priority should be given to attacks against Shi'ites in Iraq even before external targets, such as Iran or the West.
 - An announcement about the battle by the organization's forces against the Druze and Alawites in the Suwayda Desert in southern Syria. The announcement stressed that, contrary to what was reported in the Syrian media, Alawite and Druze forces in this area suffered heavy casualties at the hands of the organization's fighters, who succeeded in killing and injuring many, as well as destroying vehicles and tanks.
 - An announcement containing a message for the organization's supporters ("מאצרות") in a range of languages. In the announcement, supporters of the organization were called on not to be satisfied with passive sympathy for the organization, but to act generously and look ahead.
- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum referred to a media report according to which the authorities in Spain managed to dismantle a jihadist-recruiting network in 17 prisons in the country. One of the visitors responded to the report and claimed that it was false, since the recruitment was not carried out inside or outside the prison walls. In addition, the visitor listed several tips for prisoners, such as: beware of Confidential Informant, be careful of prisoner tracking using microphones and cameras, stand firm in interrogations and questioning, and do not fear torture or even death (a prisoner who dies during interrogation by infidels will be considered a martyr).⁸

⁷ Telegram

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 in October 2018 by the Khayr al-Umma media group, which is involved in media for Al-Qaeda

- Sheikh **Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi**, a senior Salafi-jihadist thinker affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published the following:⁹

- A sharp denunciation of the Sochi agreement, which was signed by Turkey and Russia, regarding the establishment of a demilitarized zone in the Idlib area and the removal of heavy weaponry belonging to the rebel organizations there. According to al-Maqdisi, this was another plot by the enemy to undermine the power of the mujahideen in Syria. He claimed that Russia seeks to weaken Islam everywhere and prefers the presence of weak Muslim regimes that yield to its dictates, as is evident in Chechnya and the Caucasus. He also criticized Turkey for its willingness to conduct an all-out war against all jihad fighters without discerning whether the fighter belongs to the IS or another rebel faction, such as Kurdish factions: "It does not distinguish between an infidel and a Muslim". Al-Maqdisi emphasized that support for this agreement is considered total heresy, and he stress that anyone who helps an infidel in any way is himself considered an infidel as well. In this context, he



⁹ Telegram

referred to a ruling by Sheikh Ibn Tamiyyah, a Salafist cleric from the 14th century, permitting the killing of Muslims who aided the Tatars, as well as a letter written by Sheikh Muhammad Abd al-Wahhab, the founder of the Wahhabi sect at the end of the 18th century, in which he brought 20 pieces of evidence from the Quran and the hadith that anyone who helps polytheists against Muslims is considered an infidel. Hence, the Sochi agreement should be renounced and not accepted.

- A statement regarding the story of the Prophet Muhammad’s migration from Medina to Mecca in 622 CE to encourage the migration of Muslims to arenas of jihad. According to al-Maqdisi, the Prophet Muhammad’s companions abandoned their lives and migrated with the Prophet because they did not want to give up their faith in the Oneness of God, and they fought alongside him for God’s sake.
- A quote from Huthaifa Abdullah Azzam, the son of Abdullah Azzam (a founder of Al-Qaeda), calling for a battle against Abu Mohammad al-Julani, the leader of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, and the dismantling of his organization. It also stated that al-Julani was guilty of creating the IS and of harming jihad in Syria.
- Criticism over the strategy chosen by the Palestinian Hamas vis-à-vis Israel. According to him, it is clear that the mass processions towards the border fence with Israel are inefficient because "you have lost dozens of men without an achievement", while killing Jewish settlers is more effective, as was the case in a Palestinian shooting attack on settlers in Hebron that killed two people and wounded three others.
- A statement regarding the murder of Saudi journalist, Jamal Khashoggi, at the Saudi Embassy in Turkey. According to al-Maqdisi, Khashoggi was not innocent, as he served regimes and intelligence agencies at their disposal and assisted them. He added that, in the end, Khashoggi was inclined to help Erdogan's secular regime. Al-Maqdisi also noted that he held important positions in the newspapers through which he fought against Islam. He stressed that not everyone who is murdered, kidnapped or imprisoned by the regime is considered a martyr who should be pitied. In addition, al-Maqdisi mentioned an interview that was held with Khashoggi during his imprisonment in a Jordanian prison in the 1990s, which was published in *Al-Wasat* magazine (see photo). Al-Maqdisi noted that he had warned Khashoggi that the interview would be distorted by the intelligence services and it was. For example, he pointed out that the word “jihad” that he used was replaced by the word



“terrorism”, etc.

- Sheikh **Abu Qatada al-Filastini** published the following on Telegram:

- In response to a question asked on the topic, Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filastini clarified a statement that was published in one of his articles, stating that he is ‘neither a jihadist nor a Salafist’. Al-Filastini analyzed the terms semantically and made it clear that he was referring to religion from a Salafist perspective, that is, in the way of the first imams, but he does not call himself Salafist because Salafism for him is an institution or a methodology, and not the title of a person. Similarly, al-Filastini explained that, as a Muslim, he believes in jihad as a duty incumbent on the entire nation and he prefers not to associate it with one organization or another.¹⁰



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

- A call on the Saudi regime to wake up and free itself from its ties to the US and Britain, and stick to the path of King Faisal bin Abdulaziz (who ruled from 1964-1975) due to his efforts to help Muslims, as expressed in the oil boycott, and in his call for the liberation of Jerusalem.
- An accusation against the Chinese regime for its persecution of the Sunni Uyghur minority in Xinjiang Province in western China. For example, he accused the regime of prohibiting the marking of Muslim holidays, such as Eid al-Adha, the selling of proper food in supermarkets and the study of the Quran, etc.
- A statement regarding the exposure of an IS laboratory for the manufacture of roadside charges and explosive devices by the security apparatus of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. According to Abdul Razzaq, the existence of such a stockpile raises questions about who it was designated for, the Syrian regime or the rebels. Later, he demanded that the IS stop declaring *takfir* on Muslims who do not agree with its path, namely to evacuate Idlib and go to Iraq to wage a war against Shi’ite militias there.
- A call on the youth in Hauran and Daraa to unite and renew the rebellion and protest against the Syrian regime, mainly due to the growing threat to Sunni identity by the Iranians who aspire to apply Shi’a in Syria. According to him, the Shi’ite plot to erase the identity of local Sunnis must be thwarted using any means possible.



¹⁰ Telegram

¹¹ Telegram

• Sheikh Abdullah al-Muhaysini, a senior Salafi-jihadist cleric in Syria, published the following:¹²

- A statement regarding an essay written by Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filastini, a prominent Salafi-jihadist cleric affiliated with Al-Qaeda, claiming that he is neither a Salafist nor a jihadist. According to al-Muhaysini, Abu Qatada’s intention was never to renounce jihad. Like Abu Qatada, he agreed that jihad should not belong to a particular group, but that it should be seen as the right things for the entire Muslim Nation, especially when it is required to defend itself against its enemies. He added that the West seeks to create a false consciousness according to which jihad is the property of a small group and characterizes only terrorist organizations, a trend that is supported by the mobilized media. In his opinion, jihad is the legacy of all Muslims.



- An announcement regarding a new possibility to direct visitors' questions to Sheikh al-Muhaysini through the “Shamna” WhatsApp channel (see photo). Among the questions posed to al-Muhaysini were: What is the law regarding a jihad fighter who hands over his weapons? How many children does al-Muhaysini have? Has jihad in Syria come to an end? Do the foreign fighters who migrated to Syria return to their countries if the Syrian revolution ends? Al-Muhaysini’s responses were assembled and published on a video clip that was uploaded to social networks, such as



the YouTube channel "Jerusalem is our capital". Al-Muhaysini replied that it is prohibited for a jihad fighter to hand over his weapons to the enemy and it is an expression of abject surrender, that jihad fighters are focused on their goal to overthrow Assad's regime and will cling to their weapons, and that even if the revolution in Syria comes to an end they will sacrifice their souls on the battlefield. ¹³Al-Muhaysini also announced a new option for visitors to send him questions on various topics in order to receive religious opinions and rulings through a unique designated site.¹⁴

- Correspondence regarding Al-Rukban refugee camp on the Jordan-Syria border. According to al-Muhaysini, over 70,000 men, women and children are under siege by

¹² Telegram
¹³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u97PYt_OBvs
¹⁴ <https://www.sarahah.com/messages/user/f3db8e62-2720-48f0-8aa2-de9283524872>

both the Syrian and Jordanian regimes in the heart of the desert, in the border area between Syria and Jordan, and face possible death due to hunger, water shortages and lack of medical care. In light of this, he called on Muslims to wake up to help their brothers.

- An appeal to Muslims everywhere to assist in media activities on behalf of the Muslim minority in China. According to al-Muhaysini, this minority is being persecuted by the Chinese authorities, a trend that is manifested in the closure of mosques, and prohibitions on fasting, reading the Quran, eating proper food, and more.
- A call to register children aged 7-12 for Quran study. The announcement was originally produced by the al-‘Izz bin ‘Abd al-Salam. Institute, which belongs to the “Center for Preachers of Jihad”, an umbrella organization composed of Salafi jihadist clerics in Idlib.



An announcement calling for children ages 7-12 to register for Quran study

- Sheikh **Abu al-Fatah al-Farghali**, a member of the Shari’a Council of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham in Syria, published the following:¹⁵
 - A series of statements on various topics published on a weekly basis under the hashtag, #خواطر. Two of the statements published this month referred to the murder of Saudi journalist, Jamal Khashoggi. In the first statement, al-Farghali referred to the butterfly effect in the context of Khashoggi’s murder, and claimed that the Saudi regime did not intend to kill him but rather only to drug him in order to transport him back to Saudi Arabia,



¹⁵ Telegram

but that an increased dose of the drug caused his death, leading to an escalation in the situation. In the second statement, al-Farghali claimed that Khashoggi's murder by the Saudi regime paints Muslims in a poor light in the eyes of the world, causing harm to Islam.

- Statuses under the hashtag, #معركة_الوعي. In one status, al-Farghali referred to the difference between those who rule according to shari'a and those who rule according to the laws of man, and he claimed that one must obey and follow the leader who rules according to shari'a. In another status, al-Farghali claimed that those who act according to their whims and bends the laws of shari'a harms jihad and the mujahideen, and one must beware of him even more than the enemy.
- A statement regarding the fact that those who call for abandoning the path of jihad only harm the mujahideen and pose the greatest danger to jihad.
- A statement regarding the fact that the surrender of weapons and the evacuation of posts are considered a betrayal of the Muslim religion and the blood of martyrs.
- Sheikh **Abu Malik al-Shami**, a member of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham in Syria, published the following:¹⁶
 - A video that was produced by the Balagh media institution, which is involved in media for Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, in which he condemned the agreement reached between Russia and Turkey in Idlib, as well as any foreign involvement in the region. Al-Shami spoke on the subject during his tour among Russian-speaking foreign fighters from Chechnya on Turkmen Mountain, when his words were translated into Russian by a Chechen fighter.



Abu Malik al-Shami in the company of foreign fighters from Chechnya in Syria

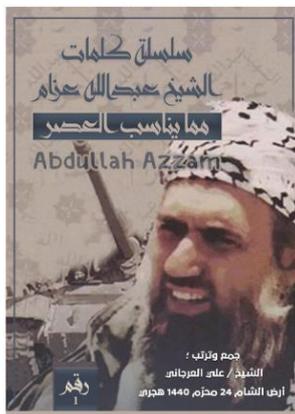
¹⁶ Telegram

- A statement against the handover of weapons by the mujahideen in Syria. According to al-Shami, handing over weapons to the factions according to the Sochi agreement means ending jihad in Syria.
- A statement regarding the difficult situation of the refugees in southern Syria on the border with Jordan, and a call on the mujahideen to help them by continuing to fight against the Alawite regime and its supporters, and not to surrender their weapons. Al-Shami also called on all factions to help one another in the battle against the Alawite regime.
- A statement regarding the advantages of digging trenches, which has served as a method of warfare since the time of the Prophet Muhammad and was intended to allow Muslims to attack rather than be attacked. He added that digging the trenches restored to Muslims belief in their own strength, maintained their military readiness for the battle, helped them become familiar with the terrain and terrorize the army against which they fought.
- The publication of several tips for the emirs of factions in Syria. Among the tips, al-Shami called on emirs to listen to the preaching and sermons of clerics, select a scholar to advise them and prevent them from making mistakes, read the Quran, serve an example to others, take professional courses in management, leadership and cooperation with others, use good advisors with understanding, experience and creativity. According to him, emirs generally hate criticism and prefer blind obedience, but this is dangerous and so they must listen to the clerics.
- Sheikh Abu al-Yaqdhan al-Masri, a member of the Shari'a Council and General Supervisor of Fighters and Suicide Operatives in Hayat Tahrir al-Sham in Syria, published the following:¹⁷
 - A Friday sermon on the importance of Muslim women's help in fulfilling the commandment of jihad. For example, al-Masri quoted traditions that dealt with the topic.
 - A series of videos in which he spoke about the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad against the enemies of Islam, including the Syrian regime.
- Sheikh **Ali al-Arjani**, a senior leader in the Syrian Liberation Front, published the following:



¹⁷ Telegram

- A series of publications of statements and insights given by senior jihad leaders. The first part of the series was dedicated to statements made by Sheikh Abdullah Azzam, one of the founders of Al-Qaeda, on topics related to the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad, the global plot of Islam’s enemies against Islam, and more.



The banner page of the publication containing a collection of statements by Sheikh Abdullah Azzam

- **Abu Basir al-Tartusi**, a jihad fighter in Syria, published the following:¹⁸

- Criticism against those who cooperate with Abu Muhammad al-Julani. According to al-Tartusi, the Russians are the guarantors of al-Julani’s security as they are for Assad’s security. He added that, while al-Assad gave the Russians the opportunity to invade Syria, al-Julani gives them the opportunity to destroy Syria under the guise of "fighting terrorism." In another correspondence, he accused al-Julani of causing young people to flee from the arena of jihad in Syria because he is forcing them to join and obey him or else he will fight them.
- Criticism of the disregard and neglect of the liberated areas in northern Syria. According to al-Tartusi, this stems from the mistakes made in these areas by al-Julani and the leader of the Islamic State, al-Baghdadi.
- A series of statuses regarding the murder of Saudi journalist, Jamal Khashoggi. In one status, al-Tartusi criticized Saudi Arabia for adopting IS patterns in Khashoggi’s murder. In another status, he referred to the Arab world’s silence in the face of Khashoggi’s murder by Saudi Arabia. He claimed that this stems from Arab countries’ support for Saudi Arabia and vice versa. In another status, he referred to the involvement of 15 people in the murder stemming



¹⁸ Telegram

from a call by Saudi clerics for blind obedience to the leader.

- Sheikh **Siraj al-Din Zariqat**, leader of the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda and active in the area of Lebanon and Syria, published the following:¹⁹

- Criticism against the Lebanese legal system for its decision to label him a terrorist who must be arrested and brought to justice. According to al-Zariqat, this decision is tainted by the extraneous considerations of the Lebanese Hezbollah organization, which has penetrated the judicial system as well as military, economic and other institutions. According to him, Hezbollah should be the one to stand trial for its involvement in terrorist activities against the Sunni population in Lebanon and abroad as it is a tool of the Iranian regime, which uses it to advance its interests. According to him, Hezbollah is involved in a wide range of activities against the Sunni population, not only in Lebanon but in Yemen, Iraq and Syria as well, in order to help the Iranian forces strengthen their hold in Sunni-populated areas.
- Al-Zariqat claimed that the Lebanese legal system is adopting a policy of double standards regarding "terrorist" activity carried out by Sunnis and Shi'ites. For example, he noted that for over a year, a trial has been held against Sunnis arrested on suspicion of involvement in a terrorist attack against Hezbollah strongholds in southern Lebanon, while Hezbollah operatives are not interrogated about their involvement in assassinations that were carried out over the years of dozens of journalists, politicians, and Sunni intellectuals, including Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who was killed in 2005. According to him, the Lebanese people know very well that Hezbollah has a "hit list" of Lebanese Sunni figures. He accused the Lebanese judicial system of conducting investigations against Sunnis on suspicion of activity against Hezbollah operatives in order to defend Hezbollah's strongholds, as opposed to its total abandonment of Sunni security in the country in the face of Hezbollah's aggression. He noted that the Lebanese judicial system is well aware of the secret prisons run by Hezbollah in order to hold dozens of Syrian Sunnis without trial. Towards the end of his statements, al-Zariqat noted that he sees himself as the protector of the Sunnis in Lebanon and Syria.
- A call on Sunnis to help jihad fighters in Syria and Lebanon in any way possible in light of the persecution and oppression carried out against them by the Shi'ites, led by Iran and



¹⁹ Telegram

the Lebanese Hezbollah. According to him, this assistance should also take the form of financial contributions to jihad fighters.

- Sheikh **Abu Hafs al-Maqdisi**, the leader of Jaysh al-Umma (Army of the Nation), a Salafi-jihadist organization the Gaza Strip that is affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published the following:²⁰
 - Criticism against the Hamas and Fatah leadership. According to al-Maqdisi, there is a deep rift between the two leaderships despite attempts to reach unity among the ranks. According to him, this rift caused – and continues to cause – great suffering among the Palestinian people as well as the destruction of the Palestinian economy, the deaths of hundreds of Palestinians, the migration of thousands of Palestinians to Europe and other countries, the destruction of family life, society and life itself, and more. According to him, the continuation of this trend only serves Israel.
 - A statement regarding terrorist attacks by lone wolves in Israel. Al-Maqdisi noted that these attacks succeed in having an effect on the "occupier", but are not sufficient to bring about the liberation of Palestine. Hence, one must move from individual jihad to national jihad.

Strategy

- In issue no. 150 of *Al-Naba* magazine, a poster was published on the use of arson as part of jihad against infidels. The advice given to "supporters of the Caliphate" in this context included: igniting a number of adjacent sites to increase the effect, throwing Molotov cocktails at the targets, dumping inflammable materials near the place of ignition to ensure that the fire will spread quickly, and more. Among the targets mentioned for attacks were high-rise buildings, forests (especially in dry times), commercial centers, warehouses, gas stations, vehicles, shops, farms, etc. The poster emphasized that arson – which can be done quickly and without special training - may cause great economic damage to the enemies and force them to place guards in many places to prevent fires. It was also emphasized that fires cause panic, which may cause more deaths (for example, in the case of a stampede) than even explosive charges.

²⁰ Telegram



Arson as a tool for attacking the enemy (Al-Naba magazine, issue no. 150)

- In issue no. 152 of *Al-Naba* magazine, a poster was published on attracting the enemy to a place in which one can harm him. Among the proposals included in the poster: placing a dummy or real charge to attract larger forces against whom additional charges can be launched, sending a message to security forces in order to attract them to a premeditated location or to place a car bomb on their way, tempt security or intelligence forces to isolated locations in order to kill them or take them captive, and more.
- Al-Saqri for Military Sciences media group published the following:²¹
 - Instructions on preparing a bomb based on SolidOx, a material used in welding as an oxidizer that allows the intensity of the flame to increase and the metal to dissolve. The instructions explained that by grinding the material and mixing with sugar, it is possible to produce a powerful material that can be used for a variety of purposes.



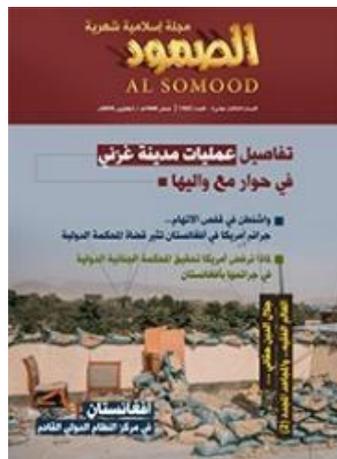
Instructions on preparing a bomb based on SolidOx

²¹ Telegram

- Instructions on preparing a delay mechanism for an explosive charge based on a bag that drips salt water, which closes the circuit and activates the charge.

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published issue no. 152 of *Al-Somood* magazine for October 2018. Among the topics covered in the magazine’s articles were: an interview with the person responsible for the area of Ghazni regarding the organization’s attacks on the city; an article referring to the reason why the US refuses an international investigation into its crimes in Afghanistan; condolences over the death of Jalaluddin Haqqani, the leader of the Haqqani family and a veteran jihad fighter in Afghanistan; an article regarding the escape of Afghan soldiers from the army.²²



The banner page of *Al-Somood*

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



The banner page of *Nawai Afghan Jihad*

²² <http://file4up.net/uploads/152.pdf>

²³ Telegram.

- Huras al-Din, Al-Qaeda’s branch in Syria, launched a new magazine called *Al-Falah*. Among the topics of the articles published in the first issue of the new magazine were: the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad in Syria; the Sochi agreement and its positive and negative ramifications on jihad in Syria. It mentioned that one positive ramification was that the enemy understood that it was not possible to enter a military zone, and one negative ramification was the continuation of the campaign; the characteristics of the fifth generation of Al-Qaeda; quotes by Sheikh Abdullah Azzam, one of the founders of Al-Qaeda; tips for maintaining personal security in the field of technology against spying.



The banner page of the new magazine, *Al-Falah*

- The Turkestan Islamic Movement, which has ties to Al-Qaeda, published issue no. 24 of the magazine, *Turkestan al-Islamiyya*. Among the topics covered in the issue were: the importance of bringing the issue of East Turkestan to the consciousness of Muslims around the world; a detailed reference to the oppression of Chinese Muslims by the Chinese regime; a call on Muslims to wage jihad against the Chinese authorities and to harm their interests around the world because of their oppressive policies against the Muslim minority in China; and more. The issue also included an exclusive interview with Sheikh Abdullah Mansour, the deputy leader of the Turkestan Islamic Movement. In the opening of the interview, Mansour reviewed the history of the magazine’s founding. He noted that the magazine was first published in 2008 in Turkic in the days of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. In his words: “*The publication of the magazine was an old dream in which all the senior officials in our group were interested, but the Arab immigrant brothers in Afghanistan would consistently ask us to translate the magazine’s*

articles into Arabic. *We loved out Arab brothers and their interest in our problem. These two factors formed the basis for the idea of establishing the Turkestan al-Islamiyya magazine*". He added that Arabic is the language of the Quran and the hadith, *"It is the language through which we learn about our religion, every Muslim must learn this language"*, and he stressed that the purpose of the Arabic journal is to make the Muslim Nation conscious of the Turkestan issue. According to him, members of the organization succeeded in establishing this journal despite the fall of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and thanks to the assistance of several jihadists in the area of Waziristan, such as Sheikh Abu Yahya al-Libi, a former senior Al-Qaeda leader.

According to Mansour, the magazine serves as an important platform to expose the issue of East Turkestan to the world, to wage a media war against China by exposing the Chinese government's crimes against Muslims in the country, to promote the desire of the Muslim minority in East Turkestan to achieve freedom and independence, to live under shari'a, and to spur the Nation to fulfil the commandment of jihad. Later, he expressed satisfaction with the results of the organization's propaganda activities and the aforementioned journal because of it revived the discourse on the issue of Turkistan throughout the Muslim world, as expressed in the following words: *"Thank God, our brothers around the world are following our forgotten problem, talking about it from prayer platforms in mosques, on screens, and writing about it in books and on Internet pages."*

Later in the interview, Mansour noted that his organization is a Salafist organization that seeks to fight against the Chinese regime in order to liberate Turkestan. He even expressed willingness to help all Islamic and non-Islamic groups that protect the oppressors and seek to protect human rights based on shari'a.

Another issue that was addressed by Mansour dealt with the participation of members of the organization in the battle against the Assad regime in Syria. According to him, the organization established a branch in Syria back in the early days of the revolution there, in which hundreds of members of the organization participated. According to him, several goals formed the foundation of the organization's branch in Syria: fulfill of the commandment of jihad; train thousands of Turkic Muslims who had emigrated to Syria in the military camps; teach war sciences; develop combat skills, and accumulate experience and tactics from other power sources; and revive the Turkestan issue among jihad fighters in the nation.

Mansour was asked about criticisms made by various elements according to which the organization's fighters had done nothing about Turkestan and had not opened military fronts in China, but rather focused on the battlefronts in Afghanistan and Syria. Mansour responded that

the Chinese regime has viewed the organization as a nuisance for 20 years, and stressed that the former fights against jihadists and expels them from East Turkestan on the pretext of terrorism, separatism and other charges. Mansour drew attention to the fact that for 20 years, the organization carried out a number of attacks in Turkestan and inside China, which the media can attest to, and that *"the resistance against China continues. We repeat that with God's help and power we will continue our jihad against China until we win or are martyred for his sake. Anyone who claims that we have not done anything for 20 years, is telling lies and fabrications"*. Mansour noted that the organization is investing efforts to build infrastructure inside Turkestan, but that only God will determine when victory will be achieved, adding that the members of the organization fighting in Afghanistan and Syria are gaining military experience and are succeeding in producing experienced officers and soldiers. Mansour also referred to the importance of the role of clerics in the propaganda war for Muslims in Turkestan and in condemning the policy of persecution by the Chinese authorities against Muslims. According to him, clerics must advance this issue to Muslims' consciousness through their sermons in mosques and by: urging Muslims to demonstrate in support of their oppressed brothers in Turkestan; preaching to the Islamic Nation that the Chinese regime does not strive for peace but rather for a war against Islam and Muslims; asking Muslims to boycott Chinese products and to fight in China in any way; asking Muslim regimes to pressure the Chinese regime to ease the suffering of Muslims; providing religious education to the sons of the Turkic immigrants, and explaining the Turkestan issue to them as well as the importance of preserving Islamic identity; collecting donations from wealthy Muslims and send them to Turkic immigrants who need financial support, such as jihad fighters, in order to strengthen them against the enemy. Finally, Mansour called on members of the Islamic Nation to help Turkic Muslims and members of the organization in any way possible until they achieve victory in Turkestan.²⁴



From left to right: an interview with Sheikh Abdullah Mansour, the deputy leader of the Turkestan Islamic Movement; the banner page of the *Turkestan al-Islamiyya* magazine

²⁴ Telegram

- Issues no. 150-153 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published. Among the topics covered in the magazine's articles were: an operational review of the organization's attacks in various arenas, articles praising jihad and ribat (parking of jihad fighters on the enemy's border), a special article describing the stationing of American forces in Al-Anbar as a failed operation,; an article regarding the Egyptian military campaign against IS forces in Sinai; and a banner warning against the dangers of espionage and surveillance on cell phones (for more details regarding posters from the periodical, see *Strategy*).²⁵



The banner page of issue no. 152 of *Al-Naba*

- Hayat Tahrir al-Sham published issues no. 17-20 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.²⁶



The banner page of issue no. 20 of the periodical, *Ibaa*

²⁵

²⁶ Telegram

- Issue no, 23 of the periodical, *An-Anfal*, which helps the IS, was published. Among the topics covered in the issue were the following: a call on IS supporters not to despair; a review of the organization’s military activities in various provinces; quotes from the hadith; instructions on using TOR; and fatwas on various religious topics.²⁷
- Issue no. 5 of the magazine, *Al-Ḥaḡīqah*, which is affiliated with Salafi-jihadist fighters in Syria, was published. Among the topics covered in the issue were the following: an article criticizing Russia and Turkey’s involvement in Syria; an exclusive interview with a senior leader of the Taliban Pakistan named Adnan Rashid (see section on Pakistan in this report for the full interview); a call for donations to jihad fighters using bitcoin currency; an article about the importance of protecting passwords on the Internet; an interview with a jihad fighter in Syria about his impressions and experiences.²⁸



From left to right: one of the banner pages of the issue in which drones are seen attacking enemy ships; the banner page of *Al-Ḥaḡīqah*

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (the Taliban) published the following:
 - An announcement regarding remarks made by the new US Army general in Afghanistan, Austin Miller, who claimed that the Taliban Afghanistan should not wait for the withdrawal of US and NATO forces because they plan to extend their stay in Afghanistan.

²⁷ Telegram

²⁸ Telegram

In the announcement, the organization stated that the US entanglement in Afghanistan for 17 years shows that the US cannot win this war and that the war in Afghanistan does not have support from within the US. The spokesman for the organization also threatened that the US will experience further failures if it continues fighting in Afghanistan and promised that jihad would continue until the liberation of Afghanistan.²⁹

- An announcement regarding US bombings in Nangarhar Province, which were intended to help the IS. The announcement stated that, in recent days, the Taliban had succeeded in purging several areas in Nangarhar Province of the IS, but that the US bombed the Taliban positions in the same area to help the IS. The announcement added that, despite the bombings, the Taliban managed to maintain the liberated territories and continues to act against the IS.³⁰
- An announcement marking 17 years since the US invasion of Afghanistan. The announcement stated that the US invaded Afghanistan following the September 11 attacks even though Afghans did not take part in those attacks, and it set goals for itself, such as stability and security in Afghanistan, the elimination of drug trafficking and the establishment of a government that would suit the Afghan people in order to justify the invasion. Nevertheless, the announcement noted that none of these goals were achieved and that the western culture that brought the US to Afghanistan, such as women's rights, only serves to destroy the principles of the Afghan people. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on the US and other foreign forces to withdraw from Afghanistan and threatened that the struggle against them would continue if they did not so.³¹
- An announcement about the upcoming government elections in Afghanistan. The announcement stated that the elections are fake because Afghanistan is under occupation, and that they are intended to legitimize pre-determined appointments by the US and to give residents a false sense that they have freedom of choice. Later in the announcement, the organization called on the Afghan people not to participate in the elections and it called on the candidates taking part in the elections to withdraw their candidacy. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on the mujahideen to launch attacks during the elections, while protecting the lives of Afghan civilians and

²⁹ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=35334>

³⁰ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=35430>

³¹ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=35639>

their property.³²

- A condemnation of a UNAMA report according to which most of the civilian casualties over the last nine months were caused by the mujahideen. The announcement claimed that most of the casualties were caused by the US and the government in Kabul, and by the IS which is supported by US intelligence. The announcement added that the UNAMA report is propaganda designed to turn a blind eye to American crimes, mislead the public and encourage the US to continue to commit crimes against Afghan civilians.³³
- An announcement regarding the resumption of Red Cross activities in Afghanistan. The announcement stated that Taliban representatives had reached an agreement with the Red Cross on continuing their activities in Afghanistan at a meeting held between them in Doha, Qatar, after the organization cancelled Red Cross activities following suspicions against it in August 2018. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on the mujahideen to restore security to Red Cross personnel so that they can carry out their activities.³⁴
- An announcement regarding a meeting that was held between representatives of the Taliban Afghanistan and the US delegation in Doha, Qatar. According to the announcement, the meeting dealt with ending the occupation of foreign forces in Afghanistan and finding a peaceful solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. The announcement added that, in the meeting, Taliban representatives emphasized that the presence of foreign forces in Afghanistan is the main obstacle to real peace in Afghanistan and that Afghanistan is an Islamic country with an Islamic culture. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that future meetings between the parties would continue.³⁵
- A statement issued by the Committee for the Prevention of Civilian Casualties of the Islamic Emirate regarding the number of civilian casualties in Helmand Province following an attack by government soldiers in Kabul, in conjunction with the US. The organization condemned the attack, which resulted in the killing of 19 civilians and the injury of 30 more.³⁶
- An announcement calling on school and university principals, and the teachers who

³² <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=35689>

³³ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=35873>

³⁴ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=35913>

³⁵ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=35968>

³⁶ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=36158>

teach in them, to refrain from participating in the elections and to prevent students in educational institutions from participating in this process. The announcement explained that the elections are intended to create a government that will agree to prolong the occupation and achieve the colonial objectives of the US, and therefore it is necessary to boycott the elections. The organization also called on the teaching staff not to allow polling stations to be opened in educational institutions because the organization does not want teachers and students to be harmed by the mujahideen's attacks.³⁷

- An announcement calling on all influential clerics, preachers and dignitaries to raise public awareness that participation in the elections is illegal and intended to legitimize the US plan in Afghanistan, and to prevent the public's participation in the elections as much as possible.³⁸
- A statement by the military commission of the Islamic Emirate regarding the elections to the government. The organization called on the Afghan people to boycott the election process because it was a plot by the United States to prolong the occupation in Afghanistan. The statement added that the Taliban intends to close all roads on election day and, therefore, the Afghan people must stay in their homes and avoid traveling on the roads so as not to be harmed. The organization also called for not allowing public institutions to be used as polling stations, and stated that the organization's intelligence personnel would monitor all developments.³⁹
- An announcement regarding the failure of the elections and the attacks that took place during them. According to the statement, 407 attacks took place on election day, causing the destruction and closing of polling stations, and damage to Afghan security forces. The organization added that most of the residents abstained from voting, except for government officials and residents of several cities who were forced to go out and vote.⁴⁰
- An announcement regarding the sanctions against the Taliban Afghanistan. In the announcement, the organization condemned the economic sanctions imposed by the US together with several Arab countries on senior Taliban Afghanistan leaders, and claimed that they constituted a human rights violation. Later in the announcement, the organization emphasized that senior Taliban leaders do not conduct financial transactions with the US anyway and, therefore, these sanctions are ineffective. The

³⁷ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=36160>

³⁸ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=36224>

³⁹ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=36263>

⁴⁰ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=36416>

organization further claimed that, instead of solving the Afghan problem by means of talks, the US insists on methods of coercion and pressure that did not prove useful. The organization also referred to the Arab countries that cooperated with the US and condemned their actions. At the end of the statement, the organization threatened that if the US will not understand that the way to a solution is by reaching understandings and accepting reality, it will bear the harmful consequences in its future elections.⁴¹

- A statement regarding the release of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. In the announcement, the organization congratulated Baradar, the former deputy of the Taliban Afghanistan leader, on his release from Pakistani prison after nine years. The statement added that Baradar was released in good health and that his release was not done within the framework of a specific deal. The organization wished him to return to his jihad activity.⁴²
- A poster containing visual information about the organization's military activities in Afghanistan during the months of August and September. It stated that the organization carried out 2,031 military operations during this period; one suicide attack; one interception of six UAV's and helicopters; the surrender of 1,697 enemy soldiers; the seizure of 338 weapons; 36 enemy forces killed; and more.⁴³



A poster containing visual information about the organization’s military activities from Aug-Sept 2018

The Taliban Pakistan

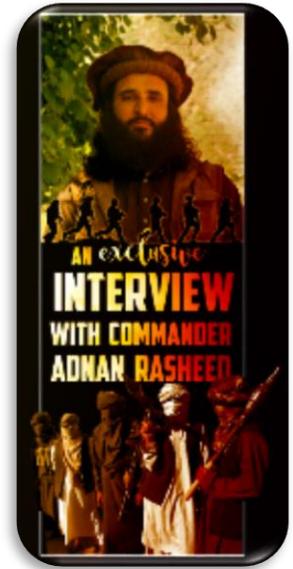
- The Taliban Pakistan published the following:

⁴¹ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=36628>

⁴² <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=36675>

⁴³ Telegram

- A video containing a eulogy for the leader of the organization, Mullah Fazlullah, and a call to maintain unity among the ranks of jihad fighters.⁴⁴
- *Al-Haqīqah* magazine, which is published in English by jihad fighters in Syria affiliated with Al-Qaeda, published an interview that was held with a senior military commander in the organization named Adnan Rashid regarding jihad in Pakistan and his connection to jihad in Syria (see photo). In the interview, Rashid claimed that it is clear that the mujahideen on all fronts should unite, but added that this is not the appropriate time for such unification for several reasons: first, the mujahideen are in a weaker position and come from among the commoners while the infidels are the ones in power, which makes unification difficult. The second reason is that global jihad needs a special commander with charismatic qualities to stand up to the global army. The third reason is that communication between the mujahideen is under surveillance and, therefore, it is difficult to maintain global coordination between them. As to whether the struggle in Syria can be compared to the struggle in Afghanistan/Pakistan, Rashid claimed that of all the struggles in these countries have the common goal of replacing the tyrannical regime with an Islamic regime, which will eventually lead to a global caliphate. He added that it is clear that the mujahideen from Syria can join the Taliban Pakistan but they must remember that the organization’s jihad front is the Pakistani regime. Later in the interview, Rashid noted that the situation in Pakistan is similar to the situation in Syria and that Pakistan today is a corrupt country with an army of mercenaries and, therefore, its future is devastation and destruction. With regard to the connection between the Taliban Pakistan and Al-Qaeda, Rashid claimed that there is no strategic or operational coordination between the Taliban Pakistan and Al-Qaeda, but the organizations respect one another on the basis of Muslim brotherhood. According to him, Al-Qaeda is more of an ideology than an organization and has laid the foundations for an oath of allegiance to one leader. He added that the roots of any jihadist movement in the current century are found in the ideology of Al-Qaeda. He reiterated that jihad is the only way for Muslims in the world to break the status quo of the superpowers and



⁴⁴ Telegram

that it is the only solution to all problems in the Muslim world. He added that jihad in Pakistan could not exist without public support since the funding and manpower come from among the Pakistanis.

As for what skills are needed to be a good mujahid, Rashid claimed that the mujahid needs spiritual and physical skills. He explained that the mujahid's main battle is with his own soul, so that he will not surrender to his desires. However, it is important that the mujahid also has physical skills - he must be strong and healthy with survival techniques, political wisdom and martial arts. In addition, he must believe that jihad is a religious obligation and commandment by Allah, and must be waged according to the Sunni faith. He reiterated that he supported all of the mujahideen of Ahl al-Sunnah all over the world, including those fighting in Syria.

As for the Pakistani regime, Rashid claimed that it plays a dual role - on the one hand, it supports the US and NATO, and wants to remain in Afghanistan to guard against attacks, but on the other hand it provides shelter and funding to members of the Taliban Afghanistan, such as the Haqqani network. He added that the Taliban Afghanistan realizes that Pakistan is the enemy but due to internal problems it does not declare war on the Pakistani army; rather, it supports the activities of the Taliban Pakistan.

At the end of the interview, Rashid gave advice to fighters in Syria: maintain unity in order to achieve their goals, defend their jihad against foreign influences, avoid idealism, show concern for the local inhabitants and to gain their sympathy, and be careful with the operations that they carry out because every action leads to a reaction and may affect Muslims around the world. For example, if the mujahideen in one place destroy synagogues or churches, this could lead to infidels destroying mosques in their countries. Therefore, it is important to think about the implications of each action so as not to give the infidels a trigger to harm Muslims living in infidel lands.

[The Islamic State](#)

- The IS in Khorasan Province published a filmed review about the execution of two people accused of spying for the US and Afghani armies.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Telegram

The Arabian Peninsula

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- Al-Nur jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with AQAP, published the following:
 - A video titled, “The Espionage Industry: Part One” in a video series titled, “Demolishing the Espionage”, which began in early September this year. The video dealt with the exposure of a spy network operating in Yemen under the direction of the Saudi intelligence services. In the beginning of the video, the US and all of its institutions were described as " a spider’s house”, meaning a home whose foundation is shaky and destined to fall due to the moral corruption and tyranny that characterizes it. The US soldier was described as a weak soldier who is emotionally and morally tired of war, with technology serving as a protective wall for him, as well as a network of agents, traitors and hypocrites. Without them, the American soldier is worth nothing. Later in the video, spies were interviewed who had been sent by Saudi Arabia and captured by the organization in Yemen. In the interviews, the spies told of the fear that gripped them while they were engaged in espionage activity in Yemen, and they expressed remorse and sorrow over their willingness to spy.

Sheikh Qasim al-Raymi, the leader of AQAP, was interviewed for the video, praised its creators and stressed that it was the duty of the Muslim public to become acquainted with the existence of spies in order to beware of them. The narrator then pointed out that, in order to destroy the "espionage industry", one must get to know it up close. Later, the video dealt with various issues concerning espionage, such as espionage methods, the psychological characteristics and personality of spies, their recruitment methods, the guidelines for the recruitment of spies, and more. Sheikh Ibrahim Abu Saleh, responsible for security in the organization, emphasized that the enemy will never be able to recruit to its ranks spies who are devout in their religion. According to him, only people who are weak in their religion, endowed with poor morals, lovers of money, and those who hate jihadists will serve as targets of recruitment for the enemy. To back up these claims, the spies in captivity admitted that spies are anarchists who are usually unfaithful to their religion, and so on. According to them, the enemy seeks to identify points of weakness in the personalities of potential recruits, such as a love of money, and exploits them to exert pressure and blackmail them in order to recruit them as spies. Sheikh Ibrahim al-Qosi Khabib al-Sudani, a senior leader in the organization, noted that the Prophet Muhammad, in his time, warned against people who were willing to do

anything for money. According to him, Muslims must not act out of narrow interests and egoistic considerations, but rather for the common good.

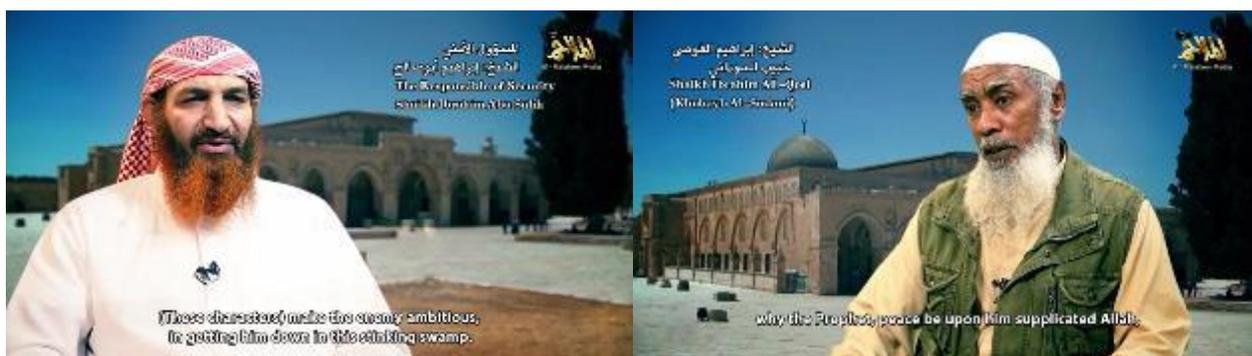
According to Abu Saleh, the ideal place to recruit spies is prisons. Sheikh Khalid Batarfi, spokesman for the organization, noted that recruitment in prisons is not limited to a certain group and that a prison term is an excellent time for the enemy to study the personality components of the prisoners in order to locate potential candidates for espionage. He added that when the potential candidate is found for espionage purposes, the enemy seeks to break his spirit, threatens to harm his family and tempts him with money. However, according to Batarfi, there are prisoners who are aware of the enemy's schemes and plans, and are protecting themselves from these recruitment attempts. The video included documentation of the organization's members breaking into one of the prisons in Yemen, where they succeeded in releasing some of their prisoners, including Sheikh Batarfi.

Later in the video, additional recruitment sites of potential spies were mentioned, including hospitals, clinics, health centers, scientific centers, universities and schools. In addition, video mentioned the tasks entrusted to those spies: disrupting the organization's path; sowing feelings of frustration and spreading rumors and lies; inciting; creating problems; collecting information and transferring it to the enemy; placing electronic chips for surveillance purposes; recruiting certain individuals and presenting them to the enemy; advising the enemy regarding the choice of targets and methods of action.

Another part of the video described the spies as enemies of the Muslim believers acting in the service of the enemy, while quoting verses from the Quran calling to beware of them and that they should be eliminated. The spies captured by the organization testified that one of the effective methods used against the organization was spreading false rumors, such as its military inability to carry out certain operations, in order to cause demoralization and confusion as they did during the organization's retreat from al-Mukalla in Yemen. Qasim al-Raymi noted that the spies themselves confessed that, for them, the dissemination of rumors was more important than setting up mechanisms for monitoring jihadists, because if they were intended to tear apart the organization from within. Khabib al-Sudani added that these spies seek to divert jihadists from their faith and harm Islam. According to him, the Quran itself referred to the devil in the form of a man, who sought to harm the mission and the message of the Prophet Muhammad.

According to him, one should beware of spies and kill them.

According to the narrator, despite the spies' attempts to sow a rift among jihadists and divert them from their faith in Islam, the spies failed in their mission. The end of the video included a speech by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, in praise of senior Al-Qaeda commanders in its various branches in the past and present, including Sheikh Osama bin Laden and Abdullah Azzam, while displaying their photos in the background as well as photos of past Muslim heroes, such as Suleiman al-Halabi (1777-1801), a student at Al-Azhar who assassinated the French general, Jean-Kléber, who headed the French force that invaded Egypt. According to al-Zawahiri, jihad fighters are a symbol and example of devout Muslims who are willing to sacrifice their lives and defend the word of God, the religion of Islam, and the Muslim Nation. At the end of the video, it was emphasized again that the enemy in the West resembled a "spider's house," meaning that it was weak and built on shaky foundations.⁴⁶



From left to right: Khabib al-Sudani, a senior leader in the organization; Sheikh Ibrahim Abu Saleh, responsible for security in AQAP

Iraq

The Islamic State

- The media departments of the provinces of the IS in Iraq published the following:
 - *Kirkuk Province*: A video documenting attacks and operational activities by the organization in Kirkuk Province. Among other incidents, the video documented an ambush on a police vehicle on the Kirkuk-Baiji road, the infiltration of posts in the Allas oil field areas, and the preparation and detonation of explosive devices against police forces and, south of Daquq. The video ended with documentation of the execution of

⁴⁶ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb/>

several prisoners and traitors while making threats against Tribal Mobilization Forces (TMF) that they would face the same fate if they did not repent.⁴⁷

- *Diyala Province*: A video titled, “Crushing the Heads”, which documented the organization’s attacks against TMF in the province. The video documented house raids and assassinations of TMF members, an attack against TMF members on a football field, an inghimās attack against TMF members in the Al-Khadraniyya and Sdeera communities in which a former member of the Iraqi parliament was also killed, and a raid on a building in the Al-Khudur area, which included the arrest and execution of several supporters of the Iraqi government.⁴⁸

Al-Sham [The Levant]

Syria

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham

- The Amjad jihadist media institution, which operates on behalf of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, published the following:
 - A video in memory of a martyr named ‘Abd al-Karim al-Balushi, a member of the Shura Council of Katībat al-Muhājirīn al-Sunnah Min Iran (the Migrant Battalion of Sunnis in Iran), who migrated from Balochistan, Iran, to Syrian soil to fight among the ranks of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham against Syrian regime forces. In the video, foreign fighters from Balochistan were interviewed and spoke about the Iranian regime’s persecution of the Sunni minority in Iran. They called on Sunnis in Balochistan to migrate to Iran and fulfil the commandment of jihad against the enemy.⁴⁹



A Baloch fighter from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham calling on Sunnis in Iran to fulfill the commandment of jihad against enemies of the religion

⁴⁷ Telegram; <https://archive.org/download/marsd>

⁴⁸ Telegram; [https://ia801506.us.archive.org/10/items/n8kg0x3dr_disbox Falk](https://ia801506.us.archive.org/10/items/n8kg0x3dr_disbox_Falk)

⁴⁹ Telegram.

- A video titled, “The Life Path”, which told the story of Abu Salman al-Shami, a fighter among the ranks of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham who was killed in a suicide attack. In the video, al-Shami said that he used have a regular life as an Arabic teacher until he was exposed to the injustices against Muslims in Syria, which encouraged him to join jihad, in which he was active for several years. Al-Shami explained that after several years of regular fighting, he realized that he could not cause enough damage to the enemies and, therefore, he decided to join the list of "suicide bombers". Al-Shami stressed that he was not “mentally ill or someone who fled from a painful reality”, and he called on Muslims to return to their Islamic roots and learn about the stories of sacrifice by exemplary figures in Islamic history. Al-Shami said that, although he leaves behind a newborn baby, the thought of Muslim orphans who lost their parents makes it easier for him to carry out this operation. The final part of the video showed the final preparations before the suicide attack (survey of the area, vehicle inspection, etc.) and an aerial photograph of the explosion itself (the target was not explicitly presented in the video).⁵⁰



Promoting the myth of the martyr by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham

- A video in which a member of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps who was taken captive by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham appealed to Iran to work for his release from the organization. He noted that his health was not good due to an injury and that Iran, and especially Qasem Soleimani, head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, should act as quickly as possible for his release.⁵¹
- An announcement regarding the Sochi agreement between Russia and Turkey concerning Idlib. In the announcement, the organization stated that it would continue

⁵⁰ https://amjad.media/tariq_alhayat

⁵¹ Telegram

waging jihad to implement the goals of the Syrian revolution and that it was not ready to disarm. The organization added that it appreciates the efforts made to defend the liberated areas, and to prevent them from being invaded and their inhabitants slaughtered. Later in the announcement, the organization claimed that all attempts by the Alawite regime and its supporters to act against the revolution were doomed to fail, and it warned against trusting Russia since it is trying to weaken the ranks of the Syrian revolution. In addition, the organization praised the foreign fighters who migrated to Syria and all those who volunteered to help further the revolution. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on international organizations to fulfill their moral duty towards the Syrian people, and on the Islamic people to support the Syrian revolution.⁵²

- An announcement regarding the assassination of two senior members of the organization in northern Aleppo: Abu Turrab al-Shami, shari'a leader of the northern region, and Abu Muhammad Akram, deputy commander of the northern region. The announcement stated that the murder of the two senior leaders was carried out while they were on their way to resolve several conflicts with Nour al-Din al-Zenki and Ahrar al-Sham. The announcement called for the killers to be extradited and brought to a shari'a court. The organization also declared that it was not interested in escalating the internal war between the factions, but would not allow harm to its members.⁵³
- The Balagh jihadist media institution, which is involved in media for Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, published a series of videos that included speeches and sermons by several senior figures in the organization regarding the importance of enlisting Muslims in the battle against Syrian regime forces; fulfilment of the commandment of jihad; adherence to God's laws; and more. For example, one of the organization's leaders said that the young people should draw inspiration from ancient war heroes in Islam who acted fearlessly against the enemies of Islam.⁵⁴

Huras al-Din

- Huras al-Din, Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, published the following:
 - A video documenting employees of the organization's dawah office enforcing shari'a laws related to women's clothing in the city of Saraqib, including distributing black veils

⁵² Telegram

⁵³ Telegram

⁵⁴ Telegram

and dresses to schoolgirls in the city.⁵⁵

- A statement including a eulogy in memory of Sheikh Abu Islam al-Diri, a member of the organization’s leadership and Shura councils. According to the statement, he died of a prolonged illness.⁵⁶
- The Center for Preaching the Oneness of God”, which is affiliated with Huras al-Din, Al-Qaeda’s branch in Syria, published the following:
 - A video in which an adult fighter appealed to youth to fulfil the commandment of jihad against the enemies of religion and God, namely Syrian security forces and their allies. According to him, the obligation of jihad is the individual religious duty of every Muslim and it must not be abandoned. ⁵⁷In another video, a fighter from the organization explained to a group of youth who had gathered in a games hall the importance of their enlistment in the ranks of fighters against the Syrian regime.⁵⁸

The Islamic State

- The media departments of the provinces of the IS in Syria and the Amaq news agency published the following:
 - *Al-Baraka Province*: A video titled, “The Monotheists’ Attacks”. The video documented various attacks by the organization’s fighters, including gun battles and the dispatch of suicide terrorists against PKK forces in the province, and especially in the Hajin camp area. Against the backdrop of the presentation of Arab prisoners who were taken captive by IS forces during the battles, IS fighters were shown calling on Arabs in the province to refrain from enlisting to help the PKK or to support the US since, in the end, they will be the ones to pay the price and not their patrons. The end of the video showed a victory procession by IS fighters alongside documentation of the burial of martyrs who were killed during the fighting.⁵⁹ In addition, the organization published on Telegram several claims of responsibility for attacks against PKK forces in the Bahra area.
 - The Amaq news agency published video documentation of PKK forces who were taken captive by the IS in an attack on the town of Susa in Deir Ezzor Province. Another video

⁵⁵ Telegram

⁵⁶ Telegram

⁵⁷ Telegram

⁵⁸ Telegram.

⁵⁹ <https://archive.org/download/sawlat>

documented captives from Al-Sh'etat tribe who fought among the ranks of Syrian elite forces.⁶⁰

Turkestan Islamic Party

- During the month of October 2018, the Turkestan Islamic Party published several videos calling on Muslim believers to fulfil the commandment of jihad against enemies of Islam, such as the Chinese and Syrian regimes.⁶¹ Another video dealt with the indoctrination and education of Uyghur children. The children were documented as having memorized and studying the Quran alongside receiving a military education. The video also included a lecture in Turkish by one of the teachers responsible for educating children on the importance of protecting the lives of Muslims and the natural resources of Muslim lands from the West and other countries.⁶²



Uighur children are educated on the Quran and jihad

The Gaza Strip-Sinai Peninsula

The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula

- The IS in Sinai Province published a filmed review about a gun battle between the organization and the Egyptian army in the area of Bal'a in Egyptian Rafah.⁶³

Africa

The Maghreb

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

⁶⁰ Telegram

⁶¹ Telegram

⁶² Telegram

⁶³ Telegram

- Al-Andalus jihadist media institution, which belongs to AQIM, published the following:
 - An announcement titled, “The War Against Westernization in Algeria ... What Comes After the Prohibition on Poisoning?!”. In the announcement, the organization issued harsh criticism against the Prime Minister of Algeria for prohibiting the wearing of a veil in public places, such as schools. According to the organization, the Prime Minister and the President of Algeria are busy suppressing the symbols of Islam rather than finding solutions to the various problems of the country, such as the corruption that afflicts all the country’s institutions. The organization accused France and the Crusader West of being responsible for the ban on wearing a veil in Algeria. Later in the announcement, the organization appealed to Muslim women and expressed regret over the reality they were experiencing, namely, a war against values and morality, and it called on them to adhere to the religion of God despite the ongoing oppression against God's commandments.⁶⁴

Libya

The Islamic State

- The IS published the following:
 - *Al-Barqa Province*: A report of a takeover of the town of Al-Fuqha, which was under the control of Khalifa Haftar’s forces, by the organization's fighters for several hours. According to the report, the fighters raided the town’s police station, set it on fire and killed or captured several of the employees at the station. In addition, IS fighters raided several homes in the area in a search for wanted persons. Additional attacks carried out in the province included a suicide and firearm attack on a checkpoint on the Jufra-Sabha road, as well as the detonation of an explosive device on a military vehicle.⁶⁵

Mali

Jama’at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen

- Al-Zallaqa jihadist media institution, which belongs to Jama’at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen, published the following:
 - An audio clip by Abu Yahya al-Hammam, deputy leader of the organization and a senior member of AQIM. In the audio clip, al-Hammam called on the soldiers and commanders

⁶⁴

⁶⁵ Telegram

taking part in the Burkhan military campaign to defect from the army since they have become soldiers in the service of an enemy who seeks to harm jihad fighters.

Five Sahel countries are taking part in the campaign – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger – led and aided by France, with the goal of destroying the rebels' nest in the Sahel region, especially in Mali. Al-Hammam threatened to attack the joint forces participating in the campaign and warned that their fate would be the same as that of the 100 soldiers killed by jihad fighters in Gao, southeast of Timbuktu. In addition, he denied reports about his death in an air strike in southern Libya.⁶⁶



A clip from the video with Abu Yahya al-Hammam

- A video in which the spokesman for the organization claimed responsibility for an attack against the UN forces headquarters in Timbuktu, in central Mali. According to him, approximately eight fighters took part in this attack, including suicide terrorists, which was aimed at sending a clear message to all of the governments in the area, especially the government of Burkina Faso, that they will be attacked if they participate in the above-mentioned military campaign.⁶⁷



⁶⁶ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb/>

⁶⁷ <http://www.alfidaaforum.net/vb/>

The spokesman for the organization warned the governments of the Sahel, especially Burkina Faso, not to participate in the military campaign led by France against jihad fighters in the region

Somalia

Al-Shabab-Al-Mujahideen

- The Shada jihadist media institution, which is affiliated with Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, Al-Qaeda's branch in Somalia, published the following:
 - An announcement by Sheikh Abd al-Aziz Abu Mus'ab, the organization's military spokesman, regarding a terrorist attack that the organization carried out against a convoy of EU forces in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. According to the media institution, the attack was carried out by detonating a car bomb when the convoy approached the Somali Ministry of Defense. According to Abu Mus'ab, four officers from the EU forces were killed in the attack and other soldiers were injured, while the military vehicles they were traveling in were destroyed.⁶⁸
 - A series of photos documenting the distribution of charity by members of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen to the poor in Mogadishu. According to the media institution, the money was distributed to the poor at a special ceremony attended by senior members of the organization, sheikhs and other dignitaries, and the sums distributed ranged from \$200 to \$1,000 per person.⁶⁹
 - A report about the execution of five spies by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen who were accused of spying for the US, British and Somali intelligence services, in the city of Jaleb in Juba, southern Somalia.⁷⁰
 - An announcement in honor of five years since Al-Shabab's attack on the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. The announcement stated that the attack at Westgate testified to the helplessness of the Kenyan security forces and the international security forces, and that according to Western Web sites Al-Shabab has only expanded its activity since then, reaching Tanzania and Mozambique, and threatening the whole of East Africa.⁷¹
 - Reports of attacks by Al-Shabab throughout Somalia against Somali security forces and African Union forces operating in Somalia. In the framework of the attacks, the

⁶⁸ <http://shahadanews.com/?p=1692>

⁶⁹ <http://shahadanews.com/?p=1697>

⁷⁰ <http://shahadanews.com/?p=1716>

⁷¹ <http://shahadanews.com/?p=1720>

organization claimed that, in one attack, 15 Ugandan soldiers were killed during a visit by Somalia's President, Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo, to the city of Merca, which is located in Lower Shebelle Province in southern Somalia.⁷²

The West

- An IS supporter published a poster showing a gun pointed at Pope Francis. The poster included the words: "Don't think that you're immune from our attacks".⁷³



A threat against the Pope and the Christian West in a poster by an IS supporter

- The Ghulibati A-Rum jihadist media institution, which published jihadist materials in Italian, published an Italian translation of the last speech given by IS spokesman, Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajer.⁷⁴

⁷² <http://shahadanews.com/?p=1734>

⁷³ Telegram

⁷⁴ <https://shamukh.net/vb/showthread.php?t=287409>

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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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

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